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Reviews for 2019 Farvie Wines  
September 2021

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**"So, to the question: are they (the 2019 wines) as good? Oh, yes. And to the obvious next question: are they better? Yes, by a whisker... There is no question that this vineyard and the style being crafted under one of Australia's finest winemakers, Rob Mann, have redefined syrah and grenache. These are now the established benchmarks and should be on the buy-now list for anyone with an interest in contemporary Australian wine."**

*Ray Jordan, The West Australian, Feb 2021*





**2019 Swinney**  
**'Farvie'**  
**Frankland River**  
**Grenache**

**88/12% grenache/mourvèdre. Hand-picked fruit from an established block of bush vines. 8% of grenache was whole bunches, the rest whole berries sorted and gravity-fed to a single large French oak vat (1600L). Wild ferment. 10 days on skins prior to basket pressing direct to seasoned French oak for 11 months. What sets hearts on fire the world over for Châteauneuf-du-Pape is the muscular, ferrous, salty raspberry humbug and mineral hutzpah. It sets the high-tide mark for grenache. We grenache drinkers yearn for it. And here it is. The strength of Frankland River is its ability to marry sweet (glossy) red fruit to savoury, gravelly earth. The 2018 was a staggering showpiece, this is more restrained, cooler and finer, yet equally long. Choose your weapon. 98pts**  
James Halliday Wine Companion, August 2021

**Headily sweet nose with some subtlety and some qualities that are not unlike burgundy (apart from the alcohol and the quite considerable tannins). Lifted and sweetly fragrant. A real charmer. Very Grenache. I notice that on the notes no vine age is specified. I wonder how old the vines are? Impressive persistence on this. Denser and more complex than the regular Swinney Grenache. That well-used phrase 'haute couture' may be appropriate here. 17.5/20**

Jancis Robinson, May 2021  
[www.jancisrobinson.com](http://www.jancisrobinson.com)

**The initial release of this wine drew global attention to sleepy Frankland River. This follow up not only lives up to expectations but expands them. It's grenache with grit, a sublime entwining of the variety's red berry perfume with the often elusive granitic grip that defines the greats. Already comfortable among the best examples of this variety on a global scale.**

Nick Ryan, March 2021  
The Australian



**What a follow-up to the remarkable 2018 debut. The high perfumed notes strike immediately and almost define what is to follow. It's a very pretty wine with more seductive perfumed notes than the 2018, most likely a result of the slightly cooler vintage. There is about 12 per cent mourvedre in the blend and all the fruit comes off the Swinney bush vines. Only large-format seasoned oak has been used. A striking wine of refinement and power that delivers with an effortless deft touch. This is a modern grenache with a distinctive Frankland stamp. 98pts**

Ray Jordan, Feb 2021  
The West Australian

**Refined, complex and crammed with juicy, super pure, intricated layers of pristine red fruits and a plethora of spices. Not at all reliant on its buoyant fruit, keep this as it will be a stunner. GOLD MEDAL**  
Decanter World Wine Awards 2021



**2019 Swinney**  
**'Farvie'**  
**Frankland River**  
**Syrah**

**Hand picked from a single parcel of 22yo syrah vines. Berries sorted and gravity-fed to a French oak vat (1600L) and 22 demi-muids. 54% whole bunches, wild ferment. Bacon fat, maple, salted pomegranate, raspberry, graphite, red dirt, mulberry and pink peppercorn. Like the Hokusai wave, this crashes and courses with flavours and textures, ebbing and flowing on the palate. This is balanced, restrained, long, powerful and most importantly, shaped and structured by supple, chewy tannins. They hold the fruit in the cups of their hands and usher it through a very long finish. A weightlessly poetic wine. 98pts**

James Halliday Wine Companion, August 2021

**Tremendous example of syrah from Frankland River. High-end aromatics that release after decanting. And it needed decanting because it is still such a tightly wound and tense wine, withholding its best for a few years. The juice runs by gravity to a large oak vat and two 600L barrels before gentle pressing to large format French oak of which only 8 per cent is new. It's unfinned and minimally filtered which really maximises the sense that this is a wine of the vineyard. Glorious wine that captures all that is good from this region. 98pts**

Ray Jordan, Feb 2021  
The West Australian

**Dark lustrous crimson. Rich and peppery on the nose. Sweet palate entry and then subtle and savoury. Distinctly salty finish. Much finer tannins than in the regular Swinney bottlings. Real polish and lushness with the acidity and tannins in great balance with the fruit. Nothing exaggerated. 17++/20**

Jancis Robinson, May 2021  
[www.jancisrobinson.com](http://www.jancisrobinson.com)

**Very deep, bright purple/red colour, with an alluring bouquet of smoked smallgoods, assorted spices, dark plum and a flick of black pepper. It's highly concentrated and essency, with pristine fruit clarity and a tremendously long carry. Red and black fruits carry through an almost endless finish. Great purity of shiraz fruit. A most impressive young shiraz, which should have a tremendous future. 96pts**

Huon Hooke, Feb 2021  
[www.threalreview.com](http://www.threalreview.com)



**When I tasted the first vintage releases of Swinney's top red wines under the Farvie label, the 2018s, I was most impressed with the grenache. In 2019, as good as the grenache is, it's the syrah that steals the show. An arresting wine from the first sniff: glorious ripe black fruit, but restrained and enticing rather than showy. Then lovely, satisfying density of ripe fruit on the tongue, too, but held together by long, seamless tannins. Really stylish wine.**

Max Allen, March 2021  
The Australian Financial Review

**Succulent, supple syrah, slick with spice and savoury characters, slips over the palate with silky yet sinewy tannins, delivers serious concentration and a sense of seamlessness. Super stuff. It's fragrant, medium weight, dark fruited, peppery-cinnamon spice laden, feels complex in the sense that lots is going on when you sip it. There's great density yet freshness, shape and drive. A beautiful mouthful here. Potent now as something special, the future should unfurl this wine nicely too. Class all the way. 95pts**

Mike Bennie, Feb 2021  
[www.winefront.com.au](http://www.winefront.com.au)