

Corkscrew: wine reviews

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2015 Mudgee Huntington Estate Special Reserve Shiraz. Huntington Estate was established in Mudgee in 1969 by former Sydney lawyer Bob Roberts. After his retirement in 2006, Tim Stevens and his wife Nicky, who owned the adjoining Abercorn Winery, purchased Huntington Estate and continued the tradition of making wines of superb quality with consistency to match. The grapes going into this shiraz came off block one and two vineyards with the original plantings celebrating 50 years this year. This wine displays a deep purple colour with a fading pink rim around the edge of the glass. The nose offers rich berry aromas combined with French oak that exudes quality combined with other complex flavours such as mocha and chocolate notes. The palate is full-bodied with ripe varietal fruit flavours such as mulberry, raspberry and blackcurrant. All this is enhanced by nicely handled oak that adds to the complexity and structure of the wine. This wine displays a richness with firm tannins still evident. It has a long time to go before it can truly express itself as something more special. It comes highly recommended for that someone who appreciates the finer things in life. (rrp \$42)



2019 Trentham Estate the Family Pinot

Grigio. Trentham Estate is situated at Merbein, 12km north-west of Mildura, and was established in 1909 by the Murphy family who had migrated from Ireland and were one of the first to establish vineyards in this region. This 2019 Pinot Grigio offers a light green lemon colour. The nose shows subtle green apples, lemons and white pear. The fruit on the palate is the same found on the nose along with zesty citrus and mouth-watering acidity. This wine, in my book, is what Pinot Grigio should be — balanced with all the structural components (acid, alcohol, sugar, fruit) coming together and giving the palate an enjoyable wine experience. A ripper of a wine and an absolute delight to enjoy with grilled or pan-fried white fish and mixed salad, minus dressing. The snappy packaging has eye appeal and happy to report the contents are just as attractive. (rrp \$18)

Also from Trentham Estate comes the **2018 The Family Nero D'Avola.** This red grape variety originates in Sicily where it reigns supreme but is sparsely planted here in Australia. Having said this, it is gaining traction with those who like to explore something different, especially those wineries with Italian heritage. This variety likes the warmer climes in keeping with its ancestral home. A vibrant red/ purple colour with a pink hue brimming in colour draws you in. Red and black fruits come together on the nose. Deep black cherry, spice and cassis come to the fore on the palate with oak/ tannins showing through. This wine is full bodied with bold flavours dominating both the nose and palate. A different grape variety for those who like to experiment. (rrp \$18)

2016 Angullong Cabernet Sauvignon. Angullong at Millthorpe is a relative newcomer to the Australian wine industry with vines first planted in 1998. The winery is owned and operated by the Crossing family and produces an extensive list of styles with a number of them of Italian descent. Their 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon is a young vibrant purple colour, with a bright pink colour around the rim indicating its youth. The nose is awash with dark and red fruits with a whiff of French oak sitting nicely in the background. The palate is dry and fruit driven with fruit intensity. The fruit on the finish lingers and this medium- bodied wine displays a fine tannin structure. (rrp \$22)

Now for the Padthaway-based **Jip Jip Rocks 2017 Shiraz/Cabernet.** A consistently well-made wine, it shows

a lively purple colour with an active pink hue. This red blend offers myriad red and blackberry fruits on the nose. On the palate, the wine is showing red and blackcurrant fruits, black pepper and eucalyptus flavours that also come through, as does the French oak. The tannins are nicely balanced and are well integrated into the wine. This wine finishes dry and full bodied with lots of ripe fruits dominating. (rrp \$21)

Riverina-based **Berton Vineyard 2012 Metal Label Rosé**. It is bright pink in colour with a bronze hue that shows off well, in fact so well, I couldn't stop looking at the perfect colour. The fruit on the nose is ripe and covers lots of aromas such as red currant, blackcurrant, cranberry and strawberry jumping out of the glass. On the palate, it is well balanced and displays plenty of ripe wild berry fruits and firm acidity with the fruit lingering on a dry firm acid finish. It's the best rosé I have had in years — simply superb. (rrp \$12)

Also from Berton Vineyard comes the **2018 Metal Label Durif**. Durif was named after a French doctor in the 1840s. Deep purple/inky black in colour with a bright pink rim, the nose of this wine is showing intense ripe black berry and mulberry fruits with chocolate also showing through. The soft velvety tannins on the palate are a drawcard as are the other fruit flavours such as bramble berry and raspberry with a spicy licorice-chocolate mix on a medium-bodied dry and lingering fruit-driven finish. Two terrific wines at extraordinary prices. (rrp \$12)

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