

Stefani Estate

Yarra Valley

Star Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

JAMES HALLIDAY TASTING NOTES

Stefani Estate 2015 Heathcote Vineyard Shiraz Barrel Selection

<p>Rating: 95 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷</p> <p>Drink By: 2040</p> <p>Price: \$65</p> <p>Date Tasted: March 2017</p>	<p>From the higher slopes of the vineyard, hand-picked and bunch-sorted into an open fermenter, hand-plunged, matured in new and used French oak for 12 months. It is a very complex wine with a core of luscious black fruits given context and flavour balance by an amalgam of spice, pepper and licorice on the finish and aftertaste</p>
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Stefani Estate 2015 Boccallupo Yarra Valley Sangiovese Mauro Nostrum

<p>Rating: 95 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷</p> <p>Drink By: 2029</p> <p>Price: \$65</p> <p>Date Tasted: March 2017</p>	<p>Hand-picked, ferments left on skins for up to 5 weeks, matured for 12 months in large-format French oak. Bright, red-berried, elegant, and has excellent colour. Sour cherry, red cherry and savoury spices all contribute.</p>
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Stefani Estate 2014 The Gate Yarra Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

<p>Rating: 93 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷</p> <p>Drink By: 2028</p> <p>Price: \$65</p>	<p>Hand-picked, open-fermented, hand-plunged, matured for 12 months in new and used French oak. This is a particularly powerful and concentrated cabernet, the savoury/earthy/herbal edges to the cassis fruit just a little too obvious, however varietal they may be.</p>
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Stefani Estate 2016 The View Yarra Valley Pinot Gris

<p>Rating: 91 </p> <p>Drink By: 2019</p> <p>Price: \$30</p> <p>Date Tasted: March 2017</p>	<p>Hand-picked, bunch-sorted, matured in used French oak for 12 months with periodic lees stirring. Pear and Granny Smith apple varietal fruit is front and centre, framed by just a hint of the oak treatment. Will benefit from a year or two in bottle.</p>
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Stefani Estate 2015 The View Yarra Valley Pinot Noir

<p>Rating: 91 </p> <p>Drink By: 2025</p> <p>Price: \$65</p>	<p>Hand-picked, bunch-sorted, open-fermented, matured for 12 months in new and used French oak. A powerful wine deep in colour and flavour, poached plum foremost, and carrying the palate with ease on the present and future journey.</p>
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Stefani Estate 2015 Heathcote Vineyard Shiraz

<p>Rating: 91 </p> <p>Drink By: 2030</p> <p>Price: \$40</p> <p>Date Tasted: March 2017</p>	<p>Bunch sorted into open fermenters, hand-plunged, matured for 12 months in new and used French oak. Has power and complexity, but not the depth and drive of its Barrel Selection sibling.</p>
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Stefani Estate 2016 Boccallupo Yarra Valley Sangiovese

<p>Rating: 90 🍷🍷🍷🍷</p> <p>Drink By: 2022</p> <p>Price: \$55</p> <p>Date Tasted: March 2017</p>	<p>Hand-picked, each ferment hand-plunged and macerated for 4 weeks, matured in new and used French barriques for 12 months. A complex wine with deep-seated fruit flavour and well controlled tannins. Strangely, its black fruits (rather than red) obscure its varietal character. The alcohol doesn't provide any clue.</p>
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Stefani Estate 2014 The View Yarra Valley Chardonnay

<p>Rating: 89 🍷🍷🍷</p> <p>Drink By: 2020</p> <p>Price: \$65</p> <p>Date Tasted: March 2017</p>	<p>Hand-picked, bunch-sorted, pressed and cold settled, fermenting juice transferred to French barriques, matured for 12 months on lees with periodic stirring. Unfortunately mlf has stripped the fruit of its intensity</p>
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Vigna Stefani 2016 Heathcote Malbec

<p>Rating: 90 🍷🍷🍷🍷</p> <p>Drink By: 2021</p> <p>Price: \$30</p> <p>Date Tasted: March 2017</p>	<p>A minor departure on the back label: matured in used French barriques for 4 months. It has the generous, verging plus, mouthfeel and plummy/plum jam fruit indicia of the variety, and doesn't resent its rapid move to bottle.</p>
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Vigna Stefani 2016 Yarra Valley Chardonnay

<p>Rating: 89 🍷🍷🍷</p> <p>Drink By: 2017</p> <p>Price: \$30</p>	<p>The '16 vintage is a far cry from '15 or what promises (at the time of writing) to be a superb '17 vintage, natural acidity lowered by the relentless heat.</p>
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Vigna Stefani 2016 Yarra Valley Pinot Blanc

<p>Rating: 88 🍷🍷🍷</p> <p>Drink By: 2018</p> <p>Price: \$30</p> <p>Date Tasted: March 2017</p>	<p>more than a standard pinot blanc, even if it is a bit too bitter. A curious description, I know.</p>
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Vigna Stefani 2015 Yarra Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

<p>Rating: 88 🍷🍷🍷</p> <p>Drink By: 2021</p> <p>Price: \$30</p> <p>Date Tasted: March 2017</p>	<p>'Hand-selected' grapes vinified, then matured in used French barriques and stainless steel tanks. The colour is good, as is the varietal selection before the wine runs into a brick wall on the back-palate and finish. Needed more opening up.</p>
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Vigna Stefani 2016 Yarra Valley Pinot Noir

<p>Rating: 87 🍷🍷🍷</p> <p>Drink By: 2023</p> <p>Price: \$30</p>	<p>Estate-grown, hand-picked, matured in used oak. It is very deep in colour; while the alcohol doesn't point the finger, the '16 vintage does, resulting in a tough love pinot needing protein and patience in equal measure.</p>
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Vigna Stefani 2016 Heathcote Marsanne

<p>Rating: 89 🍷🍷🍷</p> <p>Drink By: 2017</p> <p>Price: \$30</p>	<p>A reasonably typical young marsanne, slightly built up by an airbrush of oak. As ever, will repay cellaring</p>
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Vigna Stefani 2015 Heathcote Merlot

<p>Rating: 86 🍷🍷🍷</p> <p>Drink By: 2017</p> <p>Price: \$30</p>	<p>Hand-picked, matured in a mix of used French barriques and stainless steel tanks. It has a considerable array of earthy tannins, and rather less varietal fruit.</p>
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