

The
Real
Review **2026**

**TOP WINERIES
AUSTRALIA**


FIRST DROP
- WINES -




FIRST DROP
- WINES -
HOME OF
THE BRAVE
CELLAR DOOR

BAROSSA ● ADELAIDE HILLS ● MCLAREN VALE

THE PHILOSOPHY OF



FIRST DROP
- W I N E S -

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THE FIRST DROP STORY

“Where two decades of winemaking passion and creativity come to life.”

Born in 2004 with a thirst for creating wines meant to be enjoyed, not just admired. First Drop Wines is known for crafting deliciously exciting wines that not only stand the test of time but continue to push the boundaries of innovation.

The First Drop heritage traces back through generations of agriculturalists, winemakers and wine lovers. With a strong connection to land and a dedication to hard work, John Retsas and the First Drop family lead with quality, sustainability and purity at the forefront. We source only the finest fruit from the Adelaide Hills, McLaren Vale, Eden Valley and the Barossa Valley to achieve diversity, complexity and flavour.

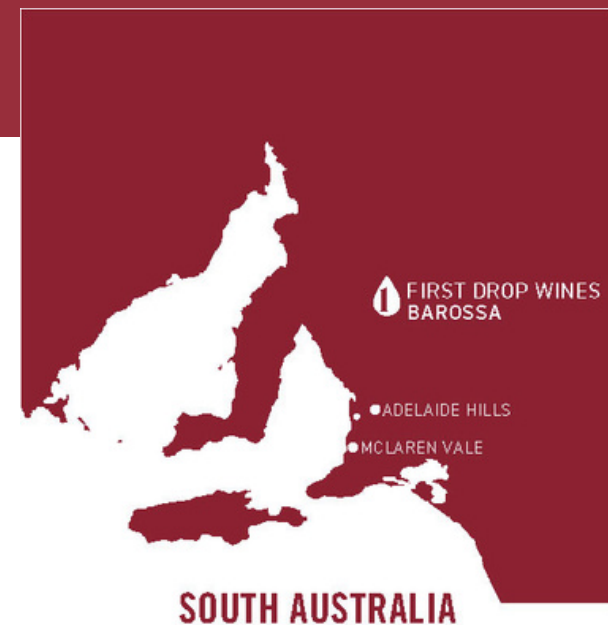
Our ‘Home of the Brave’ Winery is nestled in the heart of the Barossa Valley. Here, at the hands of our artisan winemakers, we remain dedicated to producing wines that are vibrant, modern expressions of their varieties, their sites and the season. Join us in raising a glass to 20 years of blending tradition with a splash of the unconventional.



THE WINES

“A sensibility for tradition with a passion for innovation.”

Under our minimal intervention winemaking philosophy, we ensure that each drop is relevant, incredibly drinkable and most importantly – the best expression of the varietal and regional character. To achieve this, we work with a network of growers all year round to ensure the appropriate care and consideration has gone into vineyard management. The distinguished regions we source from combine rich soils, ranging altitudes and ample sunlight to produce fruits with great depth and intense flavour. Through our sustainable and purposeful blending, the quality of the fruit is then translated into your glass.



ADELAIDE HILLS

JAMES SUCKLING

2019 'Minchia' Montepulciano - 91 Points

2023 'Real Time' Chardonnay - 92 Points

2023 'Moderno' Barbera - 93 Points

"Fresh and vibrant, with aromas of red currants, dark cherries, citrus peel and raspberry bush. The palate is medium-bodied with crunchy tannins and focused acidity that lead into a juicy, red-fruited finish. Delicious."

AUSTRALIAN ALTERNATIVE VARIETIES WINE SHOW 2022 & 2023

'Moderno' Barbera
GOLD MEDAL - 95 Points

JAMES HALLIDAY

2023 'Real Time' Chardonnay - 90 Points

"A fine and fresh, playful chardonnay that isn't trying too hard but does deliver a decent sense of complexity and interest, regardless!"

2018 'Forza' Nebbiolo - 92 Points

WINE ORBIT

2023 'Real Time' Chardonnay - 93 Points

NICK STOCK

'Vivo' Arneis

"The best Arneis outside of Italy".

ANGUS HUGHSON

2019 'Minchia' Montepulciano - 92 Points



'ENDLESS SUMMER'
PINOT GRIGIO



'VIVO'
ARNEIS



'REAL TIME'
CHARDONNAY



'MODERNO'
BARBERA



'FORZA'
NEBBIOLO



'MINCHIA'
MONTEPULCIANO

BAROSSA VALLEY

JAMES HALLIDAY

TOP 40 SHIRAZ - FEBRUARY 2024

2019 'The Cream' Barossa Shiraz | 96 Points

TOP VALUE WINES - MARCH 2022

2020 & 2021 'Mother's Milk' Barossa Shiraz - 94 Points

2022 'Mother's Milk' Barossa Shiraz - 92 Points

JAMES HALLIDAY

WINE COMPANION 2026

2021 'Fat of the Land' Ebenezer - 97 Points

2021 'Fat of the Land' Greenock - 96 Points

2021 'Fat of the Land' Seppeltsfield - 96 Points

2021 'The Cream' Shiraz - 96 Points

2020 'Cold Sweat' Wilton - 95 Points

JAMES SUCKLING

2021 '2%' Barossa Shiraz - 94 Points

TOP 100 VALUE WINES OF 2020 & 2021

2020 'Mother's Milk' Barossa Shiraz #36 - 94 Points

2021 'Mother's' Milk Barossa Shiraz # 29- 92 Points

TOP 100 WINES OF THE YEAR | TOP 100 WINES OF AUSTRALIA

2018 'The Cream' Barossa Shiraz - 98 Points (2020)

2018 'Mother's Milk' Shiraz - 96 Points (2019)

WINE SPECTATOR

2023 Mother's Milk Barossa Shiraz - 92 Points

CRITICS CHOICE AWARD

MOTHER'S MILK SHIRAZ

2016,2017,2023, 2024 & 2025

'Mother's Milk' Barossa Shiraz

TOP 100 BEST WINES OF 2022 #26 out of 100

TOP 100 BEST WINES OF 2023 #38 out of 100

WINE ORBIT

2021 '2%' Shiraz - 95 Points

2022 'Mother's Milk' Barossa Shiraz - 93 Points

2020 'Cold Sweat' Moculta Syrah - 95 Points

THE REAL REVIEW

2021 'Fat of the Land' Seppeltsfield Shiraz - 95 Points

2021 'The Cream' Barossa Shiraz - 94 Points

2021 'Fat of the Land' Greenock - 94 Points



'SUAVE'
GRENACHE, SHIRAZ, TOURIGA NACIONAL



'MOTHER'S MILK'
SHIRAZ



'DOS POR CIENTO (2%)'
SHIRAZ MOSCATEL



'COLD SWEAT'
EDEN VALLEY SYRAH SERIES



'FAT OF THE LAND'
BAROSSA SHIRAZ SERIES



'THE CREAM'
BAROSSA SHIRAZ

MCLAREN VALE

JAMES SUCKLING

2023 'Nacional' Touriga Nacional - 90 Points

"A fruit-driven, gentle and mellow touriga nacional with cassis, dark cherries and mild spices on the nose. Medium-bodied and juicy, with sleek tannins and a supple character and texture. A fun red on the fruity side."

2022 'Mother's Ruin' Cabernet Sauvignon- 90 Points

JAMES HALLIDAY

2022 & 2023 'Nacional' Touriga Nacional - 92 Points

2019, 2022 & 2023 'Mother's Ruin' Cabernet Sauvignon - 92 Points

Some sharp value here with a lovely cabernet sauvignon sourced from the foothills of Blewitt Springs. You'd struggle to find anything remotely herbaceous here. It's all juicy blackcurrant, blackberry and blueberry fruits, cut with spice, chocolate and softly spoken cedar tones. Powdery fine tannin grip, some good velocity and a sleek palate shape as it slides away.

WINE ORBIT

2022 'Mother's Ruin' Cabernet Sauvignon - 93 Points

2023 'Nacional' Touriga Nacional - 93 Points

AUSTRALIAN ALTERNATIVE VARIETIES WINE SHOW 2021

'Nacional' Touriga Nacional

GOLD MEDAL - 96 Points

WINE SPECTATOR

2022 'Mother's Ruin' Cabernet Sauvignon - 91 Points



'MOTHER'S RUIN'
CABERNET SAUVIGNON



'NACIONAL'
TOURIGA NACIONAL

RECENT REVIEWS

“FIRST DROP WINES FURTHER ESTABLISHES ITSELF BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY AS ONE OF AUSTRALIA’S PREMIUM WINE PRODUCERS, WITH SOME OUTSTANDING REVIEWS.”

NICK RYAN’S BEST WINES OF 2024 - THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN MAGAZINE

FIRST DROP MOTHER’S MILK 2022, BAROSSA SHIRAZ | 93 Points

“Give a wine a name like this and you’ll want to be sure you can live up to naturally high expectations. Thankfully, John Retsas is a man who always delivers. Built on everything the world loves about Barossa shiraz – richness, generosity, deep wells of fruit flavour —this has always been a wine that punches way above its weight, and long may it continue to do so.”

TOP 100 BEST WINES 2022 & 2023 - WINE SPECTATOR

THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW THAT OUR FLAGSHIP WINE HAS MADE THE LIST.

FIRST DROP MOTHER’S MILK 2021, BAROSSA SHIRAZ | 92 Points

"A compelling red on a juicy, fresh frame, with smooth, polished tannins and fresh pomegranate and maraschino cherry flavors at the core, showing details of milk chocolate, nutmeg and white peppercorn, plus an appealing hint of toasted herbs and fresh earth. Reveals tannins that firm up on the finish, which packs a spicy kick." MaryAnn Worobiec, Wine Spectator

MARYANN WOROBIEC’S AUSTRALIAN PICKS DEC, 2025

FIRST DROP MOTHER’S MILK 2023, BAROSSA SHIRAZ | 92 Points

CRITICS CHOICE 2016, 2017, 2023, 2024 & 2025 - WINE SPECTATOR

IN RECOGNITION FOR PRODUCING ONE OF THE WORLD’S GREATEST WINES

FIRST DROP MOTHER’S MILK, BAROSSA SHIRAZ

TOP 100 WINES OF THE YEAR + TOP 100 WINES OF AUSTRALIA - JAMES SUCKLING

FIRST DROP THE CREAM 2018, BAROSSA SHIRAZ | 98 Points

"This strikes at the pinnacle of bold Barossa shiraz at First Drop. The nose has deeply savory aromas with purple olives, iodine, coal smoke, rust and essence of dark plum, blueberry and blackberry. Some violet-like florals, too. The palate is so rich and layered with a stunning build of seamless, layered tannins that carry dense blueberry and blackberry flavors. So rich, so ripe and so smoothly resolved and drinkable. A blend of 50% Seppeltsfield, 33% Ebenezer and 17% Greenock. Drink or hold". Nick Stock,

TOP 100 VALUE WINES 2021 - JAMES SUCKLING

THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW THAT OUR FLASHIP WINE HAS MADE THE LIST.

FIRST DROP THE CREAM 2019, BAROSSA SHIRAZ | 94 Points

"This has plenty of intense, rich blackberries and dark plums, as well as some earthy notes, violet-like florals and blueberries. Dark spices, too. The palate has plush and richly fruited style with some handy depth to the tannins, which carry bold flavours. Fine yet rich tannins here. This is such a good all-round Barossa Shiraz. Drink or hold. Screw cap". Nick Stock,

5 RED STAR WINERY - HALLIDAY WINE COMPANION | 10 WINES RECEIVING 92 POINTS OR MORE

FIRST DROP 2021 FAT OF THE LAND - EBENEZER | 97 Points

"Another strong showing from the stellar '21 vintage. There is a sense of compression here which I often see in wines from the Ebenezer parish. The fruit presents as a singularity. An essence of black plum and blackberry, deeply etched with fruitcake spice, Old Gold chocolate, pressed purple flowers, licorice, pan juices, tapenade and earth. The tannins, like layers of gypsum-dust, are super fine, the line bright and fresh. The structure suggests an extended time in the cellar is warranted but by the beard of Zeus, it is just so delicious right now. Super stuff." - Dave Brookes

TOP WINERIES OF 2025 - HUON HOOKE, THE REAL REVIEW

FIRST DROP 2020 COLD SWEAT MOCULTA, | RANKED #8 OF 23 FOR EDEN VALLEY SHIRAZ | 95 Points

"An opaque black-ish purple colour introduces a shiraz that successfully combines power with some refinement. Crushed blackberry, black plum, red licorice and mocha aromas on the nose are immediately ripe and powerful. It's generously proportioned in the mouth with plenty of essency sweet fruit and bitter chocolaty richness, an appropriate measure of oak in the background. Tannins are fine and balanced, the berry-fragrant finish is long."

HALLIDAY RATING
97
POINTS

2021 'FAT OF THE LAND' EBENEZER SHIRAZ

The fruit presents as a singularity. An essence of black plum and blackberry, deeply etched with fruitcake spice, Old Gold chocolate, pressed purple flowers, licorice, pan juices, tapenade and earth. The tannins, like layers of gypsum-dust, are super fine, the line bright and fresh. The structure suggests an extended time in the cellar is warranted but by the beard of Zeus, it is just so delicious right now. Super stuff.

HALLIDAY RATING
96
POINTS

2021 'THE CREAM' BAROSSA SHIRAZ

These flagship First Drop wines from the superb '21 vintage are really quite something. Such beautifully pure and plush fruit is on display. Cassis, plum conserve, blueberry and boysenberry. All dense and weighty with wonderfully judged oak lending light cedar, creamy spice and form. This one's got a real blackforest cake sort of richness, the tannins powdery and showing ample volume, the wine super opulent yet showing freshness and impressive balance.

HALLIDAY RATING
96
POINTS

2021 'FAT OF THE LAND' GREENOCK SHIRAZ

Cracking vintage + famed western Barossa terroir = pretty flippin' awesome wine. Glass-staining crimson with detailed aromas of plush blood plum, cassis, blueberry and boysenberry fruits. Hints of baking spices, some pastille in the distance, pan juices, violets, chocolate bullets, dried citrus rind, ironstone, panforte and earth. Woah! Full bodied and powerful with compact, powdery layers of tannin, a bright, minerally cadence and a plush, black-fruited finish that draws out nicely. It's a ripper.

HALLIDAY RATING
95
POINTS

2021 'FAT OF THE LAND' SEPPELTSFIELD SHIRAZ

A super plush, ferrous-edge rendition of shiraz from this famous western Barossa parish. Super ripe Doris plum, blackberry and black cherry fruits with hints of baking spices, dark chocolate, licorice allsorts, dried citrus rind, turned earth, cedar and roasting meats. Weighty and full bodied with a wonderful fruit flow, tight, fine-grained tannins and plenty of momentum and latent power on the fade out.

HALLIDAY RATING
95
POINTS

2021 'COLD SWEAT' WILTON SYRAH

Syrah sourced from the very well-regarded Wilton vineyard in the Eden Valley. Deep magenta/crimson in the glass with aromas of satsuma plum, blueberry and black cherries with hints of fine spice, pressed purple flowers, licorice, sage, crushed rock, bay leaf, tapenade and dark chocolate. Beautifully pure and sporting an impressive fruit density and flow, tannins tight and powdery and an exit flow that is cassis-rich and enduring.

HALLIDAY RATING
95
POINTS

2021 'COLD SWEAT' MOCULTA SYRAH

Super deep crimson in the glass with deep-set macerated satsuma plum, black cherry and black berry fruits. Hints of fruitcake spice, high cocoa dark chocolate, pan juices, panforte, tapenade and earth. Deep and resonant with chocolate dipped cherries and blueberries, powdery tannins and a darkly-fruited, spicy flow on the exit.

HALLIDAY RATING
94
POINTS

2021 '2%' BAROSSA SHIRAZ

A vibrantly coloured shiraz with a splash of muscatel (hello 2%). Plenty of enjoyment with its juicy, plummy fruit profile, spicy understory, a blast of blue fruits and delicate floral top notes. There's some nice underlying fine, sandy tannin and bright acidity there, too, should the cellar have some space. Super drinkable and delicious now, though.

HALLIDAY RATING
93
POINTS

2021 'COLD SWEAT' CRANFORD SYRAH

Eden Valley-sourced shiraz from the excellent '21 vintage. It smells pure with ripe blackberry, black cherry and plush, plummy fruits, hints of baking spices, sage, roasting meats, licorice, dark chocolate and earth. There's a meaty edge to the fruit on the palate and it's quite broody, with fine, powdery tannins and a dark-fruited ride as it trails away.

HALLIDAY RATING
92
POINTS

2023 'MOTHER'S RUIN' MCLAREN VALE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Blewitt Springs-sourced cabernet sauvignon from McLaren Vale. Deep crimson with bright blackcurrant, blackberry and boysenberry fruits over hints of baking spice, bay leaf, dark chocolate, cedar, crushed herbs, licorice and earth. Bright black fruits on the palate, showing a sprightly line with a chalky tannin grip and medium-length finish. Solid value here.

HALLIDAY RATING
92
POINTS

2023 'NACIONAL' MCLAREN VALE TOURIGA NACIONAL

We're seeing a swell in the number of wines made from the Iberian grape varieties and I'm here for it! Brightly coloured. It's all blueberry pie and plummy goodness with hints of cola, dark spice, sarsaparilla, purple flowers and earth. It's juicy and has some nice acid crunch with a great bouncy, fruitful vibe. Pretty easy drinking this one!

HALLIDAY RATING
92
POINTS

2023 'MOTHER'S MILK' BAROSSA SHIRAZ

Deep crimson with a plethora of ripe satsuma plum, blueberry and cherry fruits, plenty of appealing five-spice and hints of licorice, purple floral high tones, dark chocolate, olive tapenade and earth. There's a sweep of sour cherry on the palate, with ripe plum and berry fruits, fine-grained tannins and plenty of bright energy on the finish.

HALLIDAY RATING
92
POINTS

2018 'FORZA' ADELAIDE HILLS NEBBIOLO

Forza nebbiolo! Sourced from a vineyard near Kersbrook; aged in seasoned French oak hogsheads for 20 months. A light, almost pinot noir-like colour in the glass. Notes of red cherries and red plums, fine spice, a gentle waft of amaro herbs, rose petals, violets, polished leather and dried cranberries. Savoury with a sour cherry snappiness to its form with tight compact tannins. This would totally be the business with a platter of salumi.



2018 'THE CREAM' BAROSSA SHIRAZ

This strikes at the pinnacle of bold Barossa shiraz at First Drop. The nose has deeply savory aromas with purple olives, iodine, coal smoke, rust and essence of dark plum, blueberry and blackberry. Some violet-like florals, too. The palate is so rich and layered with a stunning build of seamless, layered tannins that carry dense blueberry and blackberry flavors. So rich, so ripe and so smoothly resolved and drinkable.



2021 'FAT OF THE LAND' EBENEZER SHIRAZ

A flavorful, structured, intense and focused shiraz with dark plums, mulberries, warm spices, dried herbs and mocha. Full-bodied with fine, firm tannins. Load of peppercorns on the palate, adding verve and lift to the denser core of concentrated fruit and herbs.



2021 'THE CREAM' BAROSSA SHIRAZ

A chiseled, textured, spicy and intense shiraz with aromas of sweet cherries, stewed meat, leather, dried herbs and sandalwood. Full-bodied with creamy tannins. Dense and generous core of berries and spices, with a textured, concentrated finish.



2021 'FAT OF THE LAND' GREENOCK SHIRAZ

Intense, spicy and fleshy, with a nose of dark plums, blackberries, baking spices and grilled beef. It's full-bodied with plush tannins. Generous dark-berry and chocolate character on the palate, with a rather intense and punchy finale.



2021 'COLD SWEAT' MOCULTA SYRAH

A dense, fine-textured and flavorful syrah with aromas of dark berries, sweet spices, wafers and some roasted beets. Medium- to full-bodied with creamy tannins. Vivid, spicy and creamy, with a concentrated finish.



2021 'COLD SWEAT' WILTON SYRAH

A well-shaped, lively and flavorful syrah with a peppery character. On the nose it has blackberries, roasted meat, warm herbs and black pepper. It's full-bodied with fine tannins. Refined texture, with balance and energy. Juicy and fruity on the spicy mid-palate, with a long, vivid finish.



2020 'COLD SWEAT' CRANEFORD SYRAH

Sweet fruit entry. Mulled plums, cloves, violets and star anise, with a sluice of raspberry liqueur. The tannins, oak and grape, are nicely pliant. The finish is effusive, long and impressively detailed, with just a hint of smokiness conferring a savory weld to a full-bodied, archetypal Barossan expression.



2021 '2%' BAROSSA SHIRAZ

Lots of blackberries, grilled meat, and hints of mint. Complete. Full-bodied with creamy tannins and a long and flavorful finish. Drinkable but even better in two or three years.



2023 'MODERNO' ADELAIDE HILLS BARBERA

Fresh and vibrant, with aromas of red currants, dark cherries, citrus peel and raspberry bush. The palate is medium-bodied with crunchy tannins and focused acidity that lead into a juicy, red-fruited finish. Delicious.



2022 'MOTHER'S MILK' BAROSSA SHIRAZ

Juicy, spicy and chalky, this shiraz shows notes of currants, baking spices and dried flowers. Medium-bodied with well-integrated tannins. Juicy fruit character on the palate with a seductive, peppery and flavorful finish.



2019 'MOTHER'S RUIN' MCLAREN VALE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Here's a ripe, savory and minty McLaren Vale cabernet. Surprising freshness and vitality in spite of the bold and full personality of the wine. Excellent integration of healthy tannins, bright acidity and a touch of minerality at the long finish.



2020 'MINCHIA' ADELAIDE HILLS MONTEPULCIANO

Dark-fruited aromas of blackberry bush, bitter chocolate, blood plums and espresso beans. The palate is full-bodied with firmly framed tannins and a creamy texture. There's lovely intensity and structure with a juicy finish.



2023 'REAL TIME' ADELAIDE HILLS CHARDONNAY

Nicely balanced and minerally with aromas of lemon, grapefruit, lime oil and cashews. The palate is medium-bodied with a creamy texture and bright acidity, giving flavors of pastry, orange blossoms and sliced pears. There is nice structure and density, with a bright and vivid finish.



THE CREAM

2018 BAROSSA SHIRAZ

"This strikes at the pinnacle of bold Barossa shiraz at First Drop. The nose has deeply savory aromas with purple olives, iodine, coal smoke, rust and essence of dark plum, blueberry and blackberry. Some violet-like florals, too. The palate is so rich and layered with a stunning build of seamless, layered tannins that carry dense blueberry and blackberry flavors.

So rich, so ripe and so smoothly resolved and drinkable."

James Suckling



Halliday




FIRST DROP
- WINES -

THE CREAM

2019 Barossa Valley Shiraz

“ Shiraz sourced across several sites (52/35/13% Ebenezer/Greenock/Seppeltsfield) matured in French oak for 20 months. Deep crimson. Opulent and powerful with intense dark plum, black cherry and blackberry fruits, layers of fruitcake spice, 'Old Jamaican' chocolate, licorice, ironstone and turned earth. Plush, pure and humming with latent power, superfine tannins providing the framework. It could come from no where else but the Barossa. A cracker.”

Dave Brookes
Halliday Wine Companion

★★★★
The Real Review
RECOMMENDED


FIRST DROP
- WINES -

2021 'FAT OF THE LAND' & 'THE CREAM' SINGLE VINEYARD RANGE



JAMESSUCKLING.COM

TOP 100 VALUE WINES

3 YEARS IN A ROW

MOTHER'S MILK

TOP VALUE WINES 2019

2018 MOTHER'S MILK BAROSSA SHIRAZ # 91

TOP VALUE WINES 2020

2019 MOTHER'S MILK BAROSSA SHIRAZ #36

TOP VALUE WINES 2021

2020 MOTHER'S MILK BAROSSA SHIRAZ #29



Wine Spectator

92
POINTS

2018 'THE CREAM' BAROSSA SHIRAZ

Concentrated, with velvety black cherry and raspberry flavors that are juicy and vibrant at the core, joined by sandalwood, nutmeg and milk chocolate aromas and a touch of cedar. Packs generous lingering spices, including star anise and clove.

92
POINTS

2018 'FAT OF THE LAND' SEPELTSTFIELD SHIRAZ

Offers a core of wild berry preserves, cigar box spiciness, cedar aromas and fruit flavors of açai, currant and blackberry. Boasts bittersweet chocolate and an edge of fresh-clipped laurel bay leaf, sage and rosemary herbs, which make for a complex, aromatic mix on a plush well-structured frame.

92
POINTS

2018 'FAT OF THE LAND' GREENOCK SHIRAZ

Delivers dark, dense smoke, mahogany and black walnut notes, with accents of plum, salted black licorice and a thread of minerality. Shows appealing hints of cream soda and toast on a firm, plump frame

93
POINTS

2018 'FAT OF THE LAND' EBENEZER SHIRAZ

Dense and concentrated, this red showcases clove, chai tea and bittersweet chocolate aromatics that mingle with a note of hot cast iron minerality, which adds an appealing high tone. Delivers dense, thick tannins and toasted herb flavors, which leave an appealing impression on the finish.

92
POINTS

2023 'MOTHER'S MILK' BAROSSA SHIRAZ

Offers a juicy, exuberant mix of blueberry preserves, fresh black cherry and cherry cola that's smooth and seamless. This complex red seamlessly integrates details of masala chai, bittersweet chocolate, violet, fresh earth, toasted cumin and white pepper on the firming finish.

91
POINTS

2022 'MOTHER'S RUIN' MCLAREN VALE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

A dense and toothsome mix of blueberry preserves, wild blackberry and cassis lies at the core. Offers details of cumin, rosemary and sage, with dusty tannins, plus violet and black pepper accents. There's a whiff of eucalyptus on the long finish.



Wine Spectator

MARYANN WOROBIEC'S AUSTRALIAN PICKS

DEC, 31 2025 - JAN, 15 2026

Dense yet velvety, this balances generosity and restraint, evoking blackberry preserves, salted black licorice, Kalamata olive and mocha.

YANGARRA ESTATE Shiraz McLaren Vale Ironheart 2021 93

There's terrific energy to the ripe, round flavors of blueberry, spiced plum, date and kirsch as they give way to spices, herbs and tobacco.

DEVIL'S CORNER Shiraz McLaren Vale Ironheart 2021 92

A vibrant palate, offering an intense mix of lemon curd, pear, peach, raspberry and dried apricot flavors on a fleshy, mouthwatering frame.

FIRST DROP Shiraz Barossa Mother's Milk 2023 92

Vibrant and expressive, with flavors of maraschino cherry, raspberry and red licorice that show a hint of huckleberry on a plush frame.

HUGO WILTON Shiraz-Saperavi South Australia 92

Black Ops 2021

There's a lovely juicy quality to the ripe huckleberry and spiced plum flavors in this dense and complex red, lingering on a velvety frame.

WYNN'S COONAWARRA ESTATE Cabernet Sauvignon 92

Coonawarra 2022

Tightly wound but full of concentration, offering savory notes that complement the fresh, vivid flavors of red and black fruits at the core.

YALUMBA Vlognier Eden Valley Samuel's Collection 2023 92

Effusive and ethereal, with white peach, apricot and nutmeg notes barked

MOTHER'S MILK



Wine Spectator

WineSpectator.com

92 2019
POINTS
Wine Spectator

92 2020
POINTS
Wine Spectator

92 2021
POINTS
Wine Spectator

92 2022
POINTS
Wine Spectator

92 2023
POINTS
Wine Spectator

5 TIMES

WINE SPECTATOR'S
CRITICS' CHOICE AWARD



TOP 100 BEST- 2020 & 2021

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

1
FIRST DROP
- WINES -

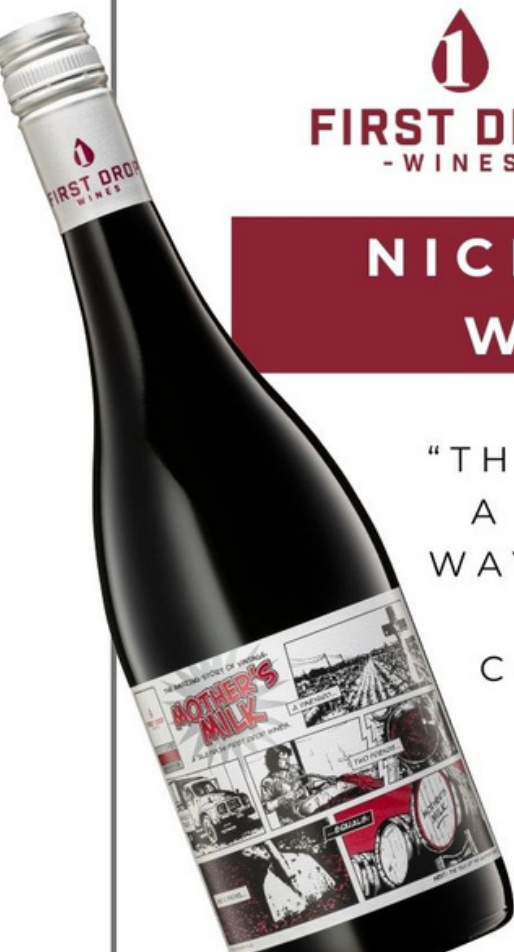
MOTHER'S MILK

**NICK RYAN'S BEST
WINES OF 2024**

"THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN
A WINE THAT PUNCHES
WAY ABOVE ITS WEIGHT,
AND LONG MAY IT
CONTINUE TO DO SO."

- NICK RYAN

93 POINTS



THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2024

MAGAZINE

JOHN LEHMANN
MARGARET OF
THE BAROSSA

RICKY FRENCH
WINE FAMILIES FACE
GENERATIONAL CHANGE

MOTHER'S MILK

**NICK
RYAN'S
BEST
WINES**

TOP REDS & WHITES
FESTIVE SPARKLING
DROP OF THE YEAR

HOTTEST
CRAFT SPIRITS

THE
DRINKS
ISSUE

ELIZABETH HEWSON
COOKING WITH





THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN



2021 'FAT OF THE LAND' GREENOCK

"A BROODY, SAVOURY, STERNLY STRUCTURED EXPRESSION, REFLECTIVE OF THE RED CLAYS OVER IRONSTONE THAT PREDOMINATE IN THIS NORTH-WESTERN CORNER OF THE BAROSSA. RIPE PLUMS, DRIED OLIVE, DARK EARTH, AND THE FERROUS TANG YOU GET WHEN A SPLIT LIP YIELDS ITS BLOOD ON THE TONGUE. TIGHT, SINEWY, FIRM. A ROLLING MAUL OF FINE, GRAVELLY TANNINS".

95 POINTS

NICK RYAN

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN 



2021 'FAT OF THE LAND' EBENEZER

"RETSAS CALLS THE EBENEZER SUB-REGION 'THE SLURP FACTORY OF THE BAROSSA', SUCH IS THE PLUSHNESS OF ITS FRUIT. THIS COMES FROM THE HOFFMANN VINEYARD. THERE'S FRUITCAKE WITH CHOC CHIPS, THE TOP SHELF OF THE SPICE SHOP, LICORICE AND RIPE PLUMS BUNDLED INTO A SUPPLE WINE FINISHED WITH OPEN-KNIT, COCOA POWDER TANNINS"

96 POINTS

NICK RYAN

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN 



2021 'FAT OF THE LAND' SEPPELTSFELD

"LIFTED AND ENERGETIC, PLUSH AND FRAGRANT. DARK BERRY FRUIT PRESENTING WITH MORE PUNCH, APPEARING MORE SUMMER PUDDING THAN PANFORTE. FIRM AND STRUCTURAL; A WINE TAKING A CONFIDENT STANCE. FORTHRIGHT, GRAVELLY TANNINS FRAME IT BEAUTIFULLY."

96 POINTS

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN 

Wine Orbit



97 Points

2010 'FORZA' NEBBIOLO

Immensely complex and seductive, the bouquet shows dried cherry, fine leather, bouquet garni, and toasted nut aromas. The palate is both concentrated and elegant, exhibiting an expansive mouthfeel and refined texture, wonderfully framed by layers of polished tannins that make it firm yet velvety and soothing. Sensually gratifying.


FIRST DROP
- WINES -



review



Wine Orbit

2021 2% BAROSSA SHIRAZ



95 Points

This is impressively fruited and engaging on the nose with dark fruit intensity, toasty oak, warm spice and dark cocoa aromas. The palate is equally satisfying with excellent concentration and weight, wonderfully complemented by plush texture and beautifully melded tannins. Opulent and sumptuous with layers of complex flavours.

May 2024



review



Wine Orbit

2019
'MINCHIA' MONTEPULCIANO



95 Points

A gorgeous rendition, the fragrant bouquet shows blackberry, toasted spice, game, and fine oak characters with a hint of dark chocolate. The concentrated palate showcases succulent fruit richness, accompanied by a plump mouthfeel and fleshy texture. Wonderfully structured by beautifully melded tannins, offering fabulous drinking. At its best: now to 2031.

May 2025



review



Wine Orbit

2023
'REAL TIME' CHARDONNAY



93 Points

This is delightfully appealing on the nose with golden peach, rockmelon, subtle vanilla, and roasted cashew aromas. The palate offers succulent fruit flavours with a supple texture and fine flow, splendidly framed by well-balanced acidity, resulting in excellent drinking. At its best: now to 2030.

May 2025



review



Wine Orbit

2023
'MODERNO' BARBERA



93 Points

Sweetly fruited and perfumed, the bouquet shows Black Doris plum, ripe strawberry, olive, and floral aromas, followed by a silky-smooth palate that's juicy and rounded. Well supported by supple tannins, finishing long and tasty. At its best: now to 2030.

May 2025



review



Wine Orbit

2023
'NACIONAL' TOURIGA



93 Points

Richly ripe and inviting, showing dark plum, sweet cherry, olive, fennel, and smoked game notes on the nose, followed by a succulent palate delivering excellent weight and a plump mouthfeel. Beautifully framed by silky texture and polished tannins, making it structured and persistent. At its best: now to 2033

May 2025



review



Wine Orbit

2024
'ENDLESS SUMMER' PINOT GRIGIO



93 Points

Pristine and elegantly expressed, the bouquet shows green pear, peach, lime zest, and white floral nuances. The palate displays fine focus and flow, beautifully supported by delicate texture and refreshing acidity, offering fabulous drinking. At its best: now to 2028

May 2025



HONOUR ROLL

Halliday

FIRST DROP HAS BEEN AWARDED ***** BY THE HALLIDAY WINE COMPANION since 2009

Every vintage of 'The Cream' Barossa Valley Shiraz has been awarded 95+ points

TOP VALUE WINES 2022 - 2021 'The Matador' Barossa Grenache 92Pts

TOP VALUE WINES 2022 - 2020 'Mother's Milk' Barossa Shiraz 94Pts

TOP 40 BEST SHIRAZ 2024 - 2019 'The Cream' Shiraz

Wine Spectator

"First Drop is becoming a winery to be reckoned with."



Every vintage of 'The Cream' Barossa Valley Shiraz has been awarded 92+ points.

New York Wine Experience Grand Tasting (the Super Bowl of wine)

'Mother's Milk' front cover of the Jan 31-Feb 28, 2018 issue.

CRITICS CHOICE AWARD 2016, 2017, 2023, 2024 & 2025 - MOTHER'S MILK

2020 Mother's Milk Shiraz - SMART BUYS/ BEST VALUES May, 2022

2022 Mother's Milk Shiraz - SMART BUYS/ BEST VALUES June, 2025

2023 Mother's Milk - BEST AUSTRALIAN PICKS December, 2025

TOP 100 VALUE WINES OF 2020 - 2021 - 'Mother's Milk' Barossa Shiraz.

2020 Mother's Milk Shiraz - TOP 100 BEST WINES 2022 #26

2021 Mother's Milk Shiraz - TOP 100 BEST WINES 2023 #38

2013 - 2023 'Mother's Milk' Barossa Shiraz - Consistently 92 Pts

The
Real
Review **2026**

**TOP WINERIES
AUSTRALIA**

2020 - 2026



WINEWISE

2022 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Medallion Winner

2020 Touriga Nacional

YOUNG GUN OF WINE

INAUGURAL
WINNER OF THE
YOUNG GUN OF
WINE IN 2007

HOFEX 2013

"BEST OF SHOW"

Hong Kong
International Wine
Challenge 2013

JAMESSUCKLING.COM

100 WINES OF 2020 - 2018 'The Cream' Barossa Valley Shiraz - 98 POINTS

TOP 100 VALUE WINES OF 2019- 2021 - 'Mother's Milk' Barossa Shiraz.

2017 'Vivo' Adelaide - 'Best Arneis outside of Italy.'

100 Best Australian Wines 2018:

2014 'Cold Sweat' Moculta Syrah & 2015 'The Cream' Barossa Valley Shiraz.



matthewjukes
100 BEST AUSTRALIAN WINES

**FIRST DROP WINES
FEATURING EVERY
YEAR SINCE 2008!**



Australian Alternative Varieties Wine Show

'MODERNO' BARBERA - GOLD MEDAL (2022 & 2023 WINE SHOW)

'NACIONAL' TOURIGA NACIONAL - GOLD MEDAL (2021 WINE SHOW)



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