

2008 Ancestor Vines Shiraz

Review Summary

James Halliday

99 points

Oh my. What a beautiful wine. It caresses the palate with its purple and black fruits, supple tannins and freshness on the finish. It is medium-bodied, yet has the insistent power of a full-bodied wine. 99 points, drink to 2038.

Huon Hooke

95 points

Deep colour with the beginnings of brick-red. The bouquet is multi-faceted, earthy, savoury with leather, dry spice and toasty barrel overtones. It's full-bodied, solid and rich, with a big core of sweet fruit and a degree of opulence. The hot year is evident in the slightly cooked, roasted-fruit style of the bouquet but the wine has freshness and vitality. (The first vintage of a new luxury wine from old vines on the Hardy family's Upper Tintara vineyard)

James Suckling

91 points

Big and bold, this older wine trades in plum liqueur and spices with treacle tart, cedar and dried leaves. Rich and decadent, there's no doubt about its power and concentration, but the essence-like fruit would probably have benefited from a greater level of freshness and tannin backbone. Drink now. Screw cap.

Tyson Stelzer

98 points

Angus Hughson

More than 10 years old and hardly showing its age, this a typically rich McLaren Vale style but with the Upper Tintara reserve; baked earth and spice fruits with a touch of tar underpinned by juicy, fleshy generous dark fruit flavours. Absolutely delicious, complex and youthful with plenty of structure, and yet to reach its peak.

Max Allen

The first of a string of back vintages of shiraz produced from the oldest vines at Upper Tintara, this is absolutely ready to drink right now: squishy, pippy blackberry compote fruit, mouth-coating plushness, supple tannins and an attractive balsamic twist tying it all together. “I like a bit of VA (volatile acidity),” says Hardy, smiling even more. I also tasted the forthcoming vintages and really loved the concentration of the 2012, the seductive richness of the 2015 and sinewy firm oaky structure of the 2016. “I like oak,” beaming now.

Jeremy Oliver

96 points

Sumptuous and concentrated, with a smoky, briary bouquet of blackberries and briar, dark plums and tight-grained cedary oak backed by notes of graphite and wild, gamey nuances suggestive of roasting pan drippings. It’s exceptionally intense and impactful, bulldozing its way down a firmish, bony spine of drying, shale-like tannins towards a lingering meaty finish of extraordinary length and power. It’s hard to comprehend that it’s from a hot, challenging vintage, for it’s remarkably fresh, pure and youthful in every way.