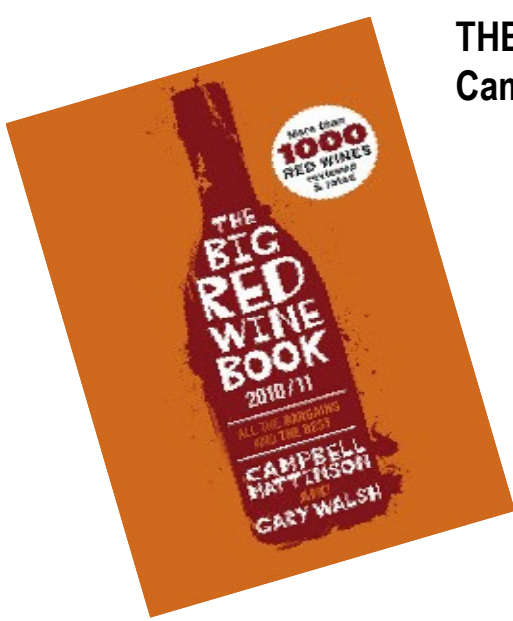


THE BIG RED WINE BOOK 2010/11  
Campbell Mattinson & Gary Walsh



**90  
PTS**

\* TOP 100 \$20 or less  
\* AUTHOR'S CHOICE  
\* Best of RED BLENDS  
\$20 or less

**SCRUBBY RISE**  
2008 Shiraz Cab  
Sauv Petit Verdot

"Scrubby Rise is a blend of shiraz with cabernet sauvignon and petit verdot. It's a reliable performer. Made to drink as a young wine. Indeed it's **a great red to wrap your lips around**. It's full of jammy blackberried flavour but it's the dusky, eathen, spicy notes that send the slurpability score soaring. There's a modest amount of tannin grip and a sweet, Turkish delight-like flavour rippling through the aftertaste. You can't ask for much more. **It's a little beauty.**"



**91  
PTS**

**CHURCH BLOCK**  
2008 Cab Sauv Shiraz Merlot

"This year it a blend of cabernet sauvignon (48 per cent) and shiraz (37 per cent). Test your maths – the rest is merlot.

'Scuse the French but the words **"That's Bloody nice"** passed our lips after tasting this. It's jam-packed with juicy blueberry and blackberry jellybean flavour, complemented here by a layer of almond and cedar-like notes, likely from oak. There's a touch of bitter herbs on the exit but no problem – the seduction has well and truly taken place by then."



**93  
PTS**

\* AUTHOR'S CHOICE  
\* Best of RED BLENDS  
Over \$25

**ORIGINAL BLEND**  
2008 Grenache Shiraz

"We love a good grenache-shiraz blend. It's a great tradition in Australia – particularly from McLaren Vale – and should be more highly valued. Bursting with musky perfume and red fruits of the raspberry and cherry persuasion, with a little earthiness and a delightful peanutty flavour. It's medium – full-bodied, supple and creamy – it strikes **an excellent balance between sweet and savoury**. Has length, balance and abundant charm. It's one of those wines that we'd love to rate much higher, such is its **drinkability and general loveliness.**"



**94  
PTS**

\* Best of SHIRAZ over \$50  
(2008 Vintage)

**RSW**  
07 & 08 Shiraz  
(08 due for release  
October 2010)

2007: "Yummy oak matched to blueberried and boysenberry-like fruit flavours. Smooth but not plush and more refined than a lot of other top-end McLaren Vale shiraz. This is a nice sort of wine. Not for long-term aging, but **full of stylish quality.**"

2008: "Lots of intensity but, as with a lot of the 2008 McLaren Vale reds, it isn't as thick and syrupy as you might expect – not such a bad thing. It tastes of blackberries and chocolate and sawdust and its biggest asset is its balance; **everything is in perfect proportion here**. Filigreed tannin, ripples of boysenberry, perfectly judged acidity and oak – **it's a masterfully well-made red wine.**"



**93  
PTS**

\* Best of SHIRAZ  
\$21 - 50

**WOODHENCE**  
2008 Shiraz

"As with last year's release this is a take-no-prisoners style, though the flavours are very well controlled. Plums and cherries (slightly lighter flavours than you might expect) are matched to obvious, but delicious, oak notes of cedarwood and fresh sawdust. It's tangy but intense, and saves the best part to last – it has excellent persistence and lovely fine-grained tannin. **Excellent fruit purity here.**"