

# ALL THAT SHIRAZ

We're spoilt for choice when it comes to shiraz. So, to make life a little easier, the AllBarTwo blind-tasting panel picked these babies, out of 30 drops, as the best.

ALL  
UNDER  
\$20

## Annie's Lane Clare Valley Shiraz 2002

Region: Clare Valley, SA

This is a great winter wine. If you're feeling the chill, this shiraz's soft, warming cherry and berry flavours will fix you up, no heater required. Decant this deep, dark red to release aromas of blackberries and smoky oak, and savour slowly.

## Jamiesons Run Shiraz 2002

Region: Coonawarra, SA

A good-looking drop that pours a garnet glass with bright cherry highlights. Very typical of a cool climate shiraz, the aromas are of sweet blackberries and spice. The taste is nicely rounded, and lovely and peppery. If you're firing up the barbie or grill, this drop would partner well with a rare eye fillet steak.

## Andrew Garrett Shiraz 2003

Region: McLaren Vale, SA

A favourite of the panel, this shiraz would make the perfect party pleaser. It's easy to drink and will go down a treat with steak, sausages or pasta. It has intriguing, intense blackberry aromas and almost begs to be drunk. In the front palate there are lots of fruit characters and it ties off with nice smoky finish.

## Goundrey Homestead Shiraz 2002

Region: Multi-regional, WA

Deep ruby in colour, this shiraz has beautifully earthy aromas of smoky tobacco, cedar and ripe berries. Delicate peppery notes come through to the palate, along with fruit flavours. Cellar this one to bring out smoky oak characters. Goundrey have given us a good all-rounder that would pair up nicely with spicy sauces.

## De Bortoli Deen Vat 8 Shiraz 2002

Region: Riverina, NSW

This shiraz impressed our tasting panel. Pouring a deep red, with some purple tinges, in the glass, it has intense blackcurrant aromas and zings on the palate. The berries are rich in the mouth in this elegantly structured wine that's super ripe but manages to stay away from being too sweet.

## The Long Flat Wine Co. Shiraz 2002

Region: Barossa, SA

This shiraz has intense fruit on the nose, along with some mint and mulberries, plus a hint of oak, which all flow through in the mouth. Berry and peppery notes are dominant in the taste and, as this wine is not too tannic, you are left with a lovely finish. A good quaffing shiraz that will go down well with pizza or lamb.

## Penfolds Thomas Hyland Shiraz 2003

Region: Multi-regional, SA

You can expect a top-tasting shiraz from the house that creates Grange. It is a deep red wine with purple tinges and aromas of dark cherries and pepper. Drinking now, the tannins are quite prominent and some palates may prefer it more after a bit of cellaring. It is richly fruit-driven, with dried fruit flavours of sultanas plus some smokiness, and has a great finish to it.

## Gramps Shiraz 2002

Region: Barossa, SA

The brilliant ruby hue gives a lot away on the taste – bright and intense. First, nose mulberry and stewed plums then sip to encounter a big berry fruit palate, with plum notes, that gives way to a smooth finish. Good acidity and tannins balance out the fruit to give a medium-bodied wine that goes down silkily. Flavours will be enhanced even more with cellaring.

## McWilliam's Hanwood Estate Shiraz 2003

Region: South Eastern Australia

Here's another great shiraz to throw back with a sizzling steak or lamb curry. Its aromas are all blackberries and plums and the taste follows through, with lots of ripe berries and some pepper on the palate. It has a harmonious blend of fruit acid and tannins, plus a harder finish than other shiraz tasted.

## Lindemans Bin 50 Shiraz 2004

Region: Multi-regional

For a wine that is often overlooked by wine snobs, this proved its true worth in our blind tasting, coming out as one of the favourites of the day. It has peppery, soft dark fruit aromas on the nose. The taste is complex for this price bracket, with blackberries, licorice and spice undertones. Easy on the oak, this is an uncomplicated crowd pleaser.

## Jacob's Creek Shiraz 2004

Region: South Eastern Australia

A popular drop, this is nice on the nose with good spice, oak and hints of raspberry. This wine would open up even further with decanting, releasing all the fruit notes. It has ripe dark fruits on the palate, with hints of oak that come through with mocha-like character. A good match for meat dishes.

## the Little Penguin Shiraz 2004

Region: South Eastern Australia

A relative newcomer to the market (it was released in April), this is already finding a few fans. A great drop to take along to barbies or just to enjoy with dinner mid-week. There are strawberries on the nose and palate, but don't let that put you off, as it isn't a sweet wine. It is easy drinking and well-structured – and, at around \$10 a bottle, a bargain to boot.

Photography: South Australian Tourism Commission

Thanks to the tasting panel: Paul Diamond, Jonathon Mogg, Marcus Newton, Kirsten Rowlingson and Tracey Stewart.