

# WINE REVIEWS

Richer styles strike a chord with cooler weather. **Nick Stock** unearths a hearty group of shiraz from the great 2005 vintage.



**2005**

**Leasingham Bin 61 Shiraz**

Clare Valley, SA

91 points

\$18-20

[www.leasingham-wines.com.au](http://www.leasingham-wines.com.au)

With Kerry Thompson's solid foundations to work on, newly appointed winemaker Simon Osicka has a walk-up start at Clare Valley stalwart Leasingham. Their reds are perpetually great value and 2005 has added some extra weight to the argument for snapping up this bargain shiraz and laying a few down for later. Superb deep purple colour and some regional eucalyptus notes, oak is assertive and there's an ocean of blackberries, plums, spices and roasted game meats. Supple yet powerful in the mouth, sturdy tannins will carry it for some years, plenty of plum and dark berry fruits here too, juicy and soulful.



**2005**

**Bress Heathcote Shiraz**

Heathcote, VIC

94 points

RRP \$38-40

[www.bress.com.au](http://www.bress.com.au)

The Adam Marks story is one that defines modern Australian winemaking. He's gathered experience in all facets, bought some land, is deeply committed to biodynamic farming and is making a very handy cider on the side. Raising chooks too. His wines are nothing short of stunning and he's got plenty left to run yet. This is a complex, lively shiraz with depth and soul. Really fragrant fine eastern spices, plenty of reddish plum fruit and some deeper earthy notes run below. Has a hint of citrus peel too, Crozes-Hermitage-like. Dense, supple and chewy palate, this is well crafted and fuses power with grace. Deep cherry and plum fruit flavours neatly laced through a smooth, chiselled tannin finish.



**2005**

**Kalleske Johann Georg Shiraz**

Barossa Valley, SA

93 points

RRP \$100

[www.kalleske.com](http://www.kalleske.com)

Troy Kalleske and his family label just continue to run from strength to strength. There's a powerhouse of vineyard behind the wines, all faithfully delivered in the winery and appreciated by all who taste them. This, the top wine from Kalleske, is rich and regional, crafted with balance but still packing a real punch, dark berry fruit aromas, earthy spices, ripe yet fresh. The palate is a symphony of texture and flavour, filling the mouth with deep old vine fruit concentration, it's a powerful proposition. Oak is thoroughly integrated and tannins run in deep channels through to the finish. It's a convincing rendition of young hands at the wheel of old vine heritage.



**2005**

**First Drop Mother's Milk Shiraz**

Barossa Valley, 93 points

RRP \$24-26

[www.firstdropwines.com](http://www.firstdropwines.com)

Matt Gant is a star on the rise. He's sympathetically shaped the wines at St. Hallett into brighter form in recent years and is now embarking on his own odyssey, First Drop Wines. The first round of bottles look good across the board (including an Adelaide Hills Montepulciano), all packaged in snappy modern style. This silky shiraz has raw appealing charm, plump berry aromas, warm black fruits, a little spice and seductive brightness. The palate wields depth and breadth without heading over to blockbuster territory, it's neatly balanced, with a deep juicy line of fruit and supple tannins sweeping long and even. A modern gem.



**2005**

**John Duval Entity Shiraz**

Barossa Valley, SA

92 points

RRP \$38-42

[www.johnduvalwines.com.au](http://www.johnduvalwines.com.au)

The wines of John Duval are akin to a great new album from a legendary musician. They impress, quietly at first, and the more you taste, the more you go back, details creep from the glass. They're impeccably assembled and the latest round of 2005's is superb. Bright, pristine red and black fruits, it really sings in the glass, fruit-soaked oak and dark toasted spices bubble away. Ripe dark berry flavours sit at the essence of the palate and really pin the wine to the Barossa region. Tannins are supple and soft, yet build to savoury presence towards the finish, perfectly judged, as you would expect from these experienced hands.



**2005**

**2005 Spinifex Shiraz**

**Vignier**

Eden Valley, SA

94 points

\$40-45

[www.spinifexwines.com.au](http://www.spinifexwines.com.au)

The fragrant character of Eden Valley shiraz really lends itself to the gentle seasoning of vignier. Pete Schell and Magali Gely have a terrific feel for the Barossa region and the diversity on offer, they know exactly what works and how to deliver it. Plenty of red fruits, plums and game meats. This is really complex, even at this early stage, precise too: these guys have it nailed. The palate offers a convincing mix of depth and balance, fruit is supple and rich, dark berries, red fruits and some chocolate flavours all wound together. Tannins are fine and ripe, building to a rich, opulent finish, both engaging and impressive, a seductive modern wine with soul and verve.