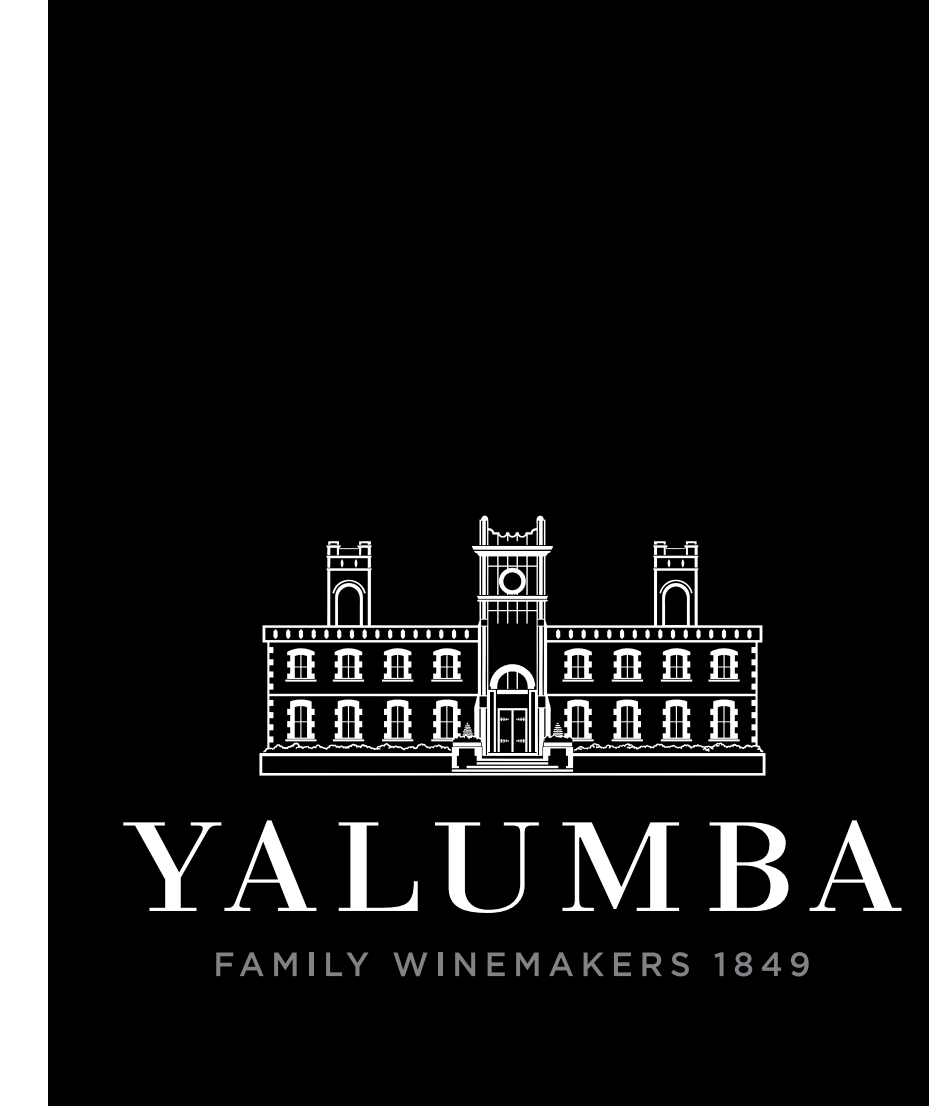




Halliday

WINE COMPANION



97
POINTS

YALUMBA THE VIRGILIUS
Viognier 2018

A stellar viognier. A wine that fans of the northern Rhone, such as myself, increasingly hold in great esteem. A complete understanding of the physiological tendencies of the variety is apparent: a salubrious texture. Unafraid of viscosity, weight and phenolics. Then, the aroma! Apricot, orange blossom, cumquat, honeysuckle and crystalline ginger. Long, slippery and yet not out of hand. A gentle chew and impeccable oak management reining it all in across the seams. Very fine.

97
POINTS

YALUMBA THE OCTAVIUS
Shiraz 2017

For long an Australian icon, this has really lightened up its act. For the better. The sort of exotic perfume-lifted lilac floral-seldom seen across shiraz from such a warm zone. Pulp and juicy in the mouth, rather than over-extracted and desiccated. A beautiful sash of oak, directing a cavalcade of clove, five spice and ample blue to dark fruit references along a skein of peppery acidity. Riveting complexity and the feeling of something far lighter than the ABV suggests. This is a thrilling wine. There are no two ways about it.

96
POINTS

YALUMBA THE CALEY
Cabernet & Shiraz 2015

This is an impressive wine and an expensive one, clear of purpose, clarity, power, intensity and detail. A benchmark cabernet and shiraz meld: a blend that many Australians perceive as the homegrown quintessence. The oak cladding is salubrious. Well applied. Apparent, but not too much in lieu of the pummelling fruit: currant, dark cherry, satsuma plum and blue fruit references, brushed with five-spice, cinnamon and a gentle swathe of verdant herb before a finish marked by graphite and iodine. This is polished, sure. The tannins nicely wrought. But fresh, eminently drinkable and firmly of place, with a confident swagger and undeniable impact.

95
POINTS

YALUMBA THE MENZIES
Cabernet Sauvignon 2016

Long an icon across my memory bank, as well as it still serves me: from my early days in retail to time in New York as a sommelier and even Paris, where it appeared momentarily on the list at Willie's. A seminal moment when Australian wine got a look in. And now? Classic. In an Australian sense. Lightened up over the years in terms of the oak, but the forcefield of graphite-bitter-chocolate-bouquet grain tannins is the driver. Long. Mulch, red and blackcurrant scents and a swab of olive linger. This is very good, auguring for a long life.

95
POINTS

YALUMBA EDEN VALLEY
Viognier 2018

This address has always played a deft hand with viognier and it is only getting better. This is exemplary. Poached apricot, custard lees, orange blossom and ginger spice. The finish is gentle, but far from shirking the pillow of phenolics inherent to the physiology. Nothing pushed, shrill or out of whack.

94
POINTS

YALUMBA THE SIGNATURE
Cabernet Sauvignon & Shiraz 2016

The first impression is that of an ethereal nose: floral scents, bitter chocolate, graphite and iodine. Beguiling. While each of these traits is true to form, they float across the organoleptics like a carpet ride. Segueing to the palate, there is little seemingly heavy about this wine despite its obvious weight and vinosity. The tannins are very finely managed: granular and precise; almost pixelated. The finish, long. A bit tangy but I'll turn a blind eye.

94
POINTS

YALUMBA BAROSSA
Grenache Shiraz Mataro 2017

Light, clear, bright crimson. There's nothing ostentatious about the wine, it offers maximum enjoyment from the sparkling red fruits given freshness by the cool vintage. Terrific value.

94
POINTS

YALUMBA BLOCK 44
Riesling 2019

Sourced from a parcel of old vine fruit, hailing from '44, this boasts a restraint light years away from many zonal rieslings. A waft of talc, lemon oil, bath salt, sure, but a resinous stream of texture, tension and easy going freshness is the winning hand.

94
POINTS

YALUMBA SANCTUM
Cabernet Sauvignon 2017

Deep colour. 13% alcohol and a cool Coonawarra vintage might lead to expectations of a leaner style of cabernet, whereas this is the reverse. The bouquet is the first to announce the quality and style of the wine, although the palate is in close pursuit with its plum, cassis and mulberry fruits wrapped in soft tannins and French oak.

93
POINTS

YALUMBA HAND PICKED
Shiraz Viognier 2017

This is shaping up extremely well, with bags of life left. Floral: violet to lilac. Then, notes of smoked meat, blueberry, tapenade and a skein of pepper-grind tannins and acidity shimmy long. This full-bodied wine boasts density, but also plenty of sap vinosity and juiciness.

93
POINTS

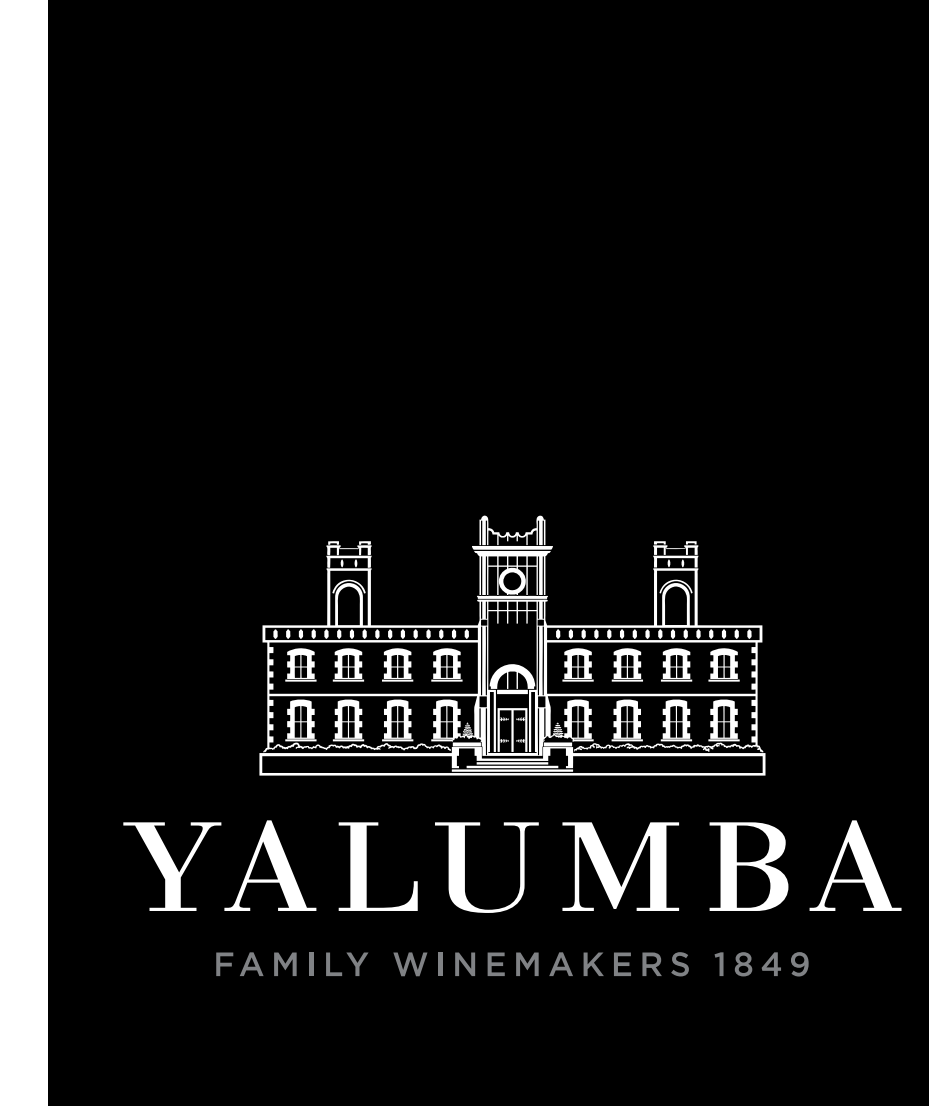
YALUMBA PARADOX
Shiraz 2018

A rich, warm climate expression strung across a bow of reductive tension: violet lift segueing to iodine, smoked meat, tapenade and pulpy whole-berry blue fruit scents. Juicy and energetic, with a plume of clove and pepper-doused acidity. Long and admirably crunchy for a wine of this weight.



Halliday

WINE COMPANION



93
POINTS

YALUMBA STEEPLE VINEYARD
Shiraz 2016

A Shiraz of corpulence: sapid dark fruit notes, salubrious coffee bean oak and the density of sheer grape extract. This doesn't pretend to be anything cool. Power and presence. And yet the wine is not heavy. Fresh. Uncanny. Anise and tapenade layered across a long finish. Will age well in a new-meets old-school sort of way.

93
POINTS

YALUMBA VINE VALE
Grenache 2018

Pallid ruby. Kirsch, maraschino cherry, tamarind and rose water. This has the feeling of a mid-weighted wine, but the slurpy warmth of something larger. And yet the frame is svelte; almost silky. Tannins in check. A Mediterranean pinot, on many levels. Delicious.

93
POINTS

YALUMBA CARRIAGE BLOCK
Grenache 2018

A light ruby, as pallid as a pinot. Yet the jubilant fruit is of an altogether different code: sour cherry, wood smoke, sandalwood and a sluice of orange zest, plied across the seams by spindly, well appointed tannins. Briary and appropriate across the grand balancing act. This is wine to drink earlier to mid-term. An uncanny freshness, too, for this variety. Reflected in the moderate alcohol level (13%), although there is nothing green.

93
POINTS

YALUMBA FSW8B
Botrytis Viognier 2019

This was a wine of my teens as my interest in the stuff grew. The current Wrattenbully source boasts a climatic and topographic synergy with botrytis, the noble rot that confers intensity of flavour through dehydration of water content in the berries. Like sucking on honeycomb melded with orange blossom and apricot syrup, a forcefield of acidity sublimating the sweetness into a complete whole.

93
POINTS

YALUMBA EDEN VALLEY
Roussanne 2019

Good wine for the category. Mid-weighted, with lavender, a faint whiff of apricot pith, darjeeling and white florals. Great nose! The palate is more reliant on a waft of chew, over acidity. I would like a bit more textural amplitude, but hey, a very nice drink.

92
POINTS

YALUMBA FDR1A
Cabernet Sauvignon & Shiraz 2015

A lithe, sinewy blend; medium-bodied and highly savoury. I like this sort of wine. More European, without being pretentious or shedding its Australian identity. Currant, pencil lead and graphite notes meander across an astringent bow of sage-clad tannin. Verdant without being underripe. The finish is gentle. Supple. An Aussie Petit Château. Long enough for an appetising drink across the short to medium term.

92
POINTS

YALUMBA THE CIGAR
Cabernet Sauvignon 2017

A subdued nose, boding well. Cassis, graphite, cedar and hedgerow. The oak, a bit obtuse, does not-despite it all-overwhelm the cascade of fruit. This should come good, while boasting a strong fealty to both region and grape.

92
POINTS

YALUMBA BAROSSA BUSH VINE
Grenache 2019

The estate's efforts across the respective grenache cuvees are almost as venerable as those across the very fine expressions of viognier. This, a thirst-slaking red, is worth celebrating for its youthful primary fruit: cranberry, cumquat and cherry bonbon. Yet, most impressive are the saline, slaty tannins that been massaged into the fray with aplomb, helping to imbue poise while curtailing the ripeness of fruit. Best drunk on the cooler side in large drafts.

92
POINTS

YALUMBA EDEN VALLEY
Chardonnay 2019

This tier across the familial hierarchy represents quality and exceptional value. Not necessarily a complex Chardonnay. Far, too, from the sulphuric trend toward tension. Stone fruit accents, vanilla pod oak and a creamy core of nougat and cashew are streamlined by juicy acidity and a smidgeon of oak. Palpable, but not intrusive. An effortless wine. Really well put together.

91
POINTS

YALUMBA BLOCK 2
Grenache Rosé 2019

Hewn of old bushvine fruit, this pale coral lightweighted rose is reflective of just how exciting this category has become in Australia. To commit fruit of this quality to a rose evinces courage while conferring confidence and authority. Subtle red berry references and orange zest notes corral along a beam of herb-soused acidity and phenolic pucker. Dry, savoury and eminently digestible.

91
POINTS

YALUMBA ORGANIC
Viognier 2019

Even this lighter strung viognier offers varietal mettle. A reflection of the high standards here, particularly with this variety. Nothing too skinny, but a gentler riff of orange blossom and apricot scents. Less chewy, perhaps, but the spindle of acidity is lively enough. Lithe, aromatic and on point.

91
POINTS

YALUMBA BAROSSA
Grenache Shiraz Mataro 2018

A medium ruby. The aromas are highly attractive: kirsch, thyme and lavender. An ode to Australian generosity of fruit, melded to a Mediterranean composure. Lots of sap and flow. A bit sweet of fruit, perhaps, but a winning wine with a little chill.

DALRYMPLE VINEYARDS

TOP 5 STAR WINERY



DALRYMPLE VINEYARDS

CAVE BLOCK CHARDONNAY 2017

96
POINTS

Predictably intense and varietal, a cool site x by a cool vintage. The colour is still bright, the bouquet with a complex touch of funk, the palate with wonderful drive. Very Burgundian (minus premo). No surprise the grapes for this wine were declared by Dalrymple to be of the highest quality. JH

DALRYMPLE VINEYARDS

COTTAGE BLOCK PINOT NOIR 2017

96
POINTS

Dense, deep colour. The Cottage Block fruit from this vintage of excellent quality. It's full-bodied, but not muscular, the colour and flavour simply part of the fruit characteristics in a cool vintage with a long, slow ripening pattern. Black and red cherry mingle with plum on the palate. JH

DALRYMPLE VINEYARDS

COAL RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR 2017

95
POINTS

Presumably from the same vineyard as its '16 sibling, the superior texture and depth reflecting the excellent vintage. It's perfumed and spicy, the mouthfeel supple, the flavours a mirror image of the bouquet. JH

DALRYMPLE VINEYARDS

OUSE PINOT NOIR 2018

95
POINTS

The colour is light, but the bouquet and palate have much more to say than its siblings. The explanation lies in its alcohol, not of itself a good thing, but here signalling ripe fruit, coupled with a touch of new oak. JH

DALRYMPLE VINEYARDS

CAVE BLOCK CHARDONNAY 2018

94
POINTS

The wine speaks clearly with its grapefruit edge to the drive and intensity to the fruit, oak thereabouts, the length admirable. JH

DALRYMPLE VINEYARDS

PINOT NOIR 2018

94
POINTS

The colour is lighter in hue and depth, but there's more fragrance and fruit expression. Just a tad adrift of complete ripeness - so near, yet so far. JH

DALRYMPLE VINEYARDS

SAUVIGNON BLANC 2018

93
POINTS

Intensity of fruit. You want sauvignon blanc, this gives you lots of it. Passionfruit and citrus aplenty. It's textural and tidy, too, but it sure packs a delicious punch. CM

DALRYMPLE VINEYARDS

COTTAGE BLOCK PINOT NOIR 2018

93
POINTS

Slight turbidity screens the colour, but there's ample structure and flavour. It's in the Dalrymple legacy of muscular wines, demanding time to loosen up and allow the pinot fruit to express itself. JH

DALRYMPLE VINEYARDS

COAL RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR 2016

92
POINTS

As befits the vintage, has the lightest and more developed colour of the Dalrymple Pinots, two from the distinctly better '17 vintage. The juicy/savoury blend of flavours is a strong affirmation of variety. JH

DALRYMPLE VINEYARDS

SWANSEA PINOT NOIR 2016

92
POINTS

Light, clear colour; the light-bodied wine has delicate pinot notes, purity its strength. Every reason to enjoy it sooner than later. JH

PEWSEY VALE VINEYARD

TOP 5 STAR WINERY



PEWSEY VALE VINEYARD

1961 BLOCK RIESLING 2019

95
POINTS

It has all the hallmarks of a great riesling. Balance of citrus, spices and a mineral sensation to the acidity. It has light raw silk texture and depth, yet is never showy. It's all class. JF

PEWSEY VALE VINEYARD

THE CONTOURS RIESLING 2015

95
POINTS

Pale straw-gold; heady aromas revealing the added layers of age and it is all about complexity. Lime marmalade, baked ricotta topped with lemon zest and toasty, too. It also has a line of acidity keeping this buoyant, tingling with freshness. JF

PEWSEY VALE VINEYARD

PRIMA RIESLING 2019

95
POINTS

An exquisite, off-dry style with its lemon blossom and chalky acidity. Flavours build, the texture and pleasure drinking it, too. It never feels heavy-handed. A gorgeous wine. JF

PEWSEY VALE VINEYARD

RIESLING 2019

93
POINTS

It never fails to please. It's the gentle flow of citrus flavours, the hint of ginger spice and finger lime popping acidity and the dry, light finish. Enjoy it with the freshness of youth or age with confidence to build out more depth. JF

PEWSEY VALE VINEYARD

THE CONTOURS RIESLING 2014

92
POINTS

While the mid-gold hue indicates it is racing along, looking more advanced, the palate is nonetheless lively - the acid backbone strong and supportive. It is firm. Don't hold on too long to this - enjoy now for it's all buttered toast with lime marmalade, ginger fluff and a fair sprinkling of dried herbs. JF

HILL-SMITH ESTATE

4.5 STAR WINERY



HILL-SMITH ESTATE

EDEN VALLEY CHARDONNAY 2018

90
POINTS

There's a flintiness to the nose and a mealy character to the palate, but this is sweet with peach and cooked apple flavour but, despite its best efforts, the wine just seems a little simple. It doesn't lack flavour though, indeed it's highly varietal, and it presents in neat/ tidy fashion, good things both. CM

SMITH & HOOPER

4 STAR WINERY



SMITH & HOOPER

PINOT GRIGIO 2019

90
POINTS

Just a little more textural and bodied than usual, almost-but-not-quite into gris territory, which is no bad thing. Fruity but controlled. This is more like it. CM

JANSZ TASMANIA

TOP 5 STAR WINERY



JANSZ TASMANIA

VINTAGE ROSÉ 2015

95
POINTS

A superior wine to the non-rose of the same vintage, the red wine addition evincing generosity and sass, while evocative of strawberry, cream, brioche and a whiff of orange zest. This is round, detailed, rich feeling and utterly delicious. The dosage sits well. Difficult for me not to drink. NG

JANSZ TASMANIA

LATE DISGORGED VINTAGE CUVÉE 2011

95
POINTS

A flaxen edge to the hue, or perhaps I am simply imagining it while trying to corroborate it with the wine's age. This prodigious fizz has spent at least 8 years on lees, before recent disgorgement. Billowing pastry notes a go go. More impressive, though, is the layered and finely detailed texture. Then the impressive finish. Forceful, long and finessed. Chardonnay at the fore. Laden with iodine, sea spray and oyster shell notes. Very fine. NG

JANSZ TASMANIA

PREMIUM CUVÉE NV

94
POINTS

Long a staple across the festive season, this is always a quality domestic sparkling and this new base is no exception. Best is the integration: creamy and yet fresh; rich yet ethereal. Neither the yeast-derived toastiness, nor the cool climate acidity, sticking out over the other. Scents of autumnal fruits, nuts, brûlée and nougat pulled long and gently saline. NG

JANSZ TASMANIA

PREMIUM ROSÉ NV

93
POINTS

An attractive pale salmon, suggesting that the red wine addition is subtle. Floral, with sapid notes of red cherry, rose water, strawberry, musk and baked croissant. A delicious rose, this unfurls across the mouth with precision, clarity and creamy generosity. The finish is crunchy and long. NG

JANSZ TASMANIA

SINGLE VINEYARD VINTAGE CHARDONNAY 2014

93
POINTS

An authoritative fizz. Dry feeling, with a billow of doughy yeast-derived complexity, nougat and toasted nuts imparting warmth and richness to the teeming notes of citrus and green apple. Long of tirage. Chardonnay's acidity, fresh but nicely nestled. This has bags of life and while a bit tart, should develop well with further bottle age. NG

JANSZ TASMANIA

VINTAGE CUVÉE 2015

90
POINTS

This is solid enough, a yeasty waft of complexity inferring extended lees ageing. Yet there is no real drive across the finish. Tangy acidity lingers. NG

ROGERS & RUFUS

ROGERS & RUFUS

GRENACHE ROSÉ 2019

93
POINTS

Harvested in small bins, crushed and held in the press 1-2 hours, wild-fermented, 50% in used oak 50% in tank, blended in tank, 1 month on lees with battonage. Pale pink; dry, crisp, fresh, and with lots of small red fruit flavours. JH

HEGGIES VINEYARD

5 STAR WINERY



HEGGIES VINEYARD

ESTATE RIESLING 2019

95
POINTS

It's rather shy. Delicate aromas and flavours, a hint of citrus, spice and florals with the finest acid line. This will unfurl in time, and it will be worth the wait (although it's perfectly understandable to want a glass now). JF

HEGGIES VINEYARD

RESERVE CHARDONNAY 2017

95
POINTS

It's pleasing to have some shape here. It's still tight, but there's fruit flavour. Splashes of lemon, mandarin peel and a dash of ginger spice. It's delicately floral, too. Oak is seamlessly integrated, with enough funky sulphides to warrant a disco move. JF

HEGGIES VINEYARD

BOTRYTIS RIESLING 2019

95
POINTS

Offers delight with every sip. It balances gorgeous flavours of lemon drops, lemon barley cordial and ginger spice with wafts of honeysuckle. The botrytis flavours are subtle, acidity the key to balancing the sweetness. 375ml. JF

HEGGIES VINEYARD

ESTATE RIESLING 2018

92
POINTS

A touch riper this vintage with some hints of toasty development. It's still fragrant with blossom and dried herbs with flavours of lemon curd and fresh citrus. Lively acidity in there too. JF

HEGGIES VINEYARD

ESTATE CHARDONNAY 2018

90
POINTS

No information but a fair whack of oak flavour in the mix. It runs a tight race giving little away. Some citrus, some flint and a firm palate equally so with the acid line. JF

HEGGIES VINEYARD

RESERVE CHARDONNAY 2016

90
POINTS

A very tightly wound wine that might need therapy to unwind. Razor-sharp acidity here and it will ensure a decent life. It's a little funky and flinty, very savoury and it's easy to be sucked into the oak flavour but it lacks fruit weight. Maybe a case of wait and see how this shapes up given time. JF

RUNNING WITH BULLS

RUNNING WITH BULLS

BAROSSA TEMPRANILLO 2018

92
POINTS

Heaps of juicy flavour. No-brainer territory. Polished, silken, flavoursome and satisfying. Smells and tastes of fruit and more fruit, cola and berries. Lovely easygoing red wine. CM

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Reviewed by: James Halliday (JH), Jane Faulkner (JF), Campbell Mattinson (CM) & Ned Goodwin (NG).