

2010 Ancestor Vines Shiraz

Review Summary

Huon Hooke

97 points

The deep colour has retained a tinge of purple, and the bouquet is loaded with blackberry and dark cherry, with hints of cherry-brandy and star anise. The wine is miraculously rich, full-bodied, opulent and succulent, with abundant fine, supple tannins and gorgeous balance. An outstanding wine.

James Halliday

97 points

There's magic in this wine, starting with its brilliant crimson-purple colour through to the rim, the bouquet telling you this is no false dawn. Its purity, balance and attention to detail are akin to a miniature painting from the 16th century, red fruits skipping around the perimeter of the gloriously long finish.

Tony Love

A tiny block of vines planted by pioneer Thomas Hardy remains, and only a small number of those go into this historic, emblematic wine and fewer than 1,000 bottles were made. The colour is still incredibly youthful – as are those vines for their age. The nose still impresses with primary fruit characters, yet it smells undeniably of old vine shiraz. How to define that smell? Ox's answer: "What is that – it's that piece of dirt, red, ironstone is underneath. It's that ferruginous thing all over again." In the mouth there's a beautiful fruit character that's powerful but gently so, you sense extraordinary intensity but it doesn't knock you over. Ox's thoughts: "It's a very soft way of making wine, little fermenters, hand plunging, little tank presses, nothing aggressive about the winemaking, No fancy stuff going on." There's wonder, history and a timelessness in this bottle, that comes in a wooden box with detailed notes.

Nick Stock – JamesSuckling.com

98 points

Warm spiced bread, blackcurrants, tarry, savory notes, black cherries and redder-toned plums and berries abound. This is a well of rich fruit. The palate has a soulful feel, winding out layers and layers of smooth, fine and dense tannin in effortless style. Builds and builds with a smooth ascent into a very long, dark plum-flavored finish. From a small plot of vines planted in 1891, this is a piece of vinous treasure. Drink or hold. Screw cap.

Peter Bourne

Gourmet Traveller – Wines to cellar

Andrew Hardy (universally known as Ox) headed up the Petaluma winemaking team for many years before heading off to do his own thing. He'd been making small parcels of shiraz for family drinking before releasing a small parcel from the 2008 vintage. At 10 years of age, its successor still fits this category with 10, 20 or more years on its side. Purity balanced by power here, with raspberry and cherry; persistent tannins add a final punch.

Tyson Stelzer

97 points

Ox Hardy is the reincarnation of one of the legendary stories of Australian wine, and this wine is its ultimate expression. Deep spice meets ethereal perfume, silky fine tannin structure, layers of berry compote and blue fruits and high cocoa dark chocolate. Old vines infuse their inimitable graceful silkiness, yet with the structural confidence of ironstone tannins infused by ancient soils.