

The West Australian

WINE

GUIDE 2020

BY RAY JORDAN





M^CHENRY HOHNEN
MARGARET RIVER

RAY JORDAN

The West Australian Wine Guide 2020

2015 Rolling Stone - 98 Points

Rated "Best of the West" Bordeaux variety blend

This is a powerful and well-defined cabernet-dominant wine. Slightly more savoury and grainy than the previous vintage, with a subtle leafy lift. Has a gravelly tannin character with a type of red brick dust on the palate. Structure is all about the cabernet. It has a rich black fruit density and thickness. Needs to be decanted and splashed around now to bring out the vibrancy in the palate. More of the graphite emerges with breathing. Cellar 20 years

2018 McHenry Hohnen Grenache Syrah Mataro - 96 Points

Rated 'Best of the West' Rhone Variety Blend

Has a beautiful aromatic perfume of the grenache. Pomegranate with spicy raspberry and light plum. Gorgeous. Whole bunch on grenache which is 85 per cent of the blend. The grainy tannins have a slightly powdery character. Love the structure and the fruit qualities/. A real breakthrough wine. Has a touch of roussanne in there too to lift the spice. Cellar 15 years

2017 Hazel's Vineyard Syrah - 94 Points

Highly perfumed and aromatic. It has intensity and prettiness. Focus has been on spiciness and perfume with a touch of pepper. This has a small amount of roussanne. It is co-fermented, which contributes to the balance and tannin structure. Brilliant colour and vibrancy. It has so much energy and life in the palate with its excellent texture and structure. Picked earlier to get the perfume. Comes from a rocky part of the vineyard. Unfiltered and unfinned. Cellar 6 years

2017 McHenry Hohnen BDX, Malbec Cabernet Petit Verdot – 93 Points

This is a malbec dominant wine displaying such a gorgeous lifted energy about it. Sweet, ripe, plummy fruit flavours. Fine chalky tannins. There is a tremendous concentration with a fine acid lick on the finish. Has a distinct graphite character with a hint of liquorice. Very low amount of new oak in here. Cellar 10 years

2017 Calgardup brook Vineyard Chardonnay – 96 Points

This has a real lift on the nose. There is a lemon zest and grapefruit character here. It's chalky and fine with a salty brine character. The palate is powerful and focused with tremendous juiciness. Has about 20 per cent new oak made up of puncheons and barriques. It has tremendous fruit concentration with a lip-smaking finish on it. Exceptionally long palate. This gets a fair amount of battonage. Cellar 10 years

2017 Burnside Vineyard Chardonnay – 95 Points

This is a beautifully textured and opulent chardonnay. Such deep stone fruit and creaminess with a slight edge of acid and oak. But it is so well integrated. This has a flinty edge to it with a very long and focused finish. There is some phenolics that seems to come from the full solids impact. And there is a slight flint and match stick character. Cellar 12 years

McHenry Hohnen

OWNER Murray McHenry **VINEYARD LOCATION** Margaret River **WINEMAKERS** Jacopo Dalli Cani and Henry Wynne
ESTABLISHED 2004 **ANNUAL CRUSH** 180 tonnes **VARIETIES** Chardonnay, Semillon, Malbec, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Tempranillo, Mourvedre/Mataro, Shiraz, Sauvignon Blanc, Grenache, Zinfandel, Marsanne, Roussanne **CELLAR DOOR** 5962 Caves Road, Margaret River **OPEN** Monday - Sunday, 10.30am - 4.30pm
WINE PRICES \$25 - 125 **PHONE** 9757 9600 **EMAIL** sales@mchenryhohnen.com.au
WEBSITE www.mchenryhohnen.com.au **DISTRIBUTION** Cellar Door, Liquid Library, The Wine Company, Online, Retail

McHenry Hohnen was founded in 2004 by two families whose wine experience in Margaret River dates back to the 1970s. With an unwavering focus on crafting site-expressive wines, biodynamics and organic farming techniques are used in the vineyard and a minimalist intervention approach is paramount in the winery.

McHenry Hohnen Calgardup Brook chardonnay 2017 (\$60)

This has a real lift on the nose. There is a lemon zest and grapefruit character here. It's chalky and fine with a salty brine character. The palate is powerful and focused with tremendous juiciness. Has about 20 per cent new oak made up of puncheons and barriques. It has tremendous fruit concentration with a lip-smacking finish on it. Exceptionally long palate. This gets a fair amount of battonage.

Score: 96/100 **Cellar:** 10 years

McHenry Hohnen Burnside Vineyard chardonnay 2017 (\$60)

This is a beautifully textured and opulent chardonnay. Such deep stone fruit and creaminess with a slight edge of acid and oak. But it is so well integrated. This has a flinty edge to it with a very long and focused finish. There is some phenolics that seems to come from the full solids impact. And there is a slight flint and match stick character.

Score: 95/100 **Cellar:** 12 years

McHenry Hohnen Rolling Stone 2015 (\$125)

This is a powerful and well-defined cabernet-dominant wine. Slightly more savoury and grainy than the previous vintage, with a subtle leafy lift. Has a gravelly tannin character with a type of red brick dust on the palate. Structure is all about the cabernet. It has a rich black fruit density and thickness. Needs to be decanted and splashed around now to bring out the vibrancy in the palate. More of the graphite emerges with breathing.

Score: 98/100 **Cellar:** 20 years

McHenry Hohnen Hazel's Vineyard grenache syrah mataro 2018 (\$40)

Has a beautiful aromatic perfume of the grenache. Pomegranate with spicy raspberry and light plum. Gorgeous. Whole bunch on grenache which is 85 per cent of the blend. The grainy tannins have a slightly powdery character. Love the structure and the fruit qualities. A real breakthrough wine. Has a touch of roussanne in there to lift the spice.

Score: 96/100 **Cellar:** 15 years

McHenry Hohnen Hazel's Vineyard syrah 2017 (\$40)

Highly perfumed and aromatic. It has intensity and prettiness. Focus has been on spiciness and perfume with a touch of pepper. This has a small amount of roussanne. Co-fermented, which contributes to the balance and tannin structure. Brilliant colour and vibrancy. It has so much energy and life in the palate, with its excellent texture and structure. Picked earlier to get the perfume. Comes from a rocky part of the vineyard. Unfiltered and unfined.

Score: 94/100 **Cellar:** 6 years

McHenry Hohnen BDX 2017 (\$35)

This is a malbec-dominant wine displaying such a gorgeous lifted energy about it. Sweet, ripe, plummy fruit flavours. Fine chalky tannins. There is tremendous concentration with a fine acid lick on the finish. Has a distinct graphite character with a hint of licorice. Very low amount of new oak in here.



Best of the West

Reds

Shiraz

Capel Vale Whispering Hill Mount Barker shiraz 2018

An outstanding wine from this super vineyard in Mount Barker. In fact, I have to say this is the finest I have seen under this label. Heady floral notes on the nose, with spices, mocha and chocolaty notes. There's even a hint of orange peel and thyme. The palate is generous, with gravelly supporting tannins. It's a complete wine with tremendous potential.

Runners-up: Amelia Park Reserve shiraz 2016; Cape Mentelle Two Vineyards shiraz 2016; Forest Hill Vineyard Block 9 shiraz 2018; Robert Oatley Finisterre syrah 2015.

Merlot

Moss Wood Ribbon Vale merlot 2016

The merlot from this vineyard has gone through a remarkable transition in recent years. Intense vineyard and winemaking management has resulted in softer more approachable tannins contributing to a series of excellent wines. Even in quite muscular years like this, the wine shows excellent flesh and suppleness while retaining structure and poise. A classy, expressive wine.

Runner-up: Talisman merlot 2017.

Pinot noir

Paul Nelson Karriview pinot noir 2018

Beautiful pinot from the Karriview vineyard. On-the-nose aromas of cherry and truffle mingle with earthy forest floor notes. The palate is textured with a sweet and sour cherry character that is so appealing. A little vanillin oak works into the equation. You find something with each sip.

Runners-up: Castle Rock Estate pinot noir 2018, Plantagenet Wyjup pinot noir 2018, Zarephath Single Vineyard pinot noir 2018.

Grenache

Sittella Avant Garde Rare Series Golden Mile grenache 2018

Wonderful example of Swan Valley grenache sourced from old bush vines. Seductive perfumes of rose petal and dried herbs. The palate is so beautifully smooth and seamless. There is texture and there is power within that focuses effortlessly to a long finish. Traces of coffee, plummy fruits and chalky tannins. It just hangs together so perfectly.

Runners-up: L.A.S. Vino grenache 2018; Swinney Frankland River grenache 2018; Riverbank Estate Rebellious grenache 2017.

Bordeaux variety blend

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Runners-up: Cullen Diana Madeline 2017; Woodlands Margaret 2016; Vasse Felix Tom Cullity cabernet malbec 2015.

Rhone variety blend

McHenry Hohnen Hazel's Vineyard grenache syrah mataro 2018

Has a beautiful aromatic perfume of the grenache. Pomegranate with spicy raspberry and light plum. Gorgeous. Whole bunch of grenache (85 per cent) in the blend. The grainy tannins have a slightly powdery character. Love the structure and the fruit qualities. A real breakthrough wine. Has a touch of Roussanne in there to lift the spice.

Runners-up: Swinney Frankland River syrah mourvedre grenache 2018; Millbrook grenache shiraz mourvedre 2018.

Cabernet sauvignon

Woodlands Clementine Eloise cabernet sauvignon 2016

Elegant and stylish super-premium top-drawer Woodlands cabernet. This was a vintage known for its hefty tannins, yet the management in the vineyard and winery has harnessed these to be part of an elegant wine of blissful refinement. Perfumed notes of black fruit and violets.

Runners-up: Moss Wood cabernet sauvignon 2016; Deep Woods Wilyabrup Grand Selection cabernet sauvignon 2016; Howard Park Abercrombie cabernet sauvignon 2016.