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BAROSSA VALLEY



99

2016 THE LAIRD

RATING: 99  
FROM: Barossa Valley, South Australia  
VARIETY: Shiraz

A distinctive and very concentrated, single-parcel shiraz that offers a rich plum and raisin nose with plenty of tarry notes and a swathe of baking spices. The palate is packed with rich, dark-plum and black-fruit flavors and the long, strong hold on the finish lasts for minutes. So intense, this is their finest Laird to date. Best from 2028.

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2016 THE LAIRD

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98

2018 RUNRIG

RATING: 98  
FROM: Barossa Valley, South Australia  
VARIETY: Shiraz Viognier

A really complex wine already, this has aromas of blackberry, tar and dried spice, as well as blueberry and gentle, herbal edges. The essence-like blackberries and dark plums are delivered in a rich, full-flavored style. Great old-vine shiraz for a stunning vintage. Try from 2026.



98

2018 THE FACTOR

RATING: 98  
FROM: Barossa Valley, South Australia  
VARIETY: Shiraz

A pristine nose of ripe and intense blackberries, blueberries and redcurrants, as well as some sanguine, rust-like notes. This is an excellent edition of The Factor. I like the power and focus this wine delivers and, in 2018, it is a wine of great length and presence. Abundant ripe blackberries bathe the palate. Try from 2025.



# 96

## 2018 THE DESCENDANT

RATING: 96

FROM: Barossa Valley, South Australia

VARIETY: Shiraz Viognier

Shiraz co-fermented with 8% viognier, this has aromas of spiced blackberries and dark plums with chocolate notes, too. The palate has a round, silky feel with a mouthful of spicy dark-plum flavors, wrapped around long, even tannins. Impressive now, but even better in five years.



# 93



# 93

## 2018 THE PICT

RATING: 93

FROM: Barossa Valley, South Australia

VARIETY: Mataro

A dry-grown parcel, offering abundant aromas of blue fruit with darker, plum and violet tones as well. The palate has deep, black-fruit flavors with a thread of licorice and dark plum holding the finish. Softly layered tannins. Try from 2025.

## 2018 LES AMIS

RATING: 93

FROM: Barossa Valley, South Australia

VARIETY: Grenache

All grenache here, this single parcel has a very rich and ripe feel with a wood-framed array of currant and pomegranate on the nose. The palate is a fuller-bodied style with bold tannins and a round, darker-fruit spectrum of flavor. Try from 2025.

## 2019 THE STEADING

RATING: 93

FROM: Barossa Valley, South Australia

VARIETY: Grenache Shiraz Mataro

A blend of 53% grenache, 28% shiraz and 19% mataro. Each component has been elevated in large-format oak (4,500 liters) and this is the wine that reflects the vintage style and quality. It shows the all-round consistency of 2018 with bright red and blue berries, some red pastry notes and deeper, earthy, slightly tarry notes, too. The palate has a rich, supple and fleshy texture with ripe red-plum and raspberry fruit flavors, as well as soft, late-picked tannins. Drink over the next eight years.

## 2019 THE GASK

RATING: 93

FROM: Eden Valley, South Australia

VARIETY: Shiraz

Low yields in 2019 have driven this into a very concentrated zone with earthy and dry-stone edges to the intense blackberries. The oak is all second-fill French barriques for around 18 months. Try from 2025.



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