

2016 Grenache Mataro Graciano

“A harmonious 44/38/18% blend, unencumbered by new oak – 9 months in old French barrels. The freshness and purity of fruit shines through like a light beam. While it has pretty aromas and flavours of raspberries, sweet red cherries and licorice, they’re pared back by its savouriness and fine, sandy tannins. Unlikely one glass will suffice.”

Score: 95/100

Tasted: 01 Jan 2018

Drink: by 2032

2016 Malbec

“The Malbec adds up to a mere 487 vines from a 5-acre site. There’s no denying the quality, and while it has the variety’s tell-tale dark plum and plummy character, it’s beautifully restrained and fresh. Hints of black shoe polish on new leather, exotic spices, and plush tannins fall into place.”

Score: 95/100

Tasted: 01 January 2018

Drink: by 2028

2016 Shiraz

“No shortage of colour – a black-purple hue; there’s a certain amount of concentration but it’s not heavy with its flurry of dark and red fruits, hoisin, menthol and some cedary oak spice (aged 15 months in French barrels, 16% new). Fuller bodied and approachable now, but the fresh acidity and ripe, raw silk tannins will ensure it’ll age easily.”

Score: 93/100

Tasted: 01 Jan 2018

Drink: by 2030

2016 Grenache

“When Grenache finds its groove, it rocks. Aside from its vibrancy and raspberry-like acidity racing across the medium-bodied palate, this takes in spiced cherry fruit, star anise and red licorice. Definitely not confection, it’s wonderfully savory, earthy and immensely pleasurable.”

Score: 95/100

Tasted: 01 Jan 2018

Drink: by 2026

2016 Shiraz Malbec

“60/40% blend, and what a colour – deep, dark purple-garnet; these two gems, one a stalwart of the Vale, malbec less well known, work in unison. Expect a fragrance of black shoe polish, dark plums, chocolate and a wave of ripe and pliable tannins crossing the length of the full-bodied palate. Add raspberry-fresh acidity and there’s a wine of distinction.”

Score: 95/100

Tasted: 01 Jan 2018

Drink: by 2030