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## Reviews for New Release Wines March 2020

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**"To say the latest crop of Mann-made Swinney wines is outstanding would be to damn with faint praise."**

**"It's a while since I've been so impressed by a crop of new wines."**

**"These are all exciting wines... It's impossible to recommend them too highly."**

*Huon Hooke, The Real Review  
Sept 2019*



**2018 Swinney**  
**Frankland River**  
**Syrah**

*Deep, bright red/purple colour with a sweet, ripe blueberry to blackberry aroma. Traces of ironstone. A superb array of spices and berry fruits, pepper among them. Great elegance and persistence; a very stylish modern Aussie shiraz which justifies the syrah name.*

96 points, Huon Hooke,  
The Real Review, Aug 2019

*Syrah from Frankland River from one of the best grape growers in the area. Beautiful red. Composed, flush with berried fruit, peppery, ferrous, smoky and more simply delicious. It's all set on tight strings of tannin but the succulence of the fruit keeps the momentum high. Peppercorn, plum, blueberry and florals; what a combination. Gorgeous.*

95 points, Campbell Mattinson,  
www.winefront.com, Oct 2019

*Medium to fullish in weight, earthy and Cornas-like; fiery, peppery and faintly leathery, with black and red berries, cedary oak, chilli and gravelly tannins finishing long, ferrous and savoury.*

95 points, Jeremy Oliver,  
www.jeremyoliver.com, Aug 2019

*Very dark purplish crimson. Rich but not exaggerated nose. Rather sumptuous again in texture. Liquorice. Not the coolness of northern Rhône. Definite structure and freshness. Bone-dry finish. Ambitious.*

17/20, Jancis Robinson,  
www.jancisrobinson.com, Oct 2019



**2018 Swinney**  
**Frankland River**  
**Syrah Mourvedre Grenache**

*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 points, Ray Jordan,  
The West Australian, Nov 2019

*Very deep purplish mulberry. Sumptuous nose and the fruit disguises the tannin in this. I'd love to show some Bandol growers this! So clean yet very seductive, with masses of ripe fruit. Creamy texture. Pretty smart!*

17/20 Jancis Robinson,  
www.jancisrobinson.com, Oct 2019

*Deep, bright red/purple colour. Strong pepper and dry Eastern spice aromas, the red and darker fruit aromas beneath. The wine is medium to full-bodied and intense, with firm upright structure and a lovely core of sweet fruit. Abundant tightly-bunched, finely-textured tannins linger well, in harmony with the flavour.*

95 points, Huon Hooke,  
The Real Review, Aug 2019

*Savoury and artfully balanced; deep, inky and sour-edged cassis, cranberries and blueberries, cedary oak and fine, slatey tannins.*

94 points, Jeremy Oliver,  
www.jeremyoliver.com, Aug 2019

*SMG blend from Frankland River with Rob Mann at the winemaking helm. Convincing. It's tempting to describe this as savoury but it's better to say that it's not-sweet. It tastes of asphalt and dried herbs, earth and an assortment of berries, cedary oak and minor reduction adding yet more breadth. It's firm, bold, neat and more.*

93+ points, Campbell Mattinson,  
www.winefront.com, Oct 2019





### **2018 Swinney Frankland River Grenache**

*Top 3 grenache in Aus for me, or something like that. Maybe best on a day. So perfume, pretty, floral, just ripe red berry fruitiness, undergrowth and herbal notes too.*

*The tannins. Wow. Incredible ribs and puckering chew, but slender, fine, woven through pretty but inky, dark, anise-kissed berry fruitiness and an almost nutty-earthly undercurrent. Mineral, almost ferrous character here. Superb wine of shape, detail, deliciousness and stellar tannin.*

96 points, Mike Bennie,  
[www.winefront.com](http://www.winefront.com), Nov 2019



*Perfumed scents of blueberries, cassis, dark plums and minerals lifted by cinnamon, white pepper and floral notes. It's medium to fullish, long and gravelly, with juicy black and blue fruits supported by mineral tannins, finishing dry and savoury.*

95 points, Jeremy Oliver,  
[www.jeremyoliver.com](http://www.jeremyoliver.com), Aug 2019

*Medium to deep, bright red colour with a good tint of purple. The bouquet is very fresh and vibrant, medium-bodied and intense, the tannins refined and harmonious, and there is no obvious oak character. Red berry and cherry flavours tinged with spices and graphite. A delicious modern style red wine which is up-front and very approachable already, but has the backbone to handle food and will also age well.*

95 points, Huon Hooke,  
*The Real Review*, Aug 2019

*It's not the easiest wine to describe other than to note that the quality is excellent. It's almost shiraz-like but in a good way. It's sweet with herbs, bedded with fruit, earthen, spicy, savoury and floral. I'm not going to go into particular fruit/herb descriptors because to be honest a) I can't nail them and b) it's such a seamless wine that it'd almost be like missing the point. It's not a heavy wine, you'd almost call it lacey, but it is quite seriously beautiful.*

94 points, Campbell Mattinson,  
[www.winefront.com](http://www.winefront.com), Oct 2019

*In 2018, the Swinneys took on winemaker Rob Mann (ex-Cape Mentelle and grandson of legendary WA winemaker Jack Mann) to help take their own wines to the next level. The first results of that collaboration, due for release in August under the Swinney label, are fantastic: the grenache, in particular, tastes like no other Australian example of this variety and will change perceptions of the Frankland region – as will a truly outstanding reserve syrah, due out this time next year.*

Max Allen, AFR - May 2019

### **2019 Swinney Frankland River Riesling**

*Pale green-yellow hue, the bouquet exceptionally fragrant, with high-toned citrus pith and citrus juice aromatics. A suggestion of gardenia. The wine is superbly intense and refined, mouth-watering acidity cleansing the finish beautifully. There is a faint trace of grip and the wine is remarkably juicy despite having no residual sugar. A beautiful young riesling with a bright future.*

96 points, Huon Hooke,  
*The Real Review*, Aug 2019



*Linear and focused, with pristine lime, lemon and green apple skin flavour extending long and pithy towards a lingering bone-dry finish.*

95 points, Jeremy Oliver,  
[www.jeremyoliver.com](http://www.jeremyoliver.com), Aug 2019

*Every egg a bird. Ample flavour but straight and long. Apple and lime, grapefruit and grip, but oh so persistent. Dry, elongated style with a big motor of fruit. Swinney is flying.*

94 points, Campbell Mattinson,  
[www.winefront.com](http://www.winefront.com), Oct 2019

*Light, lively fresh herbal nose, very different from the talcum-powder-like norm. Bone dry and juicy with lots of lime. Good fruit and acid balance.*

17/20, Jancis Robinson,  
[www.jancisrobinson.com](http://www.jancisrobinson.com), Oct 2019

*This producer is turning some mighty good riesling in addition to its suite of outstanding reds. This riesling is spicy with citrus and lemon-rind nuances on the nose. The palate has a tension and linear feel that carries with focus to a very long finish.*

93 points, Ray Jordan,  
*The West Australian*, Oct 2019

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## Reviews for New Release Wines January 2020

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**"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."**

**"The results are unlike anything seen before in WA and will redefine how Frankland River wine is perceived."**

*Ray Jordan, The West Australian,  
Nov 2019*



**2018 Swinney 'Farvie'**  
**Frankland River**  
**Grenache**

*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 points, Ray Jordan,  
The West Australian, Nov 2019

*Deep red colour with a tinge of purple, and good depth. The bouquet is superbly aromatic, with an array of spice nuances, fruit-driven and beguiling. The palate has great intensity and drive, elegance and charm, with a deep core of sweetly ripe berry flavours and substantial tannins drying the finish and aftertaste. The tannins are abundant and ripe, the finish very long-lasting. A modern grenache style that exhibits an elegance and lightness of touch seldom seen in grenache in Australia. A stunning wine.*

97 points, Huon Hooke,  
The Real Review, Aug 2019

*Just tasted one of the most remarkable new portfolio releases of the year. The 2018 reds and 2019 Riesling are all sensational, and the 2018 Farvie (Grenache), set for release in 2020, is one of the most remarkable and exquisite wines made from this great grape that I have ever tasted. Winemaker Rob Mann's return to WA has collided with Matt Swinney's amazing viticulture and the results are breathtaking.*

Matthew Jukes, @matthewwjukes,  
UK Wine Journalist, Sep 2019

*More intense and luscious than the regular Swinney Grenache. The fruit, the whole fruit and almost nothing but the fruit. A really gorgeous wine that's not like any other Grenache or Garnacha I have come across – presumably a terroir expression.*

18/20, Jancis Robinson,  
www.jancisrobinson.com, Oct 2019

*Quite simply the greatest Australian grenache or grenache blend that I have seen.*

19.2/20, John Jens,  
Lamonts

*Grand Cru level grenache, with a fiery, spicy bouquet of dark cherries, redcurrants, blueberries and kernel notes lifted by a floral perfume and backed by suggestions of minerals, mint and paprika. It's opulent but elegant, explosively intense but ultra-precise, with a deep presence of red and blue fruits artfully knit with cedary oak and a fine, gravelly extract that becomes more bony, assertive and savoury towards the finish. Very stable and long-term.*

97/100, Jeremy Oliver,  
www.jeremyoliver.com, December 2019



*Bright raspberry, pomegranate molasses and blackcurrant fruit on the nose. The colour is a saturated fuchsia, vibrant and luminous. The palate leads with palate quenching dark berries, a sprinkling of black spice and firm, fine tannins that hold the quivering fruit through the very long finish. Utterly shimmering. Bush vine fruit from the Swinney vineyard in Frankland River holds the key to this wine; concentrated, intense, focused and precise. 5% of bush vine Mouvedre contributes to the textural complexity through the mid-palate and smooths out the already impossibly silky feels. I feel like this is the best grenache in Australia. Is it? I think it is. Rob Mann, WA welcomes you home!*

98 points. Erin Larkin - Wine critic,  
November 2019



## **2018 Swinney 'Farvie'** **Frankland River** **Syrah**

*Very deep, dark red/purple colour, with a strongly reductive bouquet that also shows masses of spices - pepper uppermost. The palate is firm and taut and elegantly-structured, but finished with tight tannins and long persistence. The tannins are fine, firm and supple, the balance of the wine quite outstanding. It combines great elegance and fineness of structure with tremendous depth, intensity, and length. A most impressive wine, quite correctly entitled syrah.*

98 points, Huon Hooke,  
The Real Review, Aug 2019

*A jaw-dropping, ground-breaking syrah. 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 points, Ray Jordan,  
The West Australian, Nov 2019

*Smoky and floral, with spicy notes of cassis, blackberries, dark plums and mocha oak over suggestions of paprika and gravel. It's long and seamless, with a juicy core of powerful fruit artfully knit with slatey tannins and tight-grained oak, extending with remarkable drive and power towards a measured, savoury finish. Exemplary, in a textural Rhône-inspired style.*

97/100, Jeremy Oliver,  
[www.jeremyoliver.com](http://www.jeremyoliver.com), Nov 2019

*An even deeper, purpler colour than the Farvie Grenache. Tea-leaf aromas and very tight indeed. The sample I tasted desperately needed aeration. There is a lot going on underneath, and no shortage of tannin. The following morning some savoury aromas had emerged but this is still extremely dry and dense, and I suggest a bit more bottle age would be no bad idea. Much less evolved and more tightly focused than the Farvie Grenache. And again, very individual. Nothing like south Australian Shiraz, and nothing like the Rhône – perhaps a little more like southern Rhône Syrah than anything from the north.*

17+/20, Jancis Robinson,  
[www.jancisrobinson.com](http://www.jancisrobinson.com), Oct 2019



*The colour is an outrageous deep magenta hue, promising the world. The nose is a little restrained at this stage, but is showing sarsaparilla, mulberry, black pepper, raspberry and tight, lightly spiced French oak. The palate gives everything the nose promises and more – the tannins working to lengthen and extend the already elegant and focused fruit. This is super fine, concentrated, long and powerful; the 55% whole-bunch lending an extra layer of spice and texture. The acidity is perfectly balanced with the exuberance of the fruit, and in combination with the masterful handling of tannins, this wine is weightlessly suspended in perfect tension. Deeper and darker than the grenache, and impossible to pit above or below. An astoundingly alluring pair of wines, and an authoritative first release.*

98 points. Erin Larkin - Wine critic,  
November 2019