

RATING

91

Cannibal Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir 2015

Variety: Pinot Noir
Region: Gippsland

Drink by: 2023
Date tasted: 2/1/2017
Alcohol:12.8%

A sappy, crunchy pinot noir brimming with allusions of red fruits, Bing cherry and spice. Like the rest of the range, the oak is impeccably tailored to the weight of fruit. This flows with a purity and grace. Not a particularly complex pinot, but certainly a delicious drink.

RATING

90

Cannibal Creek Vineyard Blanc de Blancs 2013

Variety: Sparkling
Region: Gippsland

Drink by: 2018
Date tasted: 2/4/2017
Alcohol:11%

Lees age has brought texture and integration to the cool, tangy chardonnay of this Gippsland vineyard. Yeasty bubblegum complexity contrasts ripe peach and lemon fruit, finishing with tart acidity.

RATING

94

Cannibal Creek Vineyard Chardonnay 2015

Variety: Chardonnay
Region: Gippsland

Drink by: 2023
Date tasted: 2/1/2017
Alcohol:13%

Reticent at first, this picks up the pace with air as notes of melon, green fig and apricot pith wind across a tensile beam of mineral crunch and cool climate, unadulterated acidity. The oak is seamlessly integrated, providing further structural support and some cinnamon spice on the sapid finish. This will age well over the medium term.

RATING

93

**Cannibal Creek Vineyard Cabernet Merlot
2015**

Variety: Cabernet Merlot

Drink by: 2025

Region: Gippsland

Date tasted: 2/1/2017

Alcohol:12.8%

This is an even Steven blend of the two Bordeaux varieties, with cabernet gushing blackcurrant; merlot, red to dark plum and leafy red fruits. Dried sage and bouquet garni season the finish. This is a mid-weighted and well proportioned wine. Savoury, elegant and long.

RATING

94

**Cannibal Creek Vineyard Reserve
Sauvignon Blanc 2016**

Variety: Sauvignon Blanc

Drink by: 2021

Region: Gippsland

Date tasted: 2/1/2017

Alcohol:12%

The Reserve bottling differentiates itself from the regular cuvee by way of barrel fermentation. This has imbued the wine with a creamy textural weave, a leesy smokiness and impressive breadth across the mouth. Herb, a faint whiff of passionfruit, galangal and verdant foliage all linger within. Despite the wine's ethereal grace, the finish bursts with intensity of flavour and tenacious length.

RATING

93

**Cannibal Creek Vineyard Vin de Liqueur
2015**

Variety: Other fortified

Date tasted: 2/1/2017

Region: Gippsland

Alcohol:17.2%

Modelled on Pineau de Charente according to the back label, albeit, made with pinot noir instead of ugni blanc, the fermentation was muted early in the piece with the addition of a pure, sinuous spirit. The fine choice of spirit defines this delicious elixir from fore to aft. Long, with an echo of pinot's crunchy red fruits echoing along its mid-drift, this is an unusual wine in Australia and a welcome addition to the landscape.

RATING

92

Cannibal Creek Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2016

Variety: Sauvignon Blanc

Drink by: 2020

Region: Gippsland

Date tasted: 2/1/2017

Alcohol:12%

This is an intriguing expression of a grape variety too often overly exuberant. Calm and soothing, like a mineral spring flowing, this is an effortless drink. Notes of fennel, lemongrass, white flower and the faintest hint of vegetation shimmy along a tingly palate, edged by a flinty mineral cut and transparent, natural acidity. More Loire Valley than New World in its guise.

RATING

91

Cannibal Creek Vineyard Merlot 2015

Variety: Merlot

Drink by: 2021

Region: Gippsland

Date tasted: 2/1/2017

Alcohol:13.2%

Cannibal Creek's wines have a mellifluous grace and elegance to them. They are not huge personalities but instead, leave an indelible impression of poise, sensitive handling and fruit that is cared for and picked at the optimal window of ripeness, rather than too early or too late. They are not powerful blockbusters, nor the most complex, but they are detailed and easy to drink. This is no exception. Red currant, plum, bay leaf and tomato bush make themselves known. An echo of leaf. Mid-weighted and cushioned by a trickle of acidity and French oak supports. All here, right now.