



Seductively Delicious Shiraz

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Reception Wine: 6:00 PM, Formal Tasting: 6:20 PM

Faculty Club, Univ of Toronto, 41 Willcocks Street, Toronto

Members' Fee: \$69; Guests'/Non-Members' Fee: \$89

Australia is recognized globally for its rich, bold Shiraz wine. According to Janise Robinson, if black pepper is trademark of French *Syrah*, dark chocolate is that of Australian *Shiraz* produced from Australia's vineyards. The Shiraz grape is well suited for the warm vineyards of Australia. People often associate Shiraz with ripeness and power, and rightfully so, according to Food and Wine magazine: "for most of the past decade, Australian wines that have received the most acclaim and highest point scores were predominantly supercharged, high-alcohol, powerhouse wines." Australian Shiraz is seductively delicious, with startlingly rich, ripe aromas that deliver right through to the full zesty finish.

"In almost every climate, Shiraz makes quality wine. It rarely needs or receives the same volume of new oak as Cabernet, it can be delicious and fruity when young, but can mellow with up to 20 or 30 years in the cellar into magnificent wine showing earthy, velvety, almost sweet fruit characters. The aromas and flavours of Shiraz vary with wine style and region, but are usually blackberry, plums, and pepper in varying degrees dependent on growing conditions. In addition, even more regionally based, we can find liquorice [sic], tar even, and bitter chocolate and mocha. Climate affects these with the warmer climates providing the plums and chocolate (Barossa) and the cooler climates giving more of the pepper (Victoria)." A Taste of Australian Wine, 'Shiraz', By Gavin Trott.

For our March tasting, TVC assembled some of the best Shiraz wines from across Australia. From **Western** Australia we have 2 wines. **Leeuwin** (Margaret River) is celebrated for producing some of Western Australia's very best Shiraz's. **Alkoomi** (Frankland River), one of the most remote wine regions in Australia and one of the largest vineyards in the region. Alkoomi makes wines that range from solidly good to superb in quality. From the **South** we have 3 wines. **Kilikanoon** (McLaren Vale) has only been producing wines since 1997; however it has quickly built a reputation of very rich, full style wines. **Rockford** (Barossa) is one of the classic Barossa wineries with a real sense of history. The **Basket Press Shiraz** is the flagship of the vineyard, made from the fruit of 30-year old vines and is a Barossa classic that benefits from bottle age. **Mitchell** (Clare Valley), is a mid-sized winery; their Shiraz is often a standout of the region. From the **South-East** near Victoria: **Best's Great Western** was founded in 1866 and is renowned for its Bin 0 Shiraz which shows striking liqueur-like cherry and plum fruit with some leathery undertones. From the **East** (New South Wales) we have 2 wines. **Brokenwood** (Hunter Valley) founded in 1970, has been the source of one of Australia's most iconic wines: the elegant, age-worthy Graveyard Shiraz known for its restraint, concentration and complexity. **Tulloch** (Hunter Valley) hand-makes their wines with meticulous care that epitomize the qualities of a boutique Hunter Valley wine company.

The oldest Shiraz we present is 13 years and the youngest six so they should be drinking beautifully now! Join us on March 18th as we indulge in the finest Shiraz that Australia has to offer! Please refrain from wearing perfumed products. TVC will serve a reception wine and light appetizers with the main wines.

REGISTER/ BUY TICKETS

[Register/buy tickets online](#). You must register online and then can pay by credit card or by cheque. **ALL ticket sales/reservations are final**. Cheques must be received by Friday, March 14th. The cheque-payment option will be disabled at midnight Tuesday, March 11th after which only credit card sales will be accepted until midnight Monday March 17th or earlier if the event sells out. You will be sent an email confirmation after completing your registration. If you tried to buy a ticket but did not receive a confirmation, contact winetasting@torontovintners.org before trying to register again.



Tasting Notes and Information

2001 Rockford Wines - Basket Press Shiraz \$79 (South AU)

"The stunning 2001 Shiraz Basket Press was fashioned by Robert O'Callaghan and his assistant winemaker, the renowned Chris Ringland. Initially, this dark ruby/purple-colored effort is not overwhelmingly impressive, but with aeration, the nose opens to reveal scents of loamy earth, blackberries, currants, pepper, and underbrush. The complex aromatics are matched by a savory, fleshy, structured, full-bodied palate possessing loads of earthy black fruits as well as subtle oak. It is a beautifully intense, old vine Shiraz meant for long-term cellaring. Accessible now, it promises to last for 15 or more years." 94 pts. Robert Parker Jr., erobertparker.com, Oct. 2004.

2003 Mitchell McNicol Shiraz \$51 (South AU)

Developed red colour, entirely appropriate; has thrived during the eight years since vintage, with abundant blackberry and licorice fruit, quality oak, and a long, balanced palate that has fused fruit, oak and tannins into a harmonious whole. Drink [until] 2023." 95pts. James Halliday, winecompanion.com.au, Aug. 2011

2007 Alkoomi Jarrah Shiraz \$40 (West AU)

"The 2007 Jarrah Shiraz gives a deep garnet-purple color with earthy aromas of damp loam, truffles and forest floor that give way to black currant, cigar boxes and cinnamon stick. The palate has a modest, easy-drinking medium body while the medium to high acidity and a medium to firm level of very fine tannins provide just enough support. Drink this now to 2018+." 91pts. Lisa Perrotti-Brown, erobertparker.com, Oct. 2010.

2007 Kilikanoon Parable Shiraz \$40 (South AU)

acid. Concentrated. Very long finish. 13.5% alcohol. 1000 cases produced. Drink 2013-2025." 93pts. Lisa Perrotti-Brown, erobertparker.com, Apr. 2010.

2008 Leeuwin Estate - Art Series Shiraz \$45 (Western AU)

"The 2008 Art Series Shiraz is intensely scented of black pepper and black cherries with nuances of ripe blueberries, baking spices, dusty earth and licorice. Medium bodied with a medium level of rounded tannins, it has medium high acid and plenty of ripe, varietally expressive fruit flavors, finishing long and

"Deep garnet colored, the 2007 Parable Shiraz gives fragrant, floral notes of dried roses and violets over oolong tea, dried cherry and warm blackberries plus whiffs of licorice and menthol. With a nice juxtaposition between voluptuous, ripe fruit and a solid structure of high acid and firm grainy tannins, it gives a long layered finish. Temptingly forward with ripe, primary flavors that are just starting to evolve, this wine should fan out even more with 2-4 years more in bottle and drink to 2020+." 94+ pts. Lisa Perrotti-Brown, erobertparker.com, Dec. 2010.

2007 Keith Tulloch The Kester Shiraz \$37 (East – New South Wales)

"The Kester Shiraz comes off a single block of vines planted in the 1930s (though not owned by Keith Tulloch). It is co-fermented with 1-2% Viognier, spending around 4 weeks on its skins before pressing. The 2007 The Kester Shiraz Viognier has a very deep garnet-purple color and fragrant warm black cherry and blackberry aromas with hints of cassis, spice box, white pepper and mocha. Full-bodied with very crisp acid to give lift, it has a medium-firm level of very finely grained tannins and a long finish with some earthiness coming through. Approachable now, it should develop nicely and drink through 2018+." 93pts. Lisa Perrotti-Brown, erobertparker.com, May 2011

2007 Brokenwood Graveyard Shiraz \$120 (East – New South Wales)

"The 2007 Graveyard Vineyard Shiraz is holding firmly to its youthful deep garnet-purple color. Very pretty, cool-climate fruit nose: violets, dark cherry, cumin, vanilla, anise, cassis and a bit of tar. Medium bodied with a tightly knit, elegantly fruited palate. Medium-high level of fine tannins and medium to high peppery. Drink this one now to 2016+." 91pts. Lisa Perrotti-Brown, erobertparker.com, Aug. 2011.

2008 Best's Great Western Winery - Bin No. 0 Shiraz \$57 (South-East AU)

Their premier range is Great Western with a superb Bin No. 0. "Bright crimson; a fragrant bouquet, with notes of spice and pepper to tis black fruit core, then a beautifully textured and structured palate, fruit, oak and tannins in perfect harmony. Drink [until] 2030." 96pts. James Halliday, winecompanion.com.au, Aug. 11, 2011.