



Reviews & Accolades

CHURCH BLOCK CABERNET SHIRAZ MERLOT 2015

WINEORBIT.CO.NZ

Sam Kim, July 2017

5 Stars & 93 Points

A beautifully styled red; the inviting bouquet shows blackcurrant, dark chocolate, olive and cedar characters with nuances of bay leaf and warm spice. The palate delivers excellent palate weight and roundness, brilliantly supported by fine texture and chalky tannins. Excellent balance and harmony, and offers terrific drinking already. At its best: now to 2023.

RAYMONDCHANWINEREVIEWS.CO.NZ

Raymond Chan, July 2017

5 Stars & 18.5 / 20 Points

Full, very dark, black-hued red colour with slight purple hues, a little lighter on the rim. The nose is fresh with bright and primary, aromatic fruit, showing blackcurrants, cassis liqueur, minty herbs and subtle notes of spices and plums. The aromatics possess depth and presence. Full-bodied, the palate has a firmly concentrated heart with deeply packed, bright and vibrant flavours of blackcurrants, blackberries and cassis, with nuances of spice and plums. The fruit is underlined by fine, grainy tannin structure and grip, providing depth and linearity with acid energy and tension. The wine leads to a long, elegant and sustained finish of blackcurrants, cassis and herbs. This is an elegantly concentrated, bright fruited Cabernet/Shiraz blend with lively blackcurrant, cassis and herb flavours with a grainy-structured palate and fresh mouthfeel. Match with herb-marinated lamb and beef dishes, and semi-hard cheeses over the next 7-8+ years. McLaren Vale fruit, a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Shiraz and 12% Merlot, fermented to 14.5% alc., the wine aged 18 months in 70% French and 30% American oak barriques and hogsheads, 10% new.

JAMES HALLIDAY WINE COMPANION 2018

James Halliday, August 2017

91 Points

A classic among this quintessentially Australian category, Church Block always comes up trumps. Shiraz's generous blue to dark fruit spectrum is melded to the structural pillars of cabernet, the leader of the blend. Detailed tannins and marked acidity are its trademarks. Merlot serves as a filler.

THE WINE FRONT

Campbell Mattinson, May 2017

91 Points

It's one of the more reliable 'go to' red wines on the Australian market. Quality is always there or thereabouts. It's a McLaren Vale blend of cabernet sauvignon, shiraz and merlot. This release cuts the mustard. It's dusty and leafy but curranty too, its flashes of boysenberry and blackcurrant offering more than enough flavour. Oak isn't really a part of the flavour profile, or not overtly, but dry, dusty, well-played fruit most certainly is. Balance is spot on here. What I particularly like is how "cabernet" this wine feels. If you store this well I suspect it will mature well over the medium term or longer – if you so desired. Top value.

THE REAL REVIEW

Toni Paterson MW, May 2017

4 Stars, 90 Points & Buy of the Week

This is a cracking wine. Such clear and expressive flavours and a long harmonious palate. There is brightness and richness. The three varieties of cabernet sauvignon, shiraz and merlot sit side-by-side in perfect balance. Ripe, gently drying tannin. At this price, you don't get much better. Ageing: now to 2023. Food: Lamb backstrap with herbed fregola and olives.

CAMERONDOUGLASMS.CO.NZ

Cameron Douglas MS, August 2017

90 Points

Ripe, fruity, fleshy and varietal with aromas of blackberry, plum, raspberry and black currant; a light violet floral layer adds complexity and charm; moderate+ oak layer with brown spices and toasty-ness; medium+ intensity overall. On the palate – youthful, firm, fruity and dry. Medium+ tannins showing a chalky texture; no mistaking the oak, but not overdone either, a light char-note then moderate toasty effect; flavours of fruits reflect the nose; youthful still with plenty of acidity and vibrancy, balanced and well made. Drink now and through 2025.