

Halliday

WINE COMPANION

2016



PEPPER TREE WINES

A 5 star rating, represents an outstanding winery regularly producing wines of exemplary quality and typicity. Will have at least two wines rated at 95 points or above, and have had a five-star rating for the previous two years. 10% of wineries reviewed have received this prestigious statute.



2013 Pepper Tree Single Vineyard Reserve Coquun Hunter Valley Shiraz

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015



Tallawanta Vineyard vines are over 90yo, planted in '20, and for long owned by the Elliott family. It's hard to visualise - unless you taste it, of course - how such intensity, purity and length can be achieved by a wine that has such finesse and elegance to its well of blackberry, black cherry and spice fruit, tannins and oak judged to perfection.

Rating: 97 | Drink By: 2048 | Price: \$70.00 | Date Tasted: 04 Sep 2014 | Alcohol: 14.5%



2014 Pepper Tree Single Vineyard Reserve Alluvius Hunter Valley Semillon

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015



Braemore Vineyard, planted by Ken Bray at the end of the '60s, as the Hunter Valley was coming out of its deep sleep of the prior 80 years, is regarded as one of the best in the Valley. Despite its low alcohol, the wine fills every corner of the mouth with its layered lemongrass and lemon-citrus flavours, finely detailed acidity extending the present length and its future in the cellar.

Rating: 96 | Drink By: 2039 | Price: \$35.00 | Date Tasted: 02 Sep 2014 | Alcohol: 10.5%

2014 Pepper Tree Limited Release Rhodes Hunter Valley Semillon

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015

The grapes come from two nearby vineyards on Hermitage Road (despite 'Single Vineyard' on the label), both east-west oriented, both with sandy alluvial soils; the Trevena and Casuarina Vineyards are highly regarded, and Scott Comyns has captured all the grace and elegance of the fruit, allied with impeccable acidity and resultant length and balance.

Rating: 96 | Drink By: 2034 | Price: \$28.00 | Date Tasted: 02 Sep 2014 | Alcohol: 11%

2014 Pepper Tree Single Vineyard Limited Release Polly Fume Hunter Valley Orange Semillon Sauvignon Blanc

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015

'Single Vineyard' might be said to pick up from the bon mot of Polly Fume. It is barrel-fermented semillon from the Hunter Valley, sauvignon blanc from Orange, the sauvignon blanc coming over the top of the semillon in no uncertain fashion, but doing so with élan, providing a rich stream of tropical fruit, semillon's acidity striking back on the aftertaste.

Rating: 96 | Drink By: 2017 | Price: \$28.00 | Date Tasted: 02 Sep 2014 | Alcohol: 12%

2013 Pepper Tree Single Vineyard Limited Release Tallavera Hunter Valley Shiraz

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015

The Tallavera Vineyard is in the Mount View district, noted for its crumbly red soils over limestone. Here the intensity of the fruit of the bouquet and palate goes up several notches, black cherries joining the fray along with plum and mulberry; the tannins are scaled up proportionately, the finish similarly lengthened. A classic Hunter Shiraz of very high quality.

Rating: 96 | Drink By: 2038 | Price: \$45.00 | Date Tasted: 04 Sep 2014 | Alcohol: 13.8%

2013 Pepper Tree Single Vineyard Reserve 8R Wrattontully Merlot

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015

Clone 8R is the best of several promising new clones recently arrived from France, and resets the criteria and agenda for the variety with the precision and intensity of its fruit structure. There are no woolly/plummy flavours, its sparkling red fruits, firmish tannins neatly presented on a platter of quality French oak. Its bottle development will be utterly fascinating.

Rating: 96 | Drink By: 2038 | Price: \$60.00 | Date Tasted: 17 Feb 2015 | Alcohol: 14%

2013 Pepper Tree Single Vineyard Reserve Block 21A Wrattontully Cabernet Sauvignon

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015

Cold soaked for 5 days, fermentation 7 days, matured for 15 months in French oak. Deep crimson-purple; it is very intense, with layer upon layer of cassis fruit supported by ripe, fine-grained tannins and cedary oak; the balance and length are impeccable. A long, lusty and productive life lies ahead.

Rating: 96 | Drink By: 2040 | Price: \$60.00 | Date Tasted: 17 Feb 2015 | Alcohol: 14%

2013 Pepper Tree Single Vineyard Reserve Elderslee Road Wrattontully Cabernet Sauvignon

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015

2-day cold soak, 7-day ferment, 18-20°C, matured in French oak for 15 months. Good hue; this is a high-quality Cabernet with very clear varietal expression, its deep blackcurrant fruit set in a pool of bay leaf, black olive and quality French oak, rimmed by appropriately firm tannins.

Rating: 96 | Drink By: 2033 | Price: \$42.00 | Date Tasted: 21 Feb 2015 | Alcohol: 14.2%

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2013 Pepper Tree Single Vineyard Reserve Calcare Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015

From the best rows of Pepper Tree's small Coonawarra vineyard. A wine of breed, layered elegance and purity; it establishes its sense of place and variety with the first sip, and builds on that each time it is retasted; the fruit, oak, tannin and acid are in perfect harmony.

Rating: 96 | Drink By: 2043 | Price: \$42.00 | Date Tasted: 25 Feb 2015 | Alcohol: 14.2%

2013 Pepper Tree Limited Release Hunter Valley Shiraz

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015

The entry point for a trio of three exceptional Hunter Valley Shirazs, making one wonder how good the '14s will be. This fragrant, supple and utterly distinctive wine could come from nowhere else than the Hunter, notwithstanding the ubiquity of shiraz in the Australian landscape. Soft leather, earth and spice nuances are threaded through blue (mulberry) and red (cherry) fruit flavours, with superfine tannins to close.

Rating: 95 | Drink By: 2028 | Price: \$35.00 | Date Tasted: 04 Sep 2014 | Alcohol: 13.5%

2013 Pepper Tree Limited Release Classics Wrattontully Cabernet Merlot

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015

A 57/43% cabernet merlot; 7-day cool ferment at 18-20°C, matured for 15 months in French oak. Deep crimson, the cabernet comes charging through the bouquet and palate on its steed of cassis fruit, relegating the merlot to providing back-up in case it is needed.

Rating: 95 | Drink By: 2033 | Price: \$25.00 | Date Tasted: 21 Feb 2015 | Alcohol: 14.5%

2013 Pepper Tree Single Vineyard Reserve Strandlines Wrattontully Cabernet Shiraz

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015

A 65/35% blend cold-soaked for 5 days, 7-day ferment, 17 months maturation in French oak. Has plenty of attitude and, in particular, positive depth to the blackcurrant and blackberry fruit. Another blow for the great Australian red blend.

Rating: 95 | Drink By: 2038 | Price: \$55.00 | Date Tasted: 25 Feb 2015 | Alcohol: 14.2%

2014 Pepper Tree Limited Release Hunter Valley Semillon

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015

The entry point for the three-tier Pepper Tree Semillons, carrying its higher alcohol with ease thanks to the lemongrass, herb and citrus flavours in the first instance, crunchy acidity in the second instance, the sum total excellent balance and varietal flavour.

Rating: 94 | Drink By: 2024 | Price: \$22.00 | Date Tasted: 02 Sep 2014 | Alcohol: 11.5%

2013 Pepper Tree Single Vineyard Reserve The Gravels Wrattontully Shiraz Viognier

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015

A 95/5% co-fermented blend, 18-20 day ferment/maceration, 12 months maturation in French oak. Bright crimson; the impact of the extended maceration is very obvious, slightly at odds with the perfumed bouquet. If it had been fined, all the charms of the fruit flavours would have had more influence on the outcome. There is every chance time will achieve this result.

Rating: 94 | Drink By: 2033 | Price: \$42.00 | Date Tasted: 17 Feb 2015 | Alcohol: 14.2%



2013 Pepper Tree Wrattontully Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015

Wow. It's a sign of the times - an intensely competitive market - that leads a wine producer, pedigree and regional provenance at this price. The colour is excellent, and the palate overflows with blackcurrant and redcurrant fruit, soft tannins adding to both the length of the palate and the immediate appeal of the wine.

Rating: 93 | Drink By: 2023 | Price: \$18.00 | Date Tasted: 03 Sep 2014 | Alcohol: 14%

2014 Pepper Tree Hunter Valley Tasmania Semillon Sauvignon Blanc

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015

Pale straw-green; a very interesting decision to go to Tasmania for the sauvignon blanc component; Meyer lemon, lime, gooseberry and the ghost of passionfruit flow through the fresh palate. Top value.

Rating: 93 | Drink By: 2016 | Price: \$18.00 | Date Tasted: 24 Dec 2014 | Alcohol: 12%

2013 Pepper Tree Wrattontully Merlot

James Halliday - Published on 27 Jul 2015

Bright crimson; this is a very decent merlot at any price, let alone this, with a spicy lift and lift to its red fruit aromas and flavours, the finish fresh and clear.

Rating: 91 | Drink By: 2020 | Price: \$18.00 | Date Tasted: 25 Feb 2015 | Alcohol: 14.5%