

2012 HEYTESBURY



The Gold Book - Rob Geddes MW

96 Points and Top 100 Award

This commendation is official recognition by Master of Wine, Robert Geddes, that it was tasted for the 31st edition of the Australian Wine Vintages and judged thanks to its consistency of quality and style over many vintages as a Gold Star wine. This places the producers of this wine among the elite of Australia's vigneron and winemakers for their reliability to achieve consistent style, fruit character, flavour complexity and freshness with this wine. Wines with five gold stars can be served with pride in the company of the world's best.

The West Australian Wine Guide 2016

Ray Jordan

98 points

Gorgeous, gorgeous wine. Perfumed bouquet of cabernet dominance. A couple of other varieties add some interesting floral notes. The palate is so beautifully refined and elegant yet with immense power. Sweet ripe fruit fills the middle palate with blackcurrant, chocolate and cedar. The dry minerally tannins and the fine grained oak support a very long finish. This has such depth and fruit concentration all presented with such effortless ease. One of the best yet.

Langton's Classification

Outstanding

Heytesbury, a blend of the estate's best barrels, is sourced predominantly from the original 1967 Vasse Felix plantings of Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec. Petit Verdot, which gives perfume and structure, has been included in the wine since 2007. All vineyard blocks are fermented separately and handled gently in small-batch, open and static fermenters with the use of aeration. Maturation takes place in up to 92% new French oak for about 18 months. The proportion of new oak varies from year to year depending on the fruit weight and intensity of the varietal components. Fresh blackcurrant-pastille/ chamomile/ herb-garden aromas, plenty of fruit sweetness, loose-knit, fine, chalky tannins and underlying savoury oak typify the style.

6 Nations Wine Challenge

Double Gold

Six of the most influential voices in the world of wine are the judges of this unique wine Show. Only by individual invitation 600 wines are entered and judged. Outstanding entries from wine companies of all sizes, together establish the New World Nation of Show plus a range of trophies and medals.

Australian Financial Review

Tim White

95 (97) points

Massive fruit depth in here, but takes an hour or so to unwind. Cedary, Havana cigar tobacco, and fruitcake smells, plus some Stilton older wood and fine steak and kidney crusty pie. Gets violet too. Massive power on the palate with controlled dense, melting tannins and yet an openness also. Gets fruitcakey as it builds and builds. Will hit its stride in 15 years.

JamesSuckling.com

Nick Stock

95 points

What a beautiful red with plum currant and stone aromas and flavors. Full body, fine tannins and a bright finish. What a wine. Better in 2017. But so impressive now.

Vinous

Josh Reynolds

93 points

Brilliant ruby. Bright, energetic nose displays intense redcurrant, cherry and floral pastille scents plus a hint of smoky minerality. Juicy and brisk in the mouth, offering intense redcurrant and bitter cherry flavors that deepen and become sweeter with air. Succulent herb and dark chocolate qualities emerge with air and linger on the impressively long, youthfully tannic finish. This suave wine reminded me a lot of a high-class, old-school St.-Émilion.

Wine Spectator

MaryAnn Worobiec

92 points

Red lively, with mint-scented cherry and raspberry fruit and fresh mineral and earth accents. The tannins are polished and sleek, lingering with a touch of vanilla and licorice. Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2028.

Gourmet Traveller Wine

94 points

This cabernet sauvignon dominant blend is Vasse Felix's flagship red. Deep, bright, youthful colour introduces a ripe fruit aroma with a kiss of oak and negligible leafiness. The palate is dense and concentrated, long and showing liberal oak. An elegant, beautiful cabernet.

Chng Poh Tiong

Chng Poh Tiong

5 Stars

Lovely floral notes and red fruits. Intensity. Vivacious. Elegant tannins and freshness. Lots of poise. Great finesse and harmony. Good length.

WBM Australia

Mike Bennie

94 points

Needs some time in glass or decanter to show the wine in full flight, but then you're easily seduced by red and black berry fruit, choc-licorice, cedar and whiffs of regional bay leaf character. The

palate is grunty with tannin, dusty almost, dark fruited and trims down to a neat, pinched finish. Lovely, really.

Wine Companion

James Halliday

97 points

The icon red of Vasse Felix, a blend of cabernet sauvignon, malbec and petit verdot, bypassing merlot. The perfumed bouquet stands on its own considerable merits, but it is the implacable insistence of the blackcurrant fruit, wrapped around the juicy malbec that lifts this wine onto another plane. Is it medium bodied, medium-to-full bodied or full bodied? It all depends on which facet you concentrate on, but for my money it's a remarkable medium bodied wine. 14.5% alc. RRP \$90

JamesSuckling.com

James Suckling

95 points

Love the aromas of fresh mushrooms, flowers and currants. Pops out of the glass. Full body, very tight in the center palate but that takes off at the finish. Tangy and vivid acidity gives focus and life to this wine. What a wine. A blend of 77% cabernet sauvignon, 16% malbec and 7% petit verdot. Screw cap. Drink or hold.

Vinous - Josh Raynolds

Josh Raynolds

93

Bright violet. Red and black currant, candied rose, mocha and cedary oak on the pungent, highly perfumed nose. Juicy, deep-pitched cassis and bitter cherry flavors display a suave mix of density and finesse and develop cola and licorice qualities with air. Finishes with suave, molten tannins and impressive length, leaving floral and succulent herb notes behind.

Wine Advocate

Joe Czerwinski

93 points

The 2012 Heytesbury was the first vintage winemaker Virginia Willcock used only indigenous yeasts for the ferment, which she says has added "life" to the wine. The blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Petit Verdot is indeed lively, showing vibrant notes of cassis framed by hints of menthol, vanilla and tight tannins. It's medium to full in body yet avoids any sense of jamminess or excessive weight, finishing long and fine.
