

MMAD

VINEYARD

BLEWITT SPRINGS

2021 GRENACHE

HALLIDAY WINE COMPANION TOP WINERIES
2023 SELECTED BY CAMPBELL MATTINSON

NOVEMBER 2023

FIVE STAR WINERY
NUMBER 99

MCLAREN VALE WINE SHOW 2022

OCTOBER 2023

BEST SMALL PRODUCER
BEST SINGLE VINEYARD VITICULTURIST FROM MURRAY LEAKE

JULIA HARDING MW
JANCIS ROBINSON

First vintage of this wine. A single vineyard in Blewitt Springs, first planted in 1939. It is ungrafted and sits on a plateau. Fine Maslin sands and exposed to the fresh sea breezes from the south-west. Below the sand is a layer of ironstone pebbles. The grapes were picked on 17 March 2021, spending 20 days on skins and fermented in open concrete and stainless steel (20% whole bunch), before ageing for 14 months in used (3- to 5-year-old) 500-litre puncheons. Aged on fine lees until being racked before bottling in June 2022.

Mid crimson. Fragrant with dark-red fruit and a non-sweet stone-dust impression, but also an oaky impression. Moreish with smooth, compact tannins. Smooth texture is the thing here with the fruit underpinning it well. Sweet but not overly sweet, with a note of oak on the finish. Good freshness on the very long finish, where some grip picks up at the very end. Not fully meshed? The oak shows a little too much but it is a great first vintage.

16.5 POINTS

MAX ALLEN
JANCIS ROBINSON

MAY 2023

From old Grenache vines planted in sand over ironstone gravel, fermented mostly as whole berries in open concrete and stainless steel, matured in seasoned puncheons. Glowing bright scarlet, both in colour and fruit aromas, leading into darker, sinewy cherry fruit in the mouth, some savoury notes of gravelly earth, and quite grippy tannins.

16.5 POINTS

CHES COOKE
FIVE WAY CELLARS 'ORACLE'

NOVEMBER 2022

MMAD Grenache is made with a hands-off approach, looking for varietal character, purity and freshness. However it is also true to its region (arguably the best spot in the country for Grenache) and reflects the warm site and sandy soils. As such, the 2021 Grenache is a medium bodied wine, with a reasonably deep hue and primary fruit aromas. It's been made with a restrained 10% whole bunch and no new oak. Like with the Chenin, concrete tanks for fermentation have been used to enhance the texture and create an 'airiness' to the wine which is really evident to me. Aromas seem lifted and particularly vibrant, with red fruit and red florals including dried rose petal. The ironstone component of the soil brings a ferrous, earth-derived component to this which I particularly like. And its age- worthiness? It will live for a long time...

SHANTEH WALE
THE WINE PILOT

OCTOBER 2022

Old vine grenache from Blewitt Springs promises great things and the 2021 MMAD vineyard Grenache delivers in truckloads. The cordial red syrup squeezed over old school snow cones meets fresh cranberry and maraschino cherry. Picked sage and bay leaf then lead to dusty nutmeg and red clay. Tannins are silty and fine and the wine is extremely well integrated for it's youth. Drink with lamb loin chops that are pink in the middle and charred on the edges.

96 POINTS

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NICK STOCK
THE WINE MAGAZINE

It's no secret that Blewitt Springs is a happy home for this variety. Crushed raspberry and pomegranate, some herbal kick, too. There's a tangy, well-defined feel to the palate and a gently granular edge to the finish. very complete and polished.

96 POINTS

SARAH AHMED
DECANTER

Pretty, perfumed and pristine with al dente red cherry and blue berry fruit, peonies, orange peel, musk and cherrystone with a saline ironstone tang on the finish. Smudgy-textured tannins and seamless oak – support by stealth – allow the fruit and florals to shine, but offer scope for ageing if you can resist this Cru Beaujolais-esque old-vine Grenache.

94 POINTS

JAMES SUCKLING
JAMESSUCKLING.COM

Aromas wild red fruits, white pepper and rose hip. Full-bodied with chewy tannins. Fresh and bright with an array of red berry fruit washing over the palate. Easy finish.

91 POINTS

SEPTEMBER 2022

JAMES HALLIDAY,
THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

Its clarity matches its freshness; 10% whole bunches, 90% whole berry, 20 days in Italian-made tulip-shapes concrete 4-tonne fermenters, matured. 15 months in old French puncheons. The highly fragrant blend of cherry and plum drives a long, fine, elegant palate.

97 POINTS

TONY LOVE,
INDAILY

The first thing to note is the front label, which specifies only Blewitt Springs as its source. A statement right there. And as a first release it's truly great now and incredibly promising for what will come from a wine that already reveals many of the variety's desired tensions and harmonies: fragrance that's lively and pure, then a set of flavours from red berry to a slightly earthier fruit vibe that the winemakers note as pomegranate. A sense of Middle Eastern spice adds extra interest and assists in the fine, dusted tannin feel, without distracting from the wine's underlying freshness and energy. Exciting times.

MAX ALLEN,
THE FINANCIAL REVIEW

In early 2021, the people behind Shaw and Smith winery in the Adelaide Hills – Michael Hill Smith, Martin Shaw, Adam Wadewitz and David LeMire – bought an old vineyard in the Blewitt Springs area of McLaren Vale and established the MMAD brand. The inaugural trio of wines from that vineyard consists of an apple-crisp 2021 chenin blanc that will flesh out and improve in the bottle over the next few years, an already seductive and rich 2021 shiraz and this grenache, produced from vines planted in 1939. Densely textured, almost velvety, with hints of game and earth and woody spice, it's a great example of why some people describe this grape as being like "warm-climate pinot noir".

JANCIS ROBSINSON
JANCIS ROBSINSON

From a vineyard first planted in 1939 at about 400 m. 20% whole bunch. No new oak and some post-ferment time on skins. But all fruit saw some old oak. Very low yields. Transparent garnet – a bit deeper than a typical Gredos Garnacha. Ripe, quite briary (rather than ethereal) nose. Quite a bit of tannin on the very clean finish. But overall pretty and fresh. Interesting saline note on the end. Should open out nicely in bottle.

16+ POINTS

MMAD

VINEYARD

BLEWITT SPRINGS

2021 GRENACHE

AUGUST 2022

CAMPBELL MATTINSON,
THE WINE FRONT

The grenache vines in the MMAD vineyard were planted in 1939. That's quite a year, in world terms, to begin your life. This wine was aged in old oak; no new oak was used. Truly beautiful grenache. Sweet and ripe but savoury and, even, crunchy with it. Best of many worlds. Woodsmoke, herbs, raspberry, cloves and a sweet earth character. The presser mentions pomegranate and it's a good call; it brings that seed-like crunch to the wine. Tannin is ultra fine and the finish is noteworthy. Blewitt Springs is a great place to grow red wine grapes and here, again, it's off and away, in full voice.

95 POINTS

PAUL EDWARDS,
THE WEST WEEKEND

Lifted, but subtle aromatics of raspberry, black plum and cured meat. Concentrated, elegant, fine and compact palate, especially for a grenache. Red berry reduction, gently spicy; white pepper, cardamom and fennel. Shows a satin-like, fine tannin weave and long compressed mineral/red fruit finish. Reads the path of generosity versus savoury tension with aplomb.

95 POINTS

HUON HOOKE,
THE REAL REVIEW

Very bright, youthful translucent purple-red colour, with a complex and appealing fragrance that is spicy and layered, with raspberry, red-cherry fruit laced with dried-herb and spice notes that include clove and pepper. The palate is rich and elegant, medium to full bodied and gloriously supple in its texture. It's a young but quite sophisticated grenache: a superb drink already and surely has a bright future if cellared.

95 POINTS

JULY 2022

ERIN LARKIN,
ROBERT PARKER WINE ADVOCATE

The Mmad Vineyard is an interesting project headed up by Martin Shaw, Michael Hill-Smith MW, Adam Wadewitz and David Le Mire MW (Martin, Michael, Adam, David—the acronym is obvious). The goal was to find a high-quality vineyard to purchase in McLaren Vale, specifically Blewitt Springs. When this vineyard finally became available, they pounced: the real story is more nuanced than that, but all you need is the gist. The wines are excellent and show the confluence of greatly talented wine minds and hands in the group. This 2021 Grenache is pure and layered; the silty tannins are threaded through every aspect of the fruit in the mouth. The acidity makes it almost ethereal. The wine is supple, with notes of beetroot, bloodroot and raspberry pip. Very impressive. Very fine. Nice density. Great tannins—chalky. The wine saw a combination of concrete and large format, old oak. This is a supreme first release.

94 POINTS