

# BEST'S GREAT WESTERN BIN NO. 1 SHIRAZ



100% Shiraz. Delivers a cool-climate aromatic profile featuring lifted notes of red cherries, dark plum, mace, clove and exotic spices, all backed by a layer of cracked black pepper and subtle black olive. Medium-bodied. Juicy dark red fruit flavors balanced by a line of fresh acidity and fine-grained, savory tannins. The finish is clean and well-balanced, leaving a subtle hint of scrubby menthol and lingering peppery spice. Pairs exceptionally well with classic regional pairings like Greek-style slow-roasted lamb or spring lamb chops, as well as grilled meats, beef prosciutto and firm cheeses.

Sourced from the Great Western sub-region of Grampians in Western Victoria, Australia. The vines grow at the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, at elevations of 750-1,100 feet on north and south-facing slopes. The soil is ancient, weathered granite subsoils overlaid with red clay loam and granite and quartz gravels. The vines are 30-50 years old. In the cellar, a small portion of whole bunches was included during tank fermentation. The wine completed an élevage of 12 months in French oak, utilizing a combination of used barrels and historic, 100-year-old French foudres.

Henry Best, for whom Best's Great Western is named, planted his first vines in the region as far back as 1866. A few decades later, the Scotsman William Thomson bought property and planted vines at Rhymney to the south, adding the original Best's vineyards to his holdings in 1920 upon Henry Best's death. The Thomson family continue to own and operate Best's Great Western today, making it one of the few historic Australian wineries to remain non-corporatized. Today, the winery is actively run by 5th generation Ben Thomson, who serves as Managing Director and Vineyard Manager. His brother Hamish handles regional sales, and the 6th generation of the family is already involved in daily operations. Best's original plantings included 48,000 vines and many exist today, pre-phyloxera and on their original rootstock.

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## *Tasting Note:*

### BEST'S GREAT WESTERN BIN NO. 1 SHIRAZ

100% Shiraz. Aromas of cherries, plum, mace, clove, exotic spices, cracked black pepper & black olive; medium-bodied; juicy dark red fruit flavors; fresh acidity & fine-grained, savory tannins; menthol & peppery spice on the clean, well-balanced finish.

## *Shelf Talker:*

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