



Tasting Note

Best's Great Western Thomson Family Shiraz 2010

The Thomson Family Shiraz is produced from Henry Best's original 1867 Shiraz plantings, and only available in exceptional years, on average about six times a decade. The vines are cropped at less than two tonnes per acre (four tonnes per hectare) and are then meticulously hand-harvested, selected and sorted. Thomson Family Shiraz was first made in 1993, one hundred years after the Thomson family settled in the area. It is produced predominantly from the fifteen rows of vines planted by Henry Best, recorded as "Hermitage" by Henry in his daily journal. Today the clone is referred to by the CSIRO as the *Concongella clone* and it is the mother clone of all subsequent shiraz plantings at Best's Great Western.

Thomson Family Shiraz is hand harvested, hand plunged and fermented in small open fermenters and the wine is only produced in years when the quality is second to none. The Langton's Classification is "Outstanding".

Technical Details

Region	Great Western, Victoria
Grape Variety	Shiraz
Alcohol	14.0%
Winemaker	Adam Wadewitz

Tasting Notes

Colour	Inky garnet with a vermillion hue.
Bouquet	Slightly closed then gradually opening to reveal a heady mixture of black fruits, bitter chocolate, dried flowers, white pepper and innumerable secondary aromas including leather, liquorice and tobacco.
Palate	Ultra-rich tightly structured liquored fruits. The seductive fruit, tannin, acid mix persists longingly in the mouth.
Cellaring	This wine needs time to reveal its true character, 5 - 20yrs+. It would be the perfect accompaniment to a winter meal of seared venison by a log fire.
Vintage	Very good winter and spring rains gave the vineyards a great start. A warm spring resulted in an early budburst and no frosts. A couple of heatwaves during the season didn't affect canopy health due to the extensive water seeking root profile of the old dry grown vines. The summer was mainly warm without being too hot. The slightly early vintage period provided very good ripening and harvest conditions with clear days and cool nights.