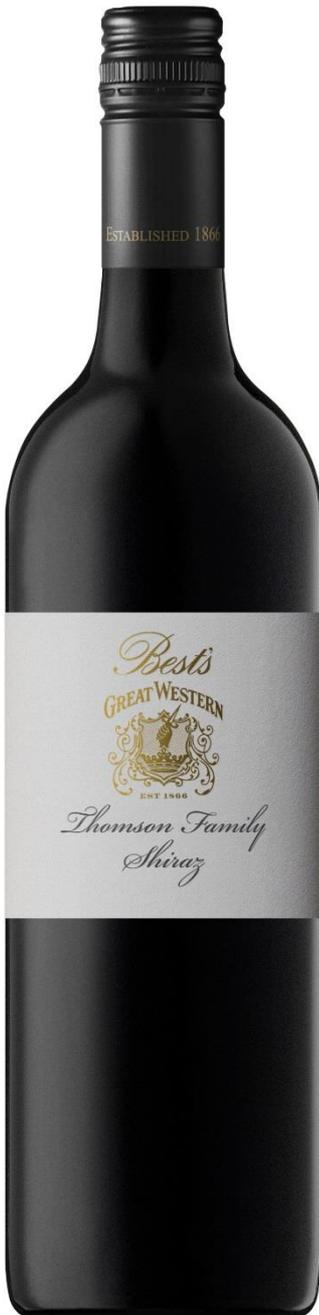




## TASTING NOTE

# 2017 THOMSON FAMILY SHIRAZ



The Thomson Family Shiraz is produced from Henry Best's original 1868 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* or the *Best's Old Block 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. The wine is only produced in years when the quality is second to none. The Thomson Family Shiraz was elevated to the highest and rarest Langton's Classification of "Exceptional" in the 2018 Classification VII. It is the only Victorian Shiraz in this category.

The 2014 Thomson Family Shiraz was awarded the 'Wine Of the Year' for the 2017 Halliday Wine Companion and the 2017 was awarded 99 points for the 2020 Wine Companion

### TECHNICAL DETAILS

<b>Region:</b>	Great Western, Victoria
<b>Grape Variety:</b>	Shiraz
<b>Alcohol:</b>	13.5
<b>Winemaker:</b>	Justin Purser

### TASTING NOTES

<b>Colour:</b>	Very dark red, but translucent and a bright ruby hue
<b>Bouquet:</b>	Slightly closed at first, this wine evolves and changes in the glass with layers of aroma including red flowers, crushed pepperberries, fennel, charcuterie, cocoa, dark cherry and blackberry to name a few.
<b>Palate:</b>	A cornucopia of fresh fruits with a seam of mouth-watering spice and fine grained tannins knitting the wine together. The flavours persist for an age.
<b>Cellaring:</b>	This wine needs time to reveal its true character, 5 - 30yrs+.  Try it with aged ribeye from a good butcher seared to your liking and accompanied with Dijon mustard. Ideal to drink with a gamy meat dish and all the trimmings.
<b>Vintage:</b>	Fantastic winter rains set the vineyards up for ideal spring growing conditions that saw great flowering and fruit set. The mild summer conditions and long ripening period (with some timely small rain events) ensured that the fruit matured in near perfect conditions for harvest. A vintage that has more resemblance to those of the 80s and 90s than the vintages of this century.



## **AWARDS &**

## **REVIEWS**

### **AWARDS**

#### JAMES HALLIDAY 2020 WINE COMPANION – Rating 99 points

Hand-picked and sorted 1868 planting, 50% crushed, 45% whole berry, 5% whole bunch. You'd stand up for royalty, and that's this wine. To use the spit bucket is lèse-majesté. Just savour it, drop by drop, as it magically finds its way down your throat. It's got the full rainbow of cool-grown shiraz flavours, a conjunction with a year made for it by Dionysius and, glory be, comes with a screwcap. Drink to 2067

#### THE REAL REVIEW – HUON HOOKE – March 2020

Deep purple/red, youthful and bright, the bouquet clean and fresh and loaded with dark-cherry and blackberry aromas, the palate full-bodied, round and soft-textured. The tannins are ample but very fine and seamless, belying its obvious long-term ageing potential. Rich as plush and as silk. Power delivered with elegance. Subtle hints of spice. It's still very young and undeveloped, and promises much in the future. Drink from 2022- 2042. **Rating: 96 points**