

# THISTLEDOWN WINE COMPANY



## Wine Front New Release Reviews

**95+ points**

### **Sands of Time Grenache 2019**

(2019 not yet released – [2018 available online](#))

*‘From 76 year old vines planted in Blewitt Springs, which is perhaps the epicentre for quality Grenache in this country. Bit of a loaded word of late though, is epicentre. A total of 930 bottles produced. Mine is 923. I was hoping for either 930, 007 or 001. Oh well.*

*Medium-bodied, perfume and ripe raspberry, some biscuit spices and wholesome earthiness, almost like wet clay. It’s carrying some puppy fat as a very young wine, succulence of raspberry, but there’s bass and depth, kitten’s tongue tannin, a smattering of dried herb (thyme and the like) and dried flowers on a long and gently, but insistently, tannic finish. Fantastic, and it feels like it will develop beautifully.’*

**95+ points**

### **Advance Release Mattschoss Grenache 2019**

Available Now Online

*‘Grapes from Mengler’s Hill in the Eden Valley. 720 bottles produced from seven (7!) year old vines. In the last decade or so, there’s no question that Grenache has been the ‘most improved’ on ground. Raspberry, violet, fresh mint, spice and clarity. Wonderful transmission of site, kitten’s tongue tannin, almost a playful lick, sage and rose, finesse and superb length, spice and stony things trailing in the wake of Grenache perfume. Truly wonderful.’*



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**95 points**

### **This Charming Man Single Vineyard Grenache 2019**

(2019 not released yet – [2018 available now](#))

*'From the Smart vineyard up in Clarendon. How many Grenache based wines can these lunatics at Thistledown make in any given year? Anyway, Johnny Marr produced one of the best, and most enduring guitar parts ever written for the song of the same name, made all the better because it was played on a Fender Telecaster.*

*How's the purity? Crisp and clear red fruit, mint and liquorice root perfume, a dusting of exotic spice. It's light and fresh, rings like a well struck triangle, fine emery board tannin, cool and calm, vanilla and juicy raspberry on a long and precise finish. Fine wine, no doubt.'*

**95 points**

### **She's Electric Grenache 2019**

Available online

*'50% whole bunch. 675 bottles produced. She's Electric. Are Friends Electric? Electric Avenue. Together in Electric Dreams. Do I need The Mercy Seat? Perhaps. Light and frisky Grenache, layered with spice over cranberry and fresh raspberry, rose and mint perfume. It's energetic, light and 'Pinot-like', a little rasp of tannin, energy and tension, and a cool long finish that's just so appealing, you want to dip back in straight away. Bloody beautiful. Love this style of Grenache.'*

**94 points**

### **The Vagabond Grenache 2019**

(2019 not released – [2018 available online now](#))

*'Blewitt Springs. Creamy raspberry, rosy perfume and spice, maybe a bit of shoe leather and dried herb. It's silky, fresh, fine grip of tannin, mint and red fruits, but savoury in the background, with a coolness and vitality that makes it so charming, and good to drink. Some red fruit and sap to close. Yes.'*

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**94 points**

### **The Quickening Shiraz 2019**

(2019 not yet released – [2018 available online](#))

*‘Beheading an ‘immortal’ producers a burst of energy called a ‘Quickening’. Not to be confused with ‘The Pentaveret’, who run everything in the world, including the newspapers.*

*Cool fragrance of dried flowers, sage and thyme, black fruit and spice. It’s kind of juicy in the blackcurrant and blackberry department, with well-knit tannin giving a confident but gentle grip, fresh feel, and a long and subtly mentholated peppery finish. Very nice. You could well crave it fortnightly.’*

**93+ points**

### **Suilven Chardonnay 2019**

(2019 not yet released – [2018 available online](#))

*‘Most often, the best policy with wax capsules is just to go straight in with the corkscrew and wrench hard. I’ve cut my fingers too many times trying to be fancy like a sommelier. Don’t get me started on that hard chippy wax that Foillard and Raveneau use... Anyway, concrete egg and barrel used in this wine, fruit hand-picked from a single vineyard, though I’m not sure which vineyard that is.*

*Spicy Japanese ginger oak, almond, a minor amount of struck match, white peach and lemon zest. It’s fine and slightly milky in texture, has a soft grip and texture, again the ginger over peach and pink grapefruit. It finishes pretty long, with an almost chalky texture. High quality, obviously still quite young, and feels in evolution; like it’s going somewhere better, for sure.’*

**92 points**

### **The Cunning Plan Shiraz 2019**

Available Online Now

*‘I tend to think of Thistledown as being Grenache specialists, but they turn out some pretty stylish Shiraz too.*

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*Floral with black fruit, chocolate and something like dried beef. A good dose of McLaren Shiraz here offering flavour with some restraint, a good amount of chewy texture, some spice and fruitcake on a solid finish. Tidy.'*

**92 points**

## [Thorny Devil Old Vine Grenache 2019](#)

Available Online Now

*'Seems to have moved from the Barossa to McLaren Vale in 2019. Ripe raspberry, brown spice, subtle earthiness. It's ripe and spicy, ripples with tannin and raspberry ripple, a bit of meatiness and minty perfume, slightly saline, plump and juicy finish. Rock solid. Good drinking here.'*

**92 points**

## [Gorgeous Grenache 2019](#)

Available Online Now

*'It's labelled as South Australia, which is true enough, though more specifically comes from the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale. And I think some old vines in the Riverland, though the website offers conflicting information. Anyway, here's the wine.'*

*The name is indeed, not misleading. Poached strawberries with fresh mint, some brown spice and musk perfume. It's supple and juicy, soft powdery tannin, succulence and easy drinking appeal, not over done, and only really medium-bodied. It begins well, and ends well. It's an easy wine to like.'*

**90 points**

## [The Great Escape Chardonnay 2018](#)

Available Online Now

*'Once upon a time, the label was quite plain, and in a review of the 2014, I commented on Steve McQueen on a motorcycle, going through the Adelaide Hills. And now the label seems to be just that. So, my usual moronic introductions sometimes find an appreciative home, I guess.'*

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*Some spice, oatmeal, melon rind, white peach. Fresh, a bit of tang and lemon zest, nectarine and a hit of ginger on the finish. A pleasant Hills coolness to it, albeit a bit rugged feeling, but with flavour to go. Length is solid. It's easy to drink and like. Good now, too.'*

