

# Yalumba and Cabernet Sauvignon & Shiraz

## A Quintessentially Australian Partnership

As long ago as 1865, Dr Jules Guyot, a prominent French philosopher, scientist and oenological adviser recommended to the winemakers of Provence that their Cabernet Sauvignon wines would benefit from the addition of Shiraz†. However, France's strict appellation contrôlée laws prevented this practice from being adopted.

Due to its abundance, Shiraz was probably the natural choice for early Australian winemakers when looking for a partner to blend with Cabernet Sauvignon. They found the varieties to be eminently compatible.



Cabernet Sauvignon is small-berried, intensely varietal, highly tannic, with a tendency to austerity. The high tannin levels give it great structure and elegance and the ability to handle extensive cellaring.

Shiraz is rich and soft, mouthfilling, approachable early and capable of a complex array of bottle-aged characters. It complements Cabernet Sauvignon by offering a velvety richness to the middle palate, just where Cabernet Sauvignon is said to 'drop out'.

Yalumba has long considered the Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz blend to be the ideal Australian red wine and have continually strived to perfect it. As Australia's oldest family owned winery, Yalumba provides benchmarks for the style in 'The Reserve' and 'The Signature'.

† Jancis Robinson's *The Oxford Companion to Wine*, 1947



## Yalumba's Cabernet & Shiraz Wines

With their 40-year pedigree, 'The Signature' wines are an important and sentimental part of Yalumba's history. Each vintage, these wines have blended the best of vintage Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz. This special wine is then named in honour of an employee or person who has made a significant contribution to the culture and traditions of Yalumba.

Scattered throughout the Yalumba wine portfolio, the Cabernet & Shiraz blend dominates, beginning with Oxford Landing, a classic example of the ripe upfront characters offered by this wine style.

The next step up is Yalumba's Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz – a stylish and generous wine with smooth ripe tannins.

At the helm of Yalumba's Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz story is 'The Reserve'. Made only in exceptional vintages, this is an extraordinarily intense wine sought after by wine collectors the world over.

So seriously is the Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz blend taken by Australia's oldest family owned winery that Yalumba's Director of Winemaking, Brian Walsh persuaded the committee of the Adelaide Wine Show to introduce a separate judging class for the style. *"It's a wine style unique to Australia and plays such an important role in this country's winemaking history,"* he says.



## Awards and Reviews

- ✿ Between the 1990, 1992 and 1998 vintages of 'The Reserve', 16 trophies and 35 gold medals have been amassed in national and international competitions to date.
- ✿ *"These (Signature) wines proved more Aussie than RM Williams boots and were a pleasure to taste ... (they represented) a microcosm of the changes in the Australian wine industry over the past 40 years; from raw pioneering enthusiasm to world class sophistication."* Peter Simic, Winestate Magazine

Releases of 'The Signature', Yalumba's sentimental favourite cabernet sauvignon and shiraz blend, in the last decade have been awarded 5 Top 100s, 4 Trophies, 44 Gold and 89 Silver medals in major competitions throughout the world.