



DRINK

# Ray Jordan

## DEFINING MOMENT

It is impossible to overstate the significance of two wines from Frankland River scheduled for release early next year. The Swinney Farvie syrah 2018 and Farvie grenache 2018 represent a defining moment in WA wine. I'm telling you about them now because in all likelihood they will be pre-sold before they are officially released in March.

The wines are a collaboration between the Swinney family, their viticulturist Lee Haselgrove, and winemakers — former Accolade head Peter Dawson, and gifted fourth-generation local Rob Mann.

The results are unlike anything seen before in WA and will redefine how Frankland River wine is perceived. These are wines that have been caressed with the lightest of touches to express a brightness and energy of such effortless style. In both cases, a minimalist approach has been taken in the winery to express the purity of the fruit. They are made with minimal sulphites, are unfinned and only minimally filtered.

They are not cheap, but neither should they be. You would spend a lot more than the \$150 asking price to get anything near as good as these from the Rhone, their nearest stylistic and structural comparison. Order through the Swinney website . . . and do it now.



Two new releases will redefine how Frankland River wine is perceived.

### *any time*

#### **Swinney Frankland River syrah mourvedre grenache 2018 (\$42)**

What a superb example of this blend and style we have here. Perfumed aromas with hints of rose petal, raspberry and savoury plum. There's a dry earthiness on the palate, which balances the sweeter fruits of these three varieties. Understated oak lets the fruit do its thing. A belter.

**96/100**  
(best drinking: Now to 2030)



### *some time*

#### **Swinney Farvie grenache 2018 (\$150)**

This is a remarkable wine that captures the essence of this variety in a way not seen before in Australia. It's a medium-bodied wine, yet the palate delivers deep and complex flavours through to an exceptional finish. Has a European gravelly, grainy mouthfeel that carries plenty of intensity albeit delivered with such poise and almost shy coyness.

**98/100**  
(Best drinking: Now to 2040)



### *good times*

#### **Swinney Farvie syrah 2018 (\$150)**

A jaw-dropping, ground-breaking syrah from Frankland Estate. This is not the sweet fruit Aussie shiraz or syrah but more a savoury, grainy style more associated with the Rhone in France. Fine, firm tannins run deep and the oak has been expertly and subtly applied. But it is the way the fruit expresses that strikes as different and exciting.

**98/100**  
(Best drinking: Now to 2040)

