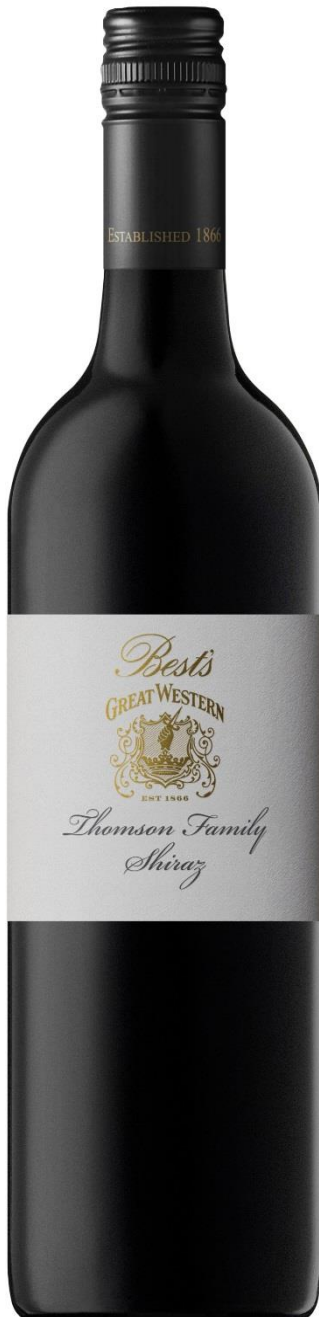




## TASTING NOTE

# 2019 THOMSON FAMILY SHIRAZ



The Thomson Family Shiraz is produced predominantly from the fifteen rows of vines planted by Henry Best and only available in exceptional years, on average about six times a decade. Originally recorded as “Hermitage” by Henry in his daily journal. Today the clone is referred to by the CSIRO as the *Concongella clone* or the *Best's Old Block clone* and it is the mother clone of all subsequent shiraz plantings at Best's Great Western. This wine was first made in 1992, one hundred years after the Thomson family settled in the area. Thomson Family Shiraz is meticulously hand harvested, hand plunged and fermented in small open fermenters. Aged in 20% new French Oak and aged in Best's underground cellars for 14-18 months.

The Thomson Family Shiraz was elevated to the highest and rarest Langton's Classification of “*Exceptional*” in the 2018 Classification VII. It is the only Victorian Shiraz in this category.

The 2014 Thomson Family Shiraz was awarded the ‘*Wine Of the Year*’ in the 2017 Halliday Wine Companion and the 2017 was awarded 99 points in the 2020 Wine Companion.

### TECHNICAL DETAILS

<b>Region:</b>	Great Western, Victoria
<b>Grape Variety:</b>	Shiraz - Hand Picked 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2019 - Bottled 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
<b>Alcohol:</b>	14%
<b>Winemaker:</b>	Justin Purser

### TASTING NOTES

<b>Colour:</b>	Very dark red, with a ruby hue
<b>Bouquet:</b>	Very closed to begin, but opens in time to reveal a tapestry of deeply scented aromas including plum skins, exotic spices, concentrated dark fruits, rose petals and grilled nuts
<b>Palate:</b>	Very rich although only medium bodied. It is broody then expansive, intense but round then focused to a first-class line and length.
<b>Cellaring:</b>	This wine needs time to reveal its true character, 5 - 30yrs+. Try it with slow cooked shoulder of lamb in a rich sauce.
<b>Vintage:</b>	A warm, dry growing season meant the vines ripened quickly and crops were lower than average. Sufficient water supply ensured the grapevines remained in good health and some February rain gave the vines a well-deserved drink and freshened them up before the grapes were harvested.



## **AWARDS & REVIEWS**

### **REVIEWS**

#### **JAMES HALLIDAY 2022 WINE COMPANION** – August 2021, Jeni Port

Best's remains at the top of its game because of wines like this; wines that hold true to the Thomson family's winemaking philosophy, celebrating old vines and its distinguished sites. It all comes together beautifully, perfectly, in Thomson Family Shiraz. Tasted 1 year before release and it's already an elegant and noble wine. Dark berry fruits, hints of sage and cassia bark with gentle leafiness. Oak and tannins, well, they are seamless and supple. A complex life awaits.

**Rating: 96 points**

#### **WINEFRONT – GARY WALSH** - April 2022

Come from the original 1868 plantings, which is quite something.

Black and blue fruit, hazelnut, seaweed, a little nougat and spice. It's blue fruited, quite dense and firm, but also a little salty, with a fine chew to tannin, savoury and nutty, with old vine intensity and good carry on the finish. Good wine. **Distinctive.** Drink 2024 - 2033+

#### **JAMES SUCKLING** – OCTOBER 2022

An extremely sophisticated and concentrated Shiraz that's so precise and focused on the beautifully balanced, medium-bodied palate. The interplay of fine tannins and lively acidity is really fascinating. Very clean and long finish. From the Concongella Vineyard. Drink now or hold. **Rating: 96 points**

#### **WBM – Tyson Stelzer** – March 2023

Exclusively the fruits of Henry Best's original 1868 plantings, the complexity and texture exemplified here are something to behold. Silky mineral-fine tannins weave seamlessly through a universe of perfect dark berry fruits and impeccable violet fragrance, graced with an air of exotic spice and incense. The pinpoint precision of line defines a flow of astonishing, unwavering consistency that perches motionless in suspended animation on a finish of incredible persistence.

**Rating: 97 points**

**RobbReport – USA** This delightful wine, produced exclusively in exceptional years, is made from Shiraz vines planted by Henry Best in 1868. The Thomson family settled in Victoria in 1882 and began making this particular bottling in 1992. The grapes are hand-harvested and fermented in small open tanks with manual (not automated) punch downs. Our Australian wine colleagues rate this wine highly and turned us on to it a few years ago. It is inky purple-red in the glass with aromas of black plum, cassis, rosehips, and roasted hazelnuts. Medium-bodied on the palate, it has flavors of black raspberry, black plum, and a touch of dried tobacco leaf.



**THE REAL REVIEW** – Ralph-Kyte Powell, Jan 2024

Deep red in colour with a purple core, this shiraz has an assertive, aromatic nose of jammy red and black fruits, earthy spice, a hint of vanilla, and an evocative top note of crushed blackberry. The palate has a silky, seamless feel, with lovely depth of flavour, great length and a balanced backbone of ripe, fine tannins. A very fine wine of harmony and balance.

Drink now to 2044 ***Rating: 96 points***

**ROBERT PARKER WINE ADVOCATE** – Erin Larkin, Dec 2022

The fruit for this 2019 Great Western Thomson Family Shiraz is picked predominantly from the old 1868 plantings in the Concongella vineyard on the Best's property. It is a resoundingly elegant wine, with a core of fruit that crouches, waiting on the mid-palate. It is complex and complete already, offering a window into what will be a very long life, indeed. It is an exercise in balance and length, line and form (mineral austerity comes to mind), with not a hair out of place. You'd be forgiven for saying the structure has an open weave, almost loose-knit quality about it, were it not for the super streamlined finish that shows all the openness and approachability is merely a clever disguise. This wine can be drunk now, and sure, it should be (it's delicious, the feel of it in the mouth is insane). But if you have the patience, wisdom and foresight to cellar it, your children will be amply rewarded. ***Rating: 97+points***