

# THE AUSTRALIAN WINE COMPANION 2018

## BY JAMES HALLIDAY ★★★★★

96  
POINTS

### THE OLD BLOKE & THE THREE YOUNG BLONDES

*Shiraz Roussanne Viognier Marsanne 2012*

*Estimated Release Date TBC*

The usual d'Arenberg vinification with 20 months maturation in used French barriques. The cepage (shiraz, roussanne, viognier and marsanne) is very unusual, and the '12 vintage overall is going from strength on the way to recognition as the best between '00 and '16 for the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale reds. The wine has the structure needed to sail through the next 30+ years (a marriage of rich black fruits and complex tannin).



95  
POINTS

### THE DEAD ARM Shiraz 2014

Part hand, part machine-harvested, crushed and destemmed, 2-3 weeks on skins in an open headed down fermenter, matured for 20 months in French oak (8% new) and a dab of American oak.

Deep crimson-purple; ultra full-bodied and densely packed with the darkest black fruits, licorice, 70% cacao dark chocolate and ripe tannins. Will live forever.



### THE HIGH TRELLIS Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

*Estimated Release Date October 2017*

Crushed and destemmed, open-fermented with heading down boards, 2-3 weeks on skins, matured for 22 months in French oak (10% new). Deeply coloured; a prime example of the affinity between McLaren Vale and cabernet, even if the flavours are slightly left field and the wine does best in cooler vintages. It is medium to full-bodied, and the cassis and black olive fruit does have dark chocolate notes, and persistent tannins. Gold medal Adelaide Wine Show '16.



94  
POINTS

### THE COPPERMINE ROAD Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

Crushed and destemmed, open-fermented with heading down boards, 2-3 weeks on skins, matured for 18 months in French oak (7% new). A powerful cabernet with pronounced tannins woven throughout the black fruits of the full-bodied palate; has depth and length, and the balance to benefit from extended cellaring.



### THE DERELICT VINEYARD Grenache 2014

*Estimated Release Date December 2018*

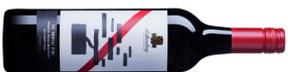
True to form for The Derelict, it's grenache with some serious substance. The distinctive varietal aroma is there, with the sweet fruit elements apparent, but there's also a dark vinosity that will need age to completely reveal itself. Likewise on the palate, there's a latent depth of flavour which is still a little buried in the drying, persistent tannin. Patience required.



### THE BONSAI VINE Grenache Shiraz Mourvedre 2014

*Estimated Release Date August 2017*

Matured for 12 months in 50/50% used French and American barriques. Deeply coloured, it's a particularly luscious and enjoyable GSM. The medium to full-bodied palate is stacked with red and black fruits, perfectly weighted tannins, and an earthy/savoury twist on the finish. Great value.



93  
POINTS

**THE LOVE GRASS** Shiraz 2014

A mix of hand and machine picking, crushed and destemmed, 2-3 weeks on skins, matured for 22 months in French and American oak (10% new). In the context of d'Arenberg's '14 Shirazs, medium-bodied and intensely regional, with swathes of dark chocolate wrapping themselves around the blackberry fruit at the heart of the wine. Great value for lovers of McLaren Vale shiraz with serious regional intent.



**THE WILD PIXIE** Shiraz 2014

Matured for 12 months in French oak, some new. Deep crimson-purple, it shouts McLaren Vale from the rooftops, dark chocolate wrapped thickly around the black fruits. This is purely a regional signature, and cannot be regarded as a fault (as mintiness can be). The overall flavour and texture has a gently savoury note that comes through on the finish.



**THE NOBLE PRANKSTER** Chardonnay Semillon 2015

McLaren Vale/Adelaide Hills blend. A 'sticky' of terrific intensity, its apricot marmalade flavours slotted with orange and crystallised lemon. It feels round in the mouth but it doesn't lack length. It puts on quite a show. 375ml.



**NOSTALGIA RARE** Grenache Shiraz Mourvedre & White Muscat NV

Predominantly grenache and shiraz with an average age of 15+ years. Richer and more fruit-driven than a typical well matured Australian tawny style, this has an almost liqueur muscat like feel to it. Luscious aromas of fruitcake and raisin lead into the intensely flavoured palate, packed with a melange of sweet and dry wood-aged flavours and a lingering rancio finish.



92  
POINTS

**THE BONSAI VINE** Grenache Shiraz Mourvedre 2013

*Almost Sold Out*

Open-fermented, foot-trodden, the fermentation completed in French and American oak followed by 10 months maturation in that oak. From the big end of town, bristling with power; there are strongly savoury/earthy overtones to the fruit. Length is a given for a wine such as this.



**d'ARRY'S ORIGINAL** Shiraz Grenache 2014

A wine with a proud history, and one that took grenache out of obscurity for quality table winemaking (not fortified, where it came from). The style is one of juicy fruits, red from the grenache, black from the shiraz. The tannins are supple, and the wine is ready to go.



91  
POINTS

**THE LUCKY LIZARD** Chardonnay 2015

Fermented and matured in used French oak for 7 months. It has well above average complexity and length, with savoury grapefruit pith an juice to the fore. A year or two in the cellar wouldn't go amiss.



**THE STICKS & STONES** Tempranillo Grenache Souzao Tinta Cao 2013 - Release Date April 2018

A 52/24/18/6% blend. Deep colour; a savoury spicy mix of black and red cherry and plum on a medium to full-bodied palate, the tannins built into the fabric of the wine.



**THE CUSTODIAN** Grenache 2014

Very good colour for a 3yo grenache, still a youthful red; it also has a youthful texture and structure, with a positive play of ripe tannins threaded through red and purple fruits.



---

91  
POINTS

**THE TWENTY EIGHT ROAD** *Mourvedre 2014*

Crushed, pressed, open-fermented (headed down), matured in used French oak for 18 months. Wines such as this suggest that McLaren Vale shouldn't be satisfied with its grenache primacy when you come to the Rhone varieties. This is delightfully juicy/spicy, the tannins background mist.



---

90  
POINTS

**THE GALVO GARAGE** *Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Petit Verdot 2013*

*Release Date August 2017*

A 66/15/19% blend. The naked power of this wine is disconcerting; the fruit flavours are correct, but require a mouth that is getting ready for a day's tasting, not one at the end of the day - unless there is a slab of protein at hand.



**THE GALVO GARAGE** *Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Petit Verdot 2012*

*Almost Sold Out*

A 65/21/14% blend, the regional split not specified; open fermentation finished in new and used French oak, 18 months maturation in that oak. It has abundant cassis fruit, and all is well until the aftertaste when chippy, pencil oak breaks the line.



**THE FERAL FOX** *Pinot Noir 2015*

15% hand-picked for whole bunch inclusion, the balance crushed/destemmed, 5 days cold soak, open-fermented, 2-3 weeks on skins, matured for 8 months in used French barriques. Full colour; a generous roly-poly style with plum fruit in the lead, cherry behind.



**THE BROKEN FISHPLATE** *Sauvignon Blanc 2016*

A small portion was fermented in used French oak, but there is, in any event, plenty of energy and drive to the mix of predominantly citrus, and some lychee, fruits. The finish is long, the aftertaste lingering for some time.



**THE NOBLE WRINKLED** *Riesling 2016*

Full yellow-gold; seems more like cane-cut than botrytis, and is very sweet. If picked at 15 degrees baume, and the fermentation stopped at 9.5%, you'd get the lusciousness here.



---