



Harkham River Burgundee Shiraz 2012

Posted on 21 April 2014. ([Edit](#))



The name gives you a pretty good indication of what might be inside the bottle, especially for those who have followed the Hunter Valley for some time. This comes from the increasingly excellent, increasingly interesting Harkham Wines folio; Richie Harkham recently spoke to me about kosher wines and spirituality, which he, to paraphrase, guides his winemaking – keeping it closer to ‘god’s gift’, hence no additions, no pasteurisation (he sees it as an intervention, and without it is still certified kosher wine, though not the ‘normal version’ of kosher), and no sulphur at all. His earlier efforts with all this led to some average wines, but since 2011 or so there’s been some excellent, beautiful, individual releases. This is the first time I have seen this wine, but again, it’s handled by rabbi under instruction from Harkham, and to a lesser extent other family members, with the idea that ‘this is our nod to ye old Hunter style of yesteryear’. It’s not quite under the banner of nouveau or joven or anything, but feels close, and there’s perhaps a little nod to Beaujolais, it feels.

Very refreshing, crunchy-textured red showing with vibrant perfume of cherry, blackberries, briar and something autumnal like drying leaves, earth, game meat and the like. To taste, vibrant, crisp, light to medium bodied, supple and succulent and juicy through the finish. Really fine sheets of slatey tannins are up to task for boundaries in the wine, and acidity is fresh, meshed to fairly simple, lightly savoury fruit flavours and feels enlivening. Absolutely delicious. A fantastic expression, fancy enough to charm those seeking intellect but destined for smashing with gusto. Bravo.

Rated : 92 Points

Tasted : APR14

Alcohol : 12.5%

Price : \$25

Closure : Diam

Drink : 2014 - 2018

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-- Mike Bennie --

Journalist/wine writer/presenter/wine judge

