

## **2012 1891 Ancestor Vines Shiraz**

### **Review Summary**

#### **Matthew Jukes**

##### **20+/20**

I was very fortunate to taste the only bottle of this vintage in the country and I understand that it is not yet released in Australia, so this is somewhat of a scoop. Given I only had a tasting sample-sized glass with which to make my notes so this is a somewhat cramped review, but I can tell you that this is yet another stellar interpretation of the vines which Thomas Hardy planted back in 1891. So deep, so closed and yet so refreshing, the power-to-weight ratio here is mind-blowing and the monastic control on the palate confounds any form of devotion I have ever heard of. By far the most introverted and centred AVS to date, at eight years old, this wine is refusing to budge, but there is so much potential here it is staggering. We are witnessing the birth of a vinous superstar, and with 2008 and 2010 in the back catalogue, and knowing just how serious the great 2012s are from other wineries in South Australia, I can safely say that I expect this wine to unfurl over the next two or three years into one of the finest Shiraz/Syrahs on the planet. As far as experiences go, my sip and a half took me on an even more fascinating journey than the near-perfect 2010 but, of course, I didn't reach the destination. Nevertheless, I was overwhelmed with just how expressive and also how distinguished this wine felt on my palate and so it would be remiss of me to give it anything less than a perfect score.

#### **Nick Stock**

##### **97 points**

A really striking style with intense and ripe dark-plum, dark-chocolate and rust notes to the nose, as well as spiced dark cherries, herbs and savory elements. The palate is bathed in rich and ripe dark-plum and berry flavors, the tannins are silky and the resolve is sanguine. Just 850 bottles produced. Drink or hold.

#### **James Halliday**

##### **95 points**

There's a distinct change of mood here, the fruits are black, the tannins are firm, the dark chocolate and fresh earth aromas are all those of a young, powerful wine refusing to take no for an answer. It's hewn from the bowels of the earth, but has exceptional balance that will ease its way through the 3 or so years down the track prior to its release.

**Joe Czerwinski – Robert Parker Wine Advocate****94+ points**

The current release of this rarity, the 2012 Upper Tintara Vineyard 1891 Ancestor Vines Shiraz was produced in minute quantities (under 1000 bottles) from a vineyard block planted by Thomas Hardy in 1891. Matured two years in second fill barriques from D&J, it was then aged in bottle another seven years prior to release. It's still remarkably dark and youthful, with pungent scents of camphor, asphalt, star anise and blackberries emanating from the glass. Medium to full-bodied, it's dense and packed with substance, still tannic to some extent, with years ahead of it. Yes, its 100% Shiraz, but in some ways, it's built more like a Cabernet, with a sense of reserve and coolness, accentuated by the lingering licorice notes on the long finish. Drink 2023 – 2040.

**Huon Hooke****94 points**

Deep, dark red colour with a good purple tint. The bouquet has a blackberry jam or 'Blackberry Nip' aroma that is reminiscent of the old Hardys vintage port styles from this region. It's full-bodied and rich, fleshy and verges on the opulent, the flavour decadently sweet and lush in the mouth, the tannins meltingly fleshy and dense, with a little oaky grip on the finish.

**Ned Goodwin – 2022 Halliday Wine Companion****93 points**

A low-yielding vintage melded with the ancient surviving vines of the original Upper Tintara Vineyard, planted in 1891. This is old-school warm-climate South Australian shiraz. But the lift I expect from the Blewitt Springs subregion is non-existent. The oak choice, ambitious. The acidity, a bit tweaked. Malty carob and mocha accents. Some orange zest and Chinese medicinal complexities. The tannins, nobly extracted and attenuated across the rich framework. The finish, long.