

JAMES HALLIDAY Wine Companion 2010 Edition

95 POINTS Hiding Champion Sauvignon Blanc 2008

“Early picking has paid big dividends, with a chorus of juicy flavours running from apple to tropical; the palate vibrant, the finish fresh.”

94 POINTS Chook Block Shiraz 2006

“Dark and brooding with mocha, fruitcake and a seasoning of charry oak; the medium-bodied palate is loaded with sweet fruit and oak.”

92 POINTS Woodhenge Shiraz 2007

“Blackberry, redcurrant and chocolate, with a touch of fruitcake in the background; the palate is dense and full of warm and very ripe fruit; chewy tannin and bright acidity on the finish.”

90 POINTS The Lost Watch Riesling 2008

“Pale colour; lemon, lime and mineral define the bouquet; quite lean and focused on the palate, but with real persistence from start to finish.”

90 POINTS Mrs Wigley Grenache Rose 2008

“A bright hue, with attractive spicy notes on the bouquet; the palate shows some richness and depth, and just a little grip adding complexity and interest to the finish.”

90 POINTS Church Block Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz Merlot 2007

“A very tight and polished style of this classic Australian blend; plenty of black fruits, spice and plenty of structure; lots on offer.”

88 POINTS Scrubby Rise Unwooded Chardonnay 2008

“Deep colour; ripe bouquet of peach and nectarine; plenty of flavour and persistence

88 POINTS Catapult Shiraz Viognier 2007

“A dark mocha personality; a suggestion of florals from the viognier; sweet fruited on the palate, with dark chewy fruit persisting to the finish.”

88 POINTS Mrs Wigley Moscato 2008

“Clean, grapey aromas with a touch of talc and floral notes; good spritz, not too sweet, and finishes quite clean and dry; very refreshing.”

87 POINTS Scrubby Rise Sauvignon Blanc Semillon Viognier 2008

“Clean, crisp and dry; not particularly varietal, but well made.”

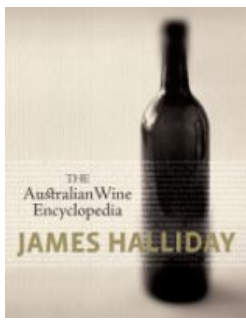


Outstanding winery
regularly producing wines
of exemplary quality and typicity
185 wineries rated 5-Red-Star
9 from McLaren Vale

“Long respected for consistency of its white wines, Wirra Wirra has now established an equally formidable reputation for its reds.”

Right across the board, the wines are of exemplary character, quality and style.

The Angelus [known as Dead Ringer in export markets] Cabernet Sauvignon and RSW Shiraz battling with each other for supremacy. Long may the battle continue under the direction of new managing director Andrew Kay following the retirement of highly respected Tim James, particularly in the wake of the death of the universally loved co-founder/owner Greg Trott in early 2005. In Dec '07 Wirra Wirra purchased the 20-ha Rayner Vineyard (with blocks dating back to the 1950's), which had hitherto supplied Brokenwood with the grapes for its eponymous icon Shiraz.”



JAMES HALLIDAY The Australian Wine Encyclopedia 1st Edition

“Wirra Wirra (est. 1969) stands tall as one of the most successful, high-quality family-owned wineries in Australia, its 150,000-case production coming principally from its home base of McLaren Vale, but also drawing grapes from the Adelaide Hills. It exists in its 21st century form because of the vision of the late Greg Trott (known to all as Trott or Trottie) and the stoicism of brother Roger.

Truth being stranger than fiction, Wirra Wirra was built in 1894 by Robert Strangeways Wigley, who was every bit as eccentric as Trott. Photographs show his eyes pointing in different directions, which did not stop him from becoming a state cricketer (cricket being also one of the many passions of Trott). Nor did it stop him commandeering a horse and cart from the Adelaide City Council and riding it through the city streets at full gallop, resulting in a fine which he later paid by riding his horse into the Adelaide Town Hall.

To avoid further scandals he was sent to McLaren Vale, where he became a vigneron. He began building his house at the same time, abandoning four starts before finally deciding on its precise location. He never married; his home was run by an Irish housekeeper who was able to cope even when, in stormy weather, he would take to his bed in coat and hat, refusing to leave until the weather turned fine.

He died interstate in 1924, and the vineyards were sold by his family, the winery coming into the ownership of Vern Sparrow, the son of Wigley’s foreman, Jack Sparrow. By 1936 it had fallen into disuse, and only two walls and some fermenting tanks remained when Greg and Roger Trott purchased it in 1969.

Greg Trott and an enthusiastic band of friends spent the ensuing five years rebuilding the winery: Trott shared with the late Len Evans the love of collecting things large and small, useful or useless, and incorporating them into buildings (a \$450,000 pipe organ remains to be installed in either the winery or the new cellar door complex completed in 2004).

Trott was not a winemaker, but engendered loyalty, bordering on love, from all those who worked at Wirra Wirra. It was inevitable that this would result in great wines, and that whenever a position became vacant in the team, it would be filled by winemakers who did not wait for an advertisement, simply offering their services.

Its Angelus [known as Dead Ringer in export markets] Cabernet Sauvignon and RSW Shiraz (named in honour of Robert Strangeways Wrigley) have won countless trophies and gold medals in many parts of the world, and it was no surprise that current winemaker, New Zealand-born former lawyer Samantha (Sam) Connew, should have received the award of international red winemaker of the year in 2007 from the International Wine & Spirit Competition in London. This was no flash in the pan, as all of the wide range of wines, covering many price points, are made with the same care and attention as the flagbearers. Nor is it just a red wine producer: all of the major white wine styles form an important part of the mix.”