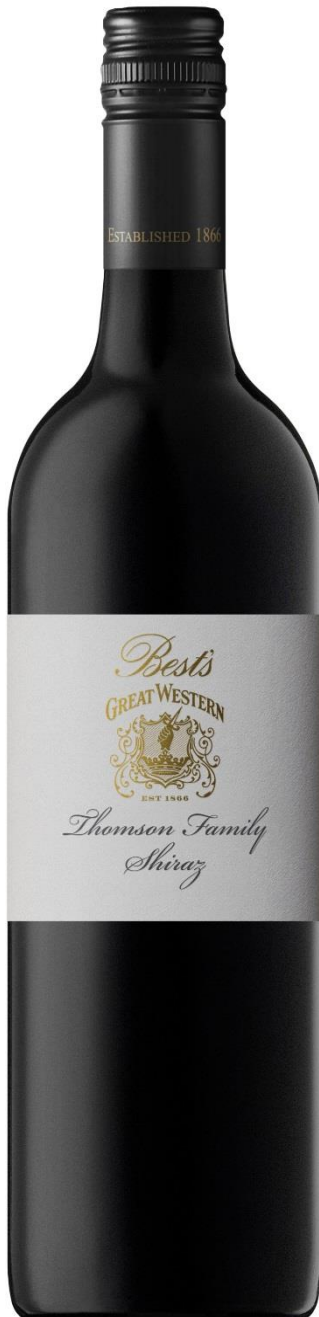




2020 THOMSON FAMILY SHIRAZ



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 months.

The Thomson Family Shiraz was elevated to the highest and rarest Langton's Classification of “1st Classified” in the 2024 Classification VIII.

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

Region:	Great Western, Victoria
Grape Variety:	Shiraz – Handpicked 13 th March 2020 Bottled 6 th October 2021
Alcohol:	14%
Winemaker:	Justin Purser

TASTING NOTES

Colour:	Ruby red, with crimson hues.
Bouquet:	Combination of primary and secondary notes. Black cherry, and boysenberry fruits, with black spice, wood spice, clove and toasty leaf.
Palate:	Lovely pure fruit notes of dark cherry, dark plum and boysenberry fill the front palate. Spicy mid-palate filled with sweet tobacco, clove, and truffle. Nice subtle mouth coating tannins of oaky spice and roasted coffee. Nice finely woven acid keeping the wine fresh and driven.
Cellaring:	This wine needs time to reveal its true character 5 - 30yrs+.
Vintage:	A hot and 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 a cool February ensured the natural acidity was retained at harvest. The grapes had bundles of concentrated flavour and lots of vibrant acidity.



AWARDS & REVIEWS

REVIEWS

Halliday Wine Companion – Jeni Port

Oozes class and elegance. Destined for a long and fruitful life, Thomson Family Shiraz embraces blackcurrant, blood plum, bramble, briar, earth and spice. Fine in features, it can be deceiving because there is a strength here, built on old vines and the gentlest of oak which allows the fruit to sing. ***GOLD – 95 points***

The Real Review, Aaron Brasher – June 2024

Lovely colour, youthful cherry red in the glass. Lifted aromas of blueberry, dark cherry, blackberry, Asian spice, dried herbs, anise, clovey oak and sarsaparilla. Rich layered and quite seamless on the palate. There's a core of fleshy blue fruits, along with spice, cedary oak, satsuma plum and an earthy, woody lift. The tannins are really shapely and firm and deliver fabulous structure and presence. The acidity also plays its part nicely, bringing snap and brightness. ***Rating: 96 points***

WBM Tyson Stelzer – September 2024

There is an effortless assurance and grace to Henry Best's original 1868 planted Shiraz that has produced seamless and compellingly eloquent wine that takes the dry heat of 2020 in its stride. Berry fruits and spice find a seamless accord with high cocoa dark chocolate laced together by a web of intricately fine, supple tannins like only old vines can conjure, gently holding a very long finish. For all of its elegance, it lacks nothing in presence or potential. ***Rating: 96 points***

The Wine Advocate, Erin Larkin – Nov 2024

The 2020 Thomson Family Shiraz is light, herbal and leafy, with kicked red earth, goji berries, raspberry seed, sweet paprika dolce and reverberating depth and complexity. There's not much more to say than that. There is balance, poise, length and, most importantly, a mainline into the dirt there at Best's in Great Western. 14% alcohol, sealed under screw cap. Drink now to 2050.

Rating: 97 points

Rob Geddes MW – April 2025

The oldest vines on this old estate, planted in 1868, are reserved for this wine. It is more than a drink being part of our culture, part museum exhibition and work of art in a glass. Rich and dense aromas, red and black berries from the berry farm, charcuterie meats and gravy from the kitchen and earthy dusty tar notes from the road. Liquid silk tannins give the palate good length with more higher fruit notes on the palate than normal wrapped in a fine tannin viscosity. In the mouth, youthful intensity, very full in the middle palate with spice, blackberry, tar and red liquorice.

Not heavy and very smart use of subtle oak, more fruity than normal but not big with an intensity and dignity that only old vines can deliver. It's going to be interesting to see its age as it is still quite adolescent. With equivalent old-vine Syrah wines selling overseas at 4 and 5 times the current price, I think on an international level, this wine is good value, all things considered. Drink by 2045

Rating: 97 points