

The Wine Advocate

Robert Parker 2006



Another brilliant Australian winemaking operation. Mitolo only began making wines in 1999, but their impressive winemaking and meticulous attention to detail have quickly resulted in some outstanding wines.

All of the red wine grapes come from either the Willunga district of McLaren Vale or the Greenock sector of the Barossa. The less expensive offerings include some terrific bargains.

2006 Jester Sangiovese Rosé 89 points

The knock-out 2006 Sangiovese Rosé exhibits an atypically dark color for a Rosé as well as crisp, elegant, gamy sweet cherry and currant flavours intermixed with hints of saddle leather and earth. This bone dry medium bodied, well-made effort reflects the Italian heritage of proprietors Frank and Simone Mitolo combined with the sure hand of their classic Australian winemaker, Ben Glaetzer.

2005 Jester Cabernet Sauvignon 91 points

The 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon Jester, which was aged in three and four year old French oak barrels, receives a touch of Amarone-like treatment with 20% of the grapes dried on racks. A superb effort, it boasts a deep ruby/purple color and loads of blueberry and cassis fruit as well as hints of roasted meat and spice box. Medium to full-bodied with good acidity, ripe tannin, and beautiful texture and length, this stunning Cabernet may be one of the world's best values in Cabernet Sauvignon!

2005 Jester Shiraz 92 points

The 2005 Shiraz Jester exhibits an opaque purple colour along with sweet aromas of blackberries, charcoal, white chocolate and espresso roast. Rich, full-bodied, heady, and long. It explodes on the back of the palate (always a good sign). Drink over next 5-7 years.

2005 Reiver Shiraz 94 points

The 2005 Shiraz Reiver, made from 60 year old Shiraz vines in the Greenock area of the Barossa, was aged 16 months in lightly toasted French oak. Its inky/blue/purple hue is followed by a lovely perfume of flowers, blackberries, espresso, and liquorice, aged completely in 300 liter hogsheads, it offers stunning richness and length, and should drink well for 10 – 12 years.

2005 G.A.M. Shiraz 95 points

Fashioned from a McLaren Vale vineyard, the 2005 Shiraz G.A.M. (named after the Mitolo children – Gemma, Alexander and Marco) is a deep ruby/purple-hued effort displaying beautiful blackberry, white pepper, liquorice, and toasty oak notes. Rich full-bodied, and intense, with blueberry and blackberry flavors, sweet tannin, and excellent purity, it is a *tour de force* in winemaking. Enjoy it over the next decade.

2005 Savitar Shiraz 96 points

Named after a mythical monster, the 2005 Shiraz Savitar emerges from rocky, low vigor soils, and was aged for 15 months in primarily new French oak barrels. Dazzling aromas of acacia flowers, blueberries, crushed rocks, graphite, liquorice, and espresso roast emerge from this tightly knit, but intense, fleshy, rich effort. Its multilayered palate, huge body, sweet tannin, and 'monster' finish suggest this brilliant wine will be drinkable between 2008 and 2020. It is a superb example of McLaren Vale Shiraz.

2005 Serpico Cabernet Sauvignon 94 points

The 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon Serpico (100% McLaren Vale fruit) was treated like Amarone with the grapes picked relatively underripe and green, then dried for seven weeks before they were fermented. The result is a distinctive, full-bodied Cabernet with no pruny or raisiny characteristics whatsoever. Its fresh acidity and lively backbone support a wine of enormous richness and intensity, offering classic *crème de cassis* notes intermixed with white chocolate, damp forest, cedar, and toasty oak. Full-bodied, opulent, powerful, and totally dry, with a sweet, rich mid-section. It should age well for 10-15 years.