

# GRAMPIANS ESTATE NEWS

Issue 23

December 2016 Edition

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Grampians Grape Escape  
Halls Gap Oval  
2017—May 6 & 7

## AWARDS

Grampians Pyrenees Business Awards:

- Agribusiness Award
- Employee of the Year Award

## WHERE WE ARE

- Grampians Estate Cellar Door  
1477 Western Highway  
Great Western Victoria 3377

## OPENING TIMES

10-5pm Every day (excluding Christmas)

## JAMES HALLIDAY WINE COMPANION 2009

*"They have an exceptional newsletter that helps build fierce loyalty and as the vineyard recovers, the Guthries and their customers will be the winners."*

## A WINE LAUGH

105 year old Mae..."For better digestion — I drink beer. In the case of appetite loss, I drink white wine. In the case of low blood pressure, I drink red wine. In the case of high blood pressure, I drink scotch. And when I have a cold, I drink Schnapps."

"When do you drink water?"

"I've never been that sick."



## 2012 Streeton Reserve Shiraz shines in Winestate's 'World's Great Shiraz' Challenge



The Winestate's media release: "World's Greatest Shiraz' Challenge... the Top 10 winners with Penfolds Grange at the peak – and the Victorians nudging the Top 5."

The 2012 Streeton Reserve Shiraz came in 5th in this star-studded line-up published in the September/October edition of Winestate magazine. A Penfolds Grange 2010 was one of 451 shiraz/syrah wines tasted in the

competition and one of only 13 wines to receive Five-Star honours in what Winestate publisher Peter Simic believes is certainly Australia's and possibly the world's most comprehensive shiraz

assessment. Offshore wines tasted were from France, South Africa and New Zealand. A total of 12 judges took shifts across four days. The panel of judges worked through the 451 wines over four days of exhaustive judging with the top tiers re-tasted to ensure a fair result.

The Top 10 – World's Greatest Shiraz Challenge—Results: 1st. Penfolds Grange, South Australia Shiraz 2010. \$ 1,048 2nd. Annie's Lane Copper Trail, Clare Valley Shiraz 2014, \$79.99 3rd. Mollydooker Blue Eyed Boy, McLarenVale Shiraz 2014, \$494th. Wolf Blass Estates of the Barossa, Dorrien Barossa Valley Shiraz 2014, \$89 5th. Equal Placed Grampians Estate Streeton Reserve Shiraz 2012 (Cictoria) \$75, Sanguine D'Orsa, Heathcote Shiraz 2014 (Cictoria) \$59.95.

## A FOUR TROPHY WIN AT THE WDWC

Grampians Estate was awarded four trophies at the Western Victorian Wine Challenge. The star performer was the 2015 Grampians GST, which won both the Judges and Consumers' Trophies for Best Other Red, the only wine in the seven classes to win both trophies.

Two new Museum classes were added to the show last year for wines over ten years old to showcase the aging ability of local wines. At this year's show, Grampians Estate won both the red and white classes with the 2005 Streeton Reserve Shiraz and the 2004 Garden Gully Riesling just pipping the 2005 Mafeking Gold Chardonnay.

This unique annual event judges wines from the



Western Victorian regions of Ballarat, Pyrenees, Grampians and Henty. Following the official judging, all silver and gold medal winners are then judged by a panel of consumers, who award their trophies for the best wine in each category.

The trophies were again crafted by glass blower James McMurtrie from Pomonal.

# EVENTS

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



## Seriously Shiraz

The 4th Seriously Shiraz Festival in the Grampians over the Melbourne Cup long weekend rose to new heights with five events held at the Grampians Estate Cellar Door – four masterclasses and a special degustation lunch with matching Grampians Estate wines.

Grampians wineries hosted a wide variety of ticketed events including masterclasses, dinners, music events and an orchestra. Grampians Winemakers teamed up with Grampians Tourism, Northern Grampians Shire and Ararat Rural City to make this an exciting festival of events over the Cup long weekend.

Saturday began with the Sparkling Shiraz Masterclass which was enjoyed by 14 patrons. Amongst the nine wines were some beautifully aged examples of sparkling showing what special wines these can be when aged successfully. The highlights included the 2004 Rutherford (2 trophies, 6 gold), the 2006 Rutherford (Winestate Sparkling of the Year), the 2006 Friends (3 trophies) and a 1994 Garden Gully Sparkling. However, the wine of the day was the 2005 Garden Gully Sparkling magnum which had spent nine years on lees.

Most of the masterclass participants were booked into Steelcutter's Cottage 'Tastes of Spring' six course degustation lunch matched with Grampians Estate wines. On a perfect spring day, 16 diners sat around a long table along the office verandah next to the shiraz vines to enjoy

the very best of Rohan and Marlene's delicious fare. The menu included oysters, a prawn cocktail, asparagus mousse, hot smoked salmon rillette, fig prosciutto and goat curd salad, a quail terrine and a Lindt chocolate panna cotta. This was matched with six different wines. It was a great success.

The Streeton Reserve Shiraz Masterclasses were held at 2.30 on Sunday and Monday and at 11 on Cup Day. Every Streeton vintage since the inaugural 2001 vintage was in the line-up, as well as the 2006 Friends Reserve. It was interesting to look at the older vintages, the first four under cork, and see how they aged in comparison to later vintages. The exceptional vintages as determined by the participants were the 2003 (National Wine Show trophy), the 2005 (2 trophies, 5 gold) and the 2012. The 2001 showed signs of aging but still scored several votes, as did the 04 and the 06 Friends. The vintages were 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2012.

The success of the Masterclasses and the lunch ensure a repeat performance next Cup weekend. Stay tuned.

## GRAMPIANS GRAPE ESCAPE

The 25th Grampians Grape Escape Wine and Food Festival was another hugely successful two day festival with record crowds, good weather and a wonderful atmosphere.

Festival director David Wheaton in his last year in the position has made this wine and food festival the best in Country Victoria and it is the longest running to boot. The Celebrity Chef was the highly acclaimed and much adored Miguel Maestre.

A big surprise occurred at the official opening where Tom was awarded the very first Life Membership. So many people have helped make the festival what it is but Tom was indeed very proud to be honoured in this way.



## STAWELL EASTER GIFT

Grampians Estate continued its partnership with the Stawell Gift as a major sponsor for the seventh year running. Saturday sees a major involvement with the Fashions on the Field

In the Women's Gift Final, 15 year old Talia Martin became the youngest ever winner and her \$40,000 winner's cheque the best part-time job she's ever had, whilst the Men's Gift was won by Isaac Dunmall. At least Isaac was old enough to accept the Kellys Welcome Cuvee Magnum.



## SERIOUS SHIRAZ IN BALLARAT

The Grampians Winemakers joined forces with the Pyrenees Winemakers to host the Seriously Shiraz in Ballarat tasting event on Saturday June 25 on the opening day of Ballarat's Winterlude Festival. Held from 1pm-6pm at the Mining Exchange it was a huge success. Look out for it next June.



# WINE NEWS

NEW RELEASES & LATEST REVIEWS



## Rutherford Sparkling Shiraz makes top 100!

For the second year running, the 2013 Rutherford Sparkling Shiraz has made Victoria's top 100 wines in the VIC100 competition. It is also the only sparkling shiraz to make the list.

The 2016 VIC100 features wines from across 18 regions and more than 25 varieties – a reflection of the class, range and ability of our state's winemakers. Earlier in 2016, the 2013 Rutherford Sparkling Shiraz won a Blue-Gold medal and was chosen in the Top 100 wines at the Sydney International Wine Competition. This show sets itself apart by judging the wines with food.



### TOM'S TIP

*With the festive season upon us don't forget sparkling shiraz as a great aperitif or as a brilliant match to the roast turkey on the Christmas table.*



### 2013 RUTHERFORD SPARKLING SHIRAZ

Ralph Kyte-Powell writing for the [Epicure goodfood.com](http://Epicuregoodfood.com) in a section of 'The Age' and 'The Sydney Morning Herald' wrote on 19 January 2016:

*"Grampians Estate Rutherford Sparkling Shiraz 2013, \$34-\$36 Score 94. Value Good. 'From Victoria's Great Western, this complex sparkling red perfectly marries spicy fruit, controlled sweetness and superfine tannins (crown seal; 14% alcohol)."*

Winestate, Nov/Dec 2016

*"Light berry bouquet with a promising perfumed lift. Very pleasant sweet plum fruit palate with tannins adding to the balance. 4 stars and top of class."*

### 2013 GARDEN GULLY VINEYARD BARREL BLOCK SHIRAZ

Nicks, Nov 2015

*"Totally opaque black dark crimson colour with a deep dark crimson black hue. Nosing reveals scents of black cherries, liquorice and blackberries followed by subtle dried meats and black pepper. Dense brooding palate with a solid tannin structure it features flavours of black cherries, liquorice, dried meats, spicy vanillin cedar and black pepper. Dryish finish with firm tannins asserting their presence imparting a chalky feel on the finish. Medium to long chewy aftertaste of black cherries, liquorice, black olives, dried meats and pepper. Cellar 8-10 years."*

Winestate: 5 stars



### 2015 GRAMPIONS GST (GRENACHE SHIRAZ TEMPRANILLO)

Winestate Sept 2016

*"Deep, rich, purple in colour with ripe, red raspberries on the nose and some pleasant musky notes. Bright flavours of raspberries and cherries with some earthy undertones on a well-structured palate, good length."*

4 stars, RRP \$28



### 2013 ST ETHEL'S SHIRAZ

Wine Genius, Sept 2016

*"Spiced dark fruits, black cherry and mocha oak are present from front to back. Good acidity and length across the palate. 2015-19."*

Score: 91

### GARDEN GULLY 2013 MAL'S BLOCK 8 SHIRAZ

Wine Genius November 2016

*"Deep and brooding garnet in colour, this single vineyard Shiraz is generous, intense and alluring. Dark plums, cassis and mocha oak are all in-play. Gripping tannins are balanced with serious mid-palate dark fruits and flora notes. Needs a little more time to be at its best, but if you can't wait, your still going to enjoy this well made wine. Drinking Range: 2016-2022."*

Score: 94, RRP \$35

Special price: 6 bottles \$150



### 2015 MAFEKING GOLD CHARDONNAY

Wine Genius Nov 2016

*"True to its name, this well-lit and slightly golden wine is packed with flavour. Both juicy and complete, offering melon, peach, and tropical tones. Great concentration on the palate with refreshing acidity, hints of minerality and crackling acidity. Drinking Range: 2013-2018 Score: 93."*



### 2015 MAFEKING SHIRAZ

Wine Genius Nov 2016

*"Finely crafted and certainly well-balanced. This deeply layered Shiraz offers soaked plum, mocha/cedary oak and vibrant crackling blue fruit acidity. Backed by fine tannins, with nuances of black olive white pepper and floral lift. This is another excellent wine from Grampians Estate."*

RRP \$25



### STREETON 2012 RESERVE SHIRAZ

The recently released **James Halliday Wine Companion** awarded the 2012 Streeton Reserve Shiraz a 96:

*"Matured in French oak for 2 years. It derives its ultra-complex full-body from its intense black fruits, graphite, tar, ripe tannins and quality French oak. Will live for many decades. 13.5% alc. Rating 96. To 2042."*

RRP \$75

# MORE NEWS

FROM GRAMPIANS ESTATE



## The Longest Drive by Tom Guthrie

This is the story of the author's great-grandfather and his wife Mary and other brave and adventurous pioneers who opened up much of outback Australia for agriculture and settlement, thus forging a sheep industry which became the backbone of the Australian economy for much of the country's history.

The book encompasses the Guthrie family's adventure which began in Tasmania and Victoria then pushed into the harsh environment of the Northern Territory, in the process recording the longest sheep drive in Australian history.

Featured on Jon Faine's Conversation Hour with Tom Keneally in December 2014. Visit our website [grampiansestate.com.au](http://grampiansestate.com.au) for more information.



## In the vineyard...

What a difference a year makes! Last summer everyone struggled with the lack of water, this season we are managing the wettest spring in years.

September saw 250mm or 10 inches recorded at the Mafeking vineyard, three times the average. With the extra rain comes cooler temperatures and slower vine growth, but with good sub-soil moisture it should be a good year.

In October 2016 we had four frost events at Great Western, necessitating the use of the new frost fans. Having lost most of our fruit from frost over the last two years, we hope these weird looking machines ensure a good crop for seasons to come.



James Halliday ★★★★★ Winery

## SPECIAL OFFER

Join our new Streeton Club and receive a **FREE** bottle of **2008 Streeton Reserve**

## Join our Streeton Club!

The best way to enjoy Grampian's Estate's premium wines is to join the Streeton Club.

The Streeton Club provides discounted premium Grampian's Estate wines to its most loyal customers. Commit to 2 or 4 dozen wines per year and Grampian's Estate will throw in a FREE bottle of 2008 Streeton Reserve Shiraz (RRP \$65).