

2016 Upper Tintara Vineyard Shiraz

Review Summary

James Halliday

94 points

This is from the right side of the family blanket, and not inclined to take a step backwards. Its blackberry, plum and dark chocolate flavours are accompanied by masculine tannins, made for a winter's day and roasted ox.

Campbell Mattinson

95 points

100% shiraz from Blewitt Springs in McLaren Vale. All French oak for 18 months. Stand-out packaging. This is the new label of Andrew Hardy, ex-Petaluma and of course, a Hardy. There's an old-vine release (with a \$225 pricetag, and apparently too limited to be sent as samples) and this \$38 release, which was grown on vines roughly 20 years old.

This is a ripping shiraz. It charges at you and let's you have it, and it does so in such fine style. Maybe there are some floral notes but really it's just drenched in dark, baked plum-like flavour, combined with asphalt and graphite, and then there's that rich, dark chocolatey goodness too. It's the tannin though that really lets rip. This shiraz is polished and modern and yet it doesn't pussy-foot around. It's been made by a Hardy in a hearty style, ha ha, but it doesn't rest on its laurels, it goes straight for the jugular.

James Suckling

94 points

While this is certainly made to appeal hedonists, its personality also suggests a deep grasp of sensitivity and finesse. Brambleberries and dark-plum and cherry liqueur are pitted against undergrowth, licorice and vanilla. Dense and intricately structured, this is an impressive red that takes off on the palate with fully fledged tannins and agile acidity. Full-bodied and long on the finish. Very well done. Drink now. Screw cap.

Jeremy Oliver

94 points

Earthy, gravelly and savoury, with a musky, spicy and floral bouquet whose fragrant aromas of black, blue and red berries, dark plums and cedary oak reveal a ferrous whiff of mineral. Fullish to medium in weight, it's intense and juicy, with sour-edged dark fruits and tight-grained polished oak extending long and lively down a crunchy, gravelly spine towards a long, persistent and drying finish. Top stuff.

Huon Hooke

93 points

Deep colour and rich spicy, chocolate and earth aromas, with hints of cinnamon, pepper and nutmeg. Traces of soot and charcoal. It's full-bodied, lush and savoury in the mouth with abundant fine, drying tannins and very good balance. (The first vintage of a new wine, produced from 1998-99 plantings on the Hardy family's Upper Tintara vineyard)

Tyson Stelzer - 93 points

Angus Hughson

A big, bold expression of McLaren Vale, but with great depth. Liquorice allsorts, blackberry and cassis fruits drive a flavour-packed palate wound up with good acidity and some supple tannins. Probably needs a little more time just to settle.

Max Allen

This is a terrific example of modern McLaren Vale shiraz: there's plenty of glossy, dark plummy fruit rolling around on the tongue, but it's not heavy or overripe; instead it's held together by fine, firm, clinging tannins, thanks to the pressings being blended back into the free run. "I like tannins," says Hardy, smiling.

Tony Love

In this unique space, this is more your everyday 'Little Ox' Shiraz, a terrific drinking McLaren Vale wine but with distinct Upper Tintara district senses. An aromatic red floral note to start, and if McLaren Vale Shiraz can ever be described as "elegant" this is it. The tannin arc starts later than the slate, allowing a juicier style with textural delicacy.