



Red Mountain's Cabernet and Bordeaux blends are so clearly the standouts that it's easy to see why there has been so little experimentation with other grape varieties, though some Rhône varieties show real promise, especially Syrah and Mourvèdre. It's surely only a matter of time before someone tries out a little Nerello Mascalese, Nero d'Avola or Listan Negro, as there are certainly more grape varieties that might express the region's unique combination of soil and sun.

Some of the most impressive efforts from the AVA come from Col Solare, whose wines carry the level of polish and poise you would expect from a top-tier Antinori project. Betz Family Winery, helmed by Master of Wine Bob Betz, has been making wines from Red Mountain fruit since 2000, and his La Côte Rousse Syrah has few equals on the hill. Hedges Family Estates make a wide range of wines, also including an excellent Syrah, and were among the first to have made a significant shift to biodynamic farming.

The heat during the growing season means that alcohol levels on Red Mountain wines can (and occasionally do) easily match those from Napa, but the best producers show a tendency to pick slightly earlier (say, 14.5% alcohol instead of 15%) and to use a mercifully lower percentage of new oak on the wines, both of which translate into a more predictable elegance.

Coupled with prices that are sometimes a fraction of what you would pay for comparable quality in Napa, it's easy to recommend these wines highly to anyone who enjoys refined New World Cabernet. While there are no guarantees in the world of wine, Red Mountain AVA on the label is a pretty good bet for a delicious glass.

These 102 wines are listed alphabetically by producer (sur)name but you can reorder them as you wish using the menu below.

Select sorting option ▼

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### 10,000 Hours Cabernet Sauvignon 2018 Red Mountain

16.5

*1,680 cases made.*

Smells of bright cherry and cassis. Juicy cherry and cassis flavours have a nice floral note to them and a vibrancy thanks to excellent acidity. Faint, powdery tannins dust the edges of the mouth, while floral notes linger in the finish. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2020 – 2026

\$30 producer's website

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### 10,000 Hours, Red Blend 2018 Red Mountain

16.5

*A blend of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot, 3% Malbec and 2% Cabernet Franc. Aged 18 months in 50% new American oak. 1,120 cases made.*

Smells of dark cherry and black plum. Rich plummy cherry and cassis flavours

have a nice brightness thanks to excellent acidity and muscular tannins that grip the edges of the palate. Hints of floral notes linger in the finish. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2020 – 2026

\$30 producer's website

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### **Acquilini Sauvignon Blanc 2019 Red Mountain**

**14.5**

*233 cases produced.*

Smells of sweet, candied green apple with a hint of plastic. Sweetish green-apple flavours mix with kiwi and star fruit but the wine overall takes on a candied, confectionary quality. Moderate acidity. (AY) 14.7%

Drink 2020 – 2021

\$35 producer's website

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### **Ambassador Malbec 2017 Red Mountain**

**17**

*Contains 23% Cabernet Franc. 225 cases made.*

Smells of black cherry and blueberries. Juicy black and blue fruits have surprisingly faint tannins, and a lovely brightness thanks to excellent acidity. Slightly high-toned, but pleasing nonetheless. (AY) 14%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$45 RRP

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### **Ambassador Petit Verdot 2017 Red Mountain**

**16.5**

*Contains 25% Malbec. 100 cases made.*

Aromas of struck match, blueberries and blackberry pie. Salty liquorice and woodsmoke flavours mix with black cherry and a bit of black olive. Admirably restrained tannins are only a whisper in the finish. (AY) 14.1%

Drink 2020 – 2028

\$75 RRP

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### **Ambassador Syrah 2017 Red Mountain**

**17**

*12% Malbec is blended into the final wine. 200 cases made.*

Aromas of struck match and black olives. Black-olive and smoky blackberry flavours have a nice saline savouriness to them. Suede-like tannins and hints of liquorice in the finish. Excellent acidity. (AY) 14.2%

Drink 2020 – 2028

\$38 RRP

## Ambassador, Envoy 2017 Red Mountain

17.5

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*A blend of 53% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec and 2% Petit Verdot. 225 cases made.*

Aromas of cherry and plum and a touch of herbs. Medium bodied, bright flavours of cherry and plum and hazelnut mix with a hint of green herbs and a touch of green-olive savouriness. Faint powdery tannins and excellent acidity round out a lovely package. (AY) 14.2%

Drink 2020 – 2028

\$38 RRP

## Ambassador, Minister 2017 Red Mountain

17

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*A blend of 70% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Malbec and 7% Petit Verdot. 170 cases made.*

Smells of cedar and plum and other red fruits. Plush, plummy flavours are nestled into a bed of fleecy tannins. Excellent acidity with hints of herbs in the finish. (AY) 14%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$45 RRP

## Ambassador, Plenipotentiary Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain

17.5

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*Includes 5% Malbec and 2% Petit Verdot. 250 cases made.*

Very dark garnet. Aromas of cedar, cherry and herbs. Cherry and cola-nut flavours mix with a touch of herbs and cocoa powder. Leathery tannins gain strength as the wine finishes bright thanks to excellent acidity. (AY) 14%

Drink 2020 – 2028

\$55 RRP

## Betz Family, Heart of the Hill Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain

18

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Aromas of black cherry and cedar. Wonderfully earthy notes of black cherry and tobacco have a bright almost citrusy bite thanks to excellent acidity. Well-integrated wood can be tasted in the finish, but the bright acidity makes sure the fruit is not outshined. (AY) 14%

Drink 2021 – 2030

\$120 RRP

## Betz Family, La Côte Rouse Syrah 2017 Red Mountain

18 +

Aromas of meaty cassis and blackberries. Juicy flavours of blackberry and black cherry are bright with acidity and have a sourish, saline quality that, combined with the acidity makes for a mouth-watering package. There's a faint smoky note to the wine. Fine tannins are wispy and only barely textural. Delicious and preposterously easy to drink. (AY) 13.9%

Drink 2020 – 2026

\$62 RRP

## Browne Family Vineyards, Skull & Chain Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain

17

*972 cases made.*

Smells of sweet cherry compote and a touch of dried flowers. Flavours of cherry and sweet oak are wrapped in a muscular skein of tannins that stiffen through the finish. Slightly candied in aspect, but likely crowd-pleasing fruit. (AY) 14.2%

Drink 2021 – 2027

\$20 producer's website

## Browne Family Vineyards, Klipsun Vineyard Merlot 2016 Red Mountain

16

*277 cases made.*

Aromas of candied red and black fruits. Plum and black-cherry flavours are plush and velvety, with only the faintest of tannins. Floral notes add to the candied fruit flavours but there is not enough acidity to give the wine verve. (AY) 14.4%

Drink 2020 – 2022

\$52 producer's website

## Browne Family Vineyards, Klipsun Vineyard Merlot 2017 Red Mountain

15.5

*154 cases made.*

Smells of rich plum and sweet oak. Very plush flavours of plum and oak are wrapped in a blanket of tannins that gradually stiffen over time. Sort of hollow on the mid palate, and overly wood influenced. (AY) 13.9%

Drink 2020 – 2023

\$52 RRP

## Browne Family Vineyards, Klipsun Vineyard Syrah 2017 Red Mountain

16

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*Contains 1% Petit Verdot. 215 cases of rather-too-heavy bottles produced.*

Aromas of toasted oak and dark-cherry fruit. Black-cherry and blackberry flavours mix with cedar and mocha. Not overly distinctive and heavily oak influenced, though the wood is reasonably well-integrated. Decent acidity. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$52 producer's website

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## **Canoe Ridge, The Expedition Cabernet Sauvignon 2018 Red Mountain**

**16.5**

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*2,800 cases made.*

Smells of cherry and cassis. Very polished with simple flavours of sweet cherry mixed with a hint of *café au lait*. Powdery tannins and decent acidity but missing some depth and complexity. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$15 producer's website

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## **Canvasback Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 Red Mountain**

**17**

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*A blend of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. 21,000 cases made.*

Smells of black cherry and cassis. Juicy black-cherry and cassis flavours have a bright acidity and fleecy tannic texture. Decent length and notes of liquorice in the finish. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2019 – 2026

\$42 RRP

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## **Canvasback, Grand Passage Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 Red Mountain**

**17.5**

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*Contains 10% Merlot. 300 cases of annoyingly ostentatious, extremely heavy bottles made.*

Very dark purple. Smells of black cherry and cassis. Rich black-cherry and black-plum fruit has a lush, supple texture thanks to fleecy tannins. Bright, juicy acidity keeps the fruit fresh and delicious. Well-balanced despite the 14.9% alcohol. (AY) 14.9%

Drink 2020 – 2028

\$84 RRP

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## **Canvasback, Ciel du Cheval Vineyard 2016 Red Mountain**

**18**

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*A blend of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, and 1% Cabernet Franc. 100 cases made.*

Aromas of cherry and cigar box. Bright cherry and faint strawberry notes have juicy acidity and leathery tannins. Beautifully integrated wood adds a grace note to the bright fruit. Excellent balance and length. (AY) 14.6%

Drink 2020 – 2030

\$70 producer's website

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## **Canvasback Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain**

**16.5**

*A blend of 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot, 2% Mourvèdre, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Syrah. 16,000 cases made.*

Smells of sweet, almost candied cherries or cherry pie. Sweetish flavours of cherry and plum have a nice simple brightness to them. Faint tannins and good acidity round out the package, but lacks depth and persistence. (AY) 14.7%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$42 producer's website

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## **Canvasback, Grand Passage Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain**

**16**

*From Quintessence vineyard. Contains 2% Merlot. 325 cases made.*

Smells of cherry and chocolate-covered raisins. Dried cherry and raisin notes mix with chocolate and a touch of liquorice. Powdery tannins, decent acidity but comes across as slightly overripe. (AY) 15.1%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$84 producer's website

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## **Canvasback, Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain**

**18**

*Contains 12% each of Merlot and Cabernet Franc. 186 cases made.*

Aromas of cherry, cedar and dusty road. Bright and juicy cherry and cola flavours have a zing to them thanks to excellent acidity. Muscular, fine-grained tannins linger with notes of cherry and plum in the finish. Quite lovely. (AY) 14.8%

Drink 2020 – 2030

\$70 RRP

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## **Chasing Rain, Red Blend 2018 Red Mountain**

**16**

*A blend of 44% Merlot, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot, 4% Malbec and*

*2% Cabernet Franc. Aged 18 months in 25% new American oak. 1,120 cases made.*

Smells of sweet cherry cordials and chocolate. Sweetish flavours of cherry and chocolate are draped in a fleecy blanket of tannins. Good acidity but definitely some overt sweetness here. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$20 producer's website

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### **Chasing Rain Cabernet Sauvignon 2018 Red Mountain**

**15.5**

*1,120 cases made.*

This wine has a shy nose of cherry and earth. Cherry and dusty soil flavours are draped in a leathery throw of tannins that weigh heavily on the palate. Decent acidity. A bit brooding. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2023 – 2028

\$20 producer's website

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### **Chasing Rain Merlot 2018 Red Mountain**

**13.5**

*1,120 cases made.*

Smells of alcohol and plum jam. Somewhat one-dimensional plum flavours are jammy and wrapped in thick tannins that are putty-like and weighty. Decent acidity but somewhat plain. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$20 producer's website

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### **Col Solare Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain**

**18 +**

*Contains 3% Cabernet Franc.*

Inky garnet with aromas of nut skin, cola and rich cherry fruit. Sweetish cherry and plum fruit mixes with cola and cedar and has a wonderful suede-like tannic backbone. Excellent acidity provides a rich juiciness. Deep, resonant and persistent. Quite regal. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2020 – 2028

\$75 producer's website

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### **Col Solare, Tenuta Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain**

**18.5**

*161 cases of grotesquely heavy bottles made.*

Inky garnet. Aromas of cigar box and rich cherry fruit give way to rich cherry and tobacco-leaf flavours. Cola notes emerge with time and are wrapped snugly in a velvety blanket of tannins with a gorgeous plushness. Rich and ripe but with enough acidity to enliven the fruit. Gorgeous. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2020 – 2028

\$150 RRP

**Côtes de Ciel, Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Cabernet Franc 2013 Red Mountain** 15.5

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*75 cases made.*

Smells of nut skin, plums and chopped dried herbs. Slightly angular flavours of cherry, sour cherry and pluot skin lean towards the bitter as they finish. Faint tannins. Decent acidity, but comes across as slightly harsh. (AY) 14.3%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$40 producer's website

**Côtes de Ciel, Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2013 Red Mountain** 16.5

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*99 cases made.*

Smells of pencil shavings, dark-cherry fruit and a touch of tobacco leaf. Flavours of pencil shavings and cherry mix with darker earth tones and dried herbs. There's a distinct and overt signature of expensive barrels. Drying tannins. (AY) 14.7%

Drink 2022 – 2026

\$40 producer's website

**Côtes de Ciel, Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Nebbiolo 2013 Red Mountain** 16.5 +

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*97 cases made.*

Medium ruby with aromas of strawberry jam and leather. Strawberry jam and dried citrus peel flavours are wrapped in a leathery blanket of tannins with hints of dried herbs. Decent acidity. Surprisingly little sense of the wine's prodigious 15.3% alcohol. Well balanced and tasty. (AY) 15.3%

Drink 2024 – 2030

\$50 producer's website

**DeLille Roussanne 2019 Red Mountain** 16

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*692 cases made.*

Aromas of stone fruits, apples, and honey. Faintly sweet flavours of apple and honey and tinned peaches have a nice bright acidity to them, but also a touch of alcoholic heat. (AY) 14%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$35 producer's website

**DeLille, Chaleur Estate 2017 Red Mountain** **17.5**

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*A blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot.*

Aromas of cherry and mocha and a touch of sun-warmed wood. Juicy and bright flavours of cherry and cedar have a nice red-miso umami character to them and excellent lift thanks to great acidity. With that lift, however, comes a bit of heat on the finish. Plush, velvety tannins. (AY) 14.4%

Drink 2020 – 2028

\$85 producer's website

**DeLille, Grand Ciel Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 Red Mountain** **18 +**

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*100% Cabernet Sauvignon. 188 cases made.*

Very dark garnet with aromas of black cherry and blackberries. Black-cherry and blackberry flavours have a wonderful bright lift thanks to juicy acidity. Powdery tannins have a refined quality and gently coat the mouth as the wine slips lithely into a floral and mocha-scented finish. Refined and poised. (AY) 14.1%

Drink 2020 – 2028

\$160 producer's website

**DeLille, Grand Ciel Syrah 2016 Red Mountain** **15.5**

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*167 cases made.*

Aromas of blackberry and cassis. Flavours of cassis, blackberry and sweet oak are plushy and lack a brightness that better acidity would provide. Velvety tannins are soft and quiet. (AY) 14%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$75 RRP

**Double Canyon Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 Red Mountain** **16**

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*Contains 4% Petit Verdot. 200 cases made.*

Aromas of oak, espresso and red fruits. Cocoa powder, red and black fruits and flavours of espresso are wrapped in a muscular blanket of fine-grained tannins.

Feels a bit compressed. Needs time. Bitter herbs on the finish. (AY) 15%

Drink 2024 – 2030

\$40 producer's website

**EFESTĒ, Ceidleigh Syrah 2017 Red Mountain** **17**

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*385 cases made.*

Aromas of blackberry and a touch of woodsmoke. Juicy blackberry and blueberry flavours mix with a touch of dried herbs and liquorice. Excellent acidity. There's some alcoholic heat on the finish, but otherwise this is a powerful and rich Syrah that will likely age well. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2022 – 2026

\$45 producer's website

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## **EFESTĒ, Estate Petit Verdot 2017 Red Mountain**

**16.5**

*100% Petit Verdot. 70 cases made.*

Inky purple with aromas of blueberry compote and violets. Deep, rich and expansive flavours of blueberry and cassis are draped in a heavy, thick blanket of leathery tannins that seem to gain weight as the wine finishes with liquorice and floral notes. Massive and brawny. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2022 – 2028

\$55 producer's website

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## **EFESTĒ, Taylor Mag Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain**

**18**

*Contains 7% Petit Verdot. 690 cases made.*

Inky opaque garnet with aromas of black cherry and blueberry compote. Extremely juicy flavours of black cherry and blackberry are draped in a fleecy blanket of tannins and are shot through with dried herbs and dried flowers. Excellent acidity. Very compelling. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2020 – 2026

\$35 producer's website

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## **EFESTĒ, Angela's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 Red Mountain**

**18**

*72 cases made.*

Aromas of cherry, cassis, and dried herbs. Leathery tannins wrap around a floral core of cherry and black-cherry fruit that is juicy with bright acidity. Notes of liquorice and dried herbs linger in the finish. Built for the long haul but quite delicious now. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2022 – 2028

\$90 RRP

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## **Fidelitas Malbec 2017 Red Mountain**

**16**

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*100% Malbec. Very dark, opaque bottle with a screen-printed label lettered entirely in dark charcoal ink, making it almost impossible to read anything, from the name of the winery to the specifics of the wine. Shaking my head. 576 cases made.*

Smells of blueberries and black cherries. In the mouth, juicy blueberry, blackberry and cherry fruit is somewhat high toned, and lacks a bit of stuffing. Sweet oak enters the finish. Excellent acidity, but missing some depth. (AY) 15%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$45 producer's website

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## **Fidelitas, Optu 2017 Red Mountain**

**16**

*A blend of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot, 9% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc. 763 cases made.*

Smells of cherry, cedar and potpourri. High-octane flavours of cherry, cedar and plum mix with oak and tacky tannins. Good acidity, but somewhat alcoholic in nature. (AY) 15%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$60 producer's website

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## **Force Majeure Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain**

**16**

*450 cases made.*

Very dark garnet with aromas of cherry and leather and herbs. High-toned flavours of cherry and cedar sit on the front of the palate while airy hints of ethanol dissipate on the back palate. Good acidity gives the red fruits lift, but ultimately unbalanced. (AY) 14.9%

Drink 2022 – 2028

\$125 RRP

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## **Force Majeure, Épinette 2017 Red Mountain**

**17**

*A blend of 53% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, all from the lower part of the hillside, with deeper soils. Fermented partly in concrete. 390 cases made.*

Inky garnet with aromas of cherry and cola. Bright cherry-cola flavours are backed by fine-grained tannins and good acidity. The wine leans frontal a bit, with something of a slump on the back of the palate, but there's no denying the flavours are pleasing, and certainly persistent. (AY) 14.9%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$95 RRP

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## **Force Majeure, Les Volés Mourvèdre 2017 Red Mountain**

**17**

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*Comes from a block of head-trained vines that stood out and inspired their own bottling, instead of being blended into Parvata, the winery's GSM wine. Fermented in a combination of concrete and stainless steel. Aged in 25% new large-format French oak. 100 cases made.*

Smells of black cherry and mulberries. Blueberry and black-cherry fruit has a nice lift and stony underbelly with fine, powdery tannins and good acidity. Nice length. Very tasty. (AY) 14.7%

Drink 2021 – 2026

\$85 RRP

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### **Force Majeure Syrah 2017 Red Mountain**

**16**

*This parcel is from the upper hillside which represents a higher-density planting of gobelet-trained vines in fractured basalt. 500 cases made.*

Inky, opaque purple. Aromas of blackberries with a whiff of alcohol. High-octane. Muscular tannins grasp at the edges of the palate while cassis and blackberry flavours seem to lack an anchor and just float away. Decent acidity, but a hint of bitterness in the finish. (AY) 14.8%

Drink 2021 – 2026

\$70 RRP

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### **Force Majeure, Parvata 2017 Red Mountain**

**15.5**

*A blend of 43% Mourvèdre, 25% Grenache, 23% Syrah, 4% Cinsault and 5% Counoise. 425 cases made.*

Very dark purple with aromas of blackberry pie and cassis. Blackberry and cassis flavours have a jalapeño heat to them and a high-octane hint of rubber and mineral oil. (AY) 14.7%

Drink 2021 – 2023

\$70 RRP

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### **Frichette, Reserve 2018 Red Mountain**

**16**

*Scooteny Flats Vineyard. A blend of 42% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc, 8% Malbec and 8% Petit Verdot. 283 cases made.*

Aromas of blue and black fruits and a hint of cigar box. Black cherry, cola and cassis flavours are relatively juicy thanks to good acidity, but there's a slight emptiness on the mid palate. Faint, powdery tannins. Comes across as high-toned. (AY) 14.1%

Drink 2022 – 2028

\$49 producer's website

## **Frichette, Punctual 2018 Red Mountain**

**16**

*A blend of two-thirds Cabernet Franc and one-third Cabernet Sauvignon. 208 cases made.*

Aromas of black cherry and kirsch. Cassis and black-cherry flavours are ripe and expansive but lack depth. Sweetish and broad, with muscular tannins. Enough acidity to keep from being syrupy but comes across overall as too sweet. (AY)

14.5%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$45 RRP

## **Frichette Cabernet Sauvignon 2018 Red Mountain**

**15.5 +**

*241 cases made.*

Smells of candied cherry and tobacco leaf with a hint of floral notes. Flavours also lean towards candied cherry fruit plus a leathery tannic backbone and a sweetish, syrupy note on the finish. Decent acidity. (AY) 14.3%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$45 RRP

## **Frichette Merlot 2018 Red Mountain**

**15.5**

*244 cases made.*

Shy nose of plummy red fruits. Decent acidity enlivens bright but slightly bitter

flavours of plum and cherry. Notes of bitter herbs linger in the finish. (AY) 14.7%

Drink 2020 – 2022

\$45 RRP

## **Frichette Malbec 2018 Red Mountain**

**14.5**

*214 cases made.*

Inky dark purple with aromas of blueberry and boysenberries. Rich and slightly sweet blueberry and blackberry fruit has plush tannins and decent, but not particularly lively acidity. Somewhat plain. (AY) 13.9%

Drink 2020 – 2022

\$45 RRP

## **Frichette Petit Verdot 2018 Red Mountain**

**12.5**

*143 cases made.*

Inky dark purple and smells of slightly smoky blueberry compote. Rather flabby.

any dark purple and smelt of slightly smoky, strawberry, computer keyboard, lifeless notes of blueberry and blackberry mix with liquorice and not nearly enough acidity. Plush velvety tannins. (AY) 14.6%

Drink 2020 – 2022

\$45 RRP

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### **Frichette Carmenère 2018 Red Mountain**

**14.5**

*From Heart of the Hill vineyard. 91 cases made.*

Smells of peeled willow bark and red fruits. Sweetish cherry and strawberry flavours mix with hint of tinned vegetables. Faint, putty-like tannins. Bitter notes in the finish. (AY) 14.9%

Drink 2020 – 2023

\$49 producer's website

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### **Frichette, Shaw 32 Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2018 Red Mountain**

**16**

*97 cases made.*

Aromas of cassis, black cherry and violets. Cassis, black-cherry and boysenberry flavours take on a slightly high-toned quality, but remain juicy thanks to decent acidity. Liquorice and violets linger in the finish. (AY) 14.8%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$45 RRP

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### **Frichette, Quintessence Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2018 Red Mountain**

**15.5**

*168 cases made.*

Aromas of black cherry and cassis. Juicy black-cherry and plum fruit flavours have a touch of cedar under a fleecy blanket of tannins. Softer acidity, but enough to keep the wine juicy. (AY) 14.3%

Drink 2020 – 2022

\$45 RRP

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### **Frichette, Dalee Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2018 Red Mountain**

**14**

*149 cases made.*

Smells of raisins and roasted figs and black cherries. Black-cherry flavours are a bit flat and one dimensional. Notes of tobacco and chocolate sauce join the fruit, but there's not enough acidity to make it compelling. (AY) 14.9%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$45 RRP

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**Frichette, Red Heaven Zinfandel 2018 Red Mountain** **13.5**

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*100 cases made.*

Aromas of black pepper and liquorice with a hint of cassis. Sweet blackberry fruit flavours have a touch of liquorice and black pepper. Not enough acidity, so comes across as a bit flat. Faint tannins. (AY) 14.3%

Drink 2020 – 2022

\$55 RRP

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**Frichette, Sashay Syrah 2018 Red Mountain** **14**

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*120 cases made.*

Inky garnet with aromas of smoky blackberry fruit. Blackberry and roasted blueberry flavours have a syrupy sweetness and not enough acidity to keep from being flabby. Velvety tannins. (AY) 13.5%

Drink 2020 – 2022

\$45 producer's website

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**Hedges Family, DLD Le Blanc 2018 Red Mountain** **17.5**

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*A blend of 75% Marsanne and 25% Viognier. 391 cases made.*

Smells of freshly cut apple and chamomile tea. Extremely vibrant flavours of chamomile, golden apples, lemon and grapefruit make the mouth water thanks to fantastic acidity. A touch of grapefruit pith lingers in the finish. (AY) 14.1%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$38 producer's website

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**Hedges Family, DLD Les Gosses Vineyard Syrah 2016 Red Mountain** **16.5**

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*100% Syrah. 400 cases made.*

Smells of cassis, blackberry and oak. Somewhat saline flavours of blackberry and black cherry are tinged with the bitterness of oak. Hints of green herbs and a minty heat linger in the finish. Good acidity but somewhat high-toned. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$42 producer's website

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**Hedges Family 2017 Red Mountain** **17**

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*A blend of 26% Merlot, 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Syrah, 12% Cabernet Franc and 4% Malbec. 5,376 cases made.*

Smells of black cherry and earth and a touch of wood. Black-cherry, cola and tobacco-leaf flavours have a touch of oak to them that lingers with a faint bitterness along with notes of herbs. Good acidity and faint, powdery tannins.

(AY) 13.5%

Drink 2020 – 2026

\$30 producer's website

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## **Hedges Family Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain**

**16.5**

*Includes 14% Merlot, 7% Syrah and 3% Cabernet Franc. 865 cases made.*

Aromas of rich black cherry and oak. Black-cherry fruit has a bright juiciness thanks to excellent acidity and is shot through with cola and mocha. The distinct signature of oak lingers with slightly bitter espresso and vanilla notes in the finish.

(AY) 13.5%

Drink 2022 – 2028

\$40 producer's website

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## **Hedges Family, La Haute Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain**

**17.5**

*Contains 14% Merlot. 235 cases and 522 magnums made.*

Smells of black cherry and dried herbs. Black-cherry, cassis and brighter mulberry notes are juicy with excellent acidity. Notes of dried herbs and dried flowers linger in the finish with excellent persistence and length. Powdery tannins emerge with time. Little trace of oak here, and much the better for it. (AY) 14.4%

Drink 2020 – 2030

\$60 RRP

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## **Hedges Family, Hedges Vineyard Syrah 2017 Red Mountain**

**18+**

*100% Syrah farmed biodynamically in the estate vineyard, this wine has a host of certifications, including organic, Demeter and Salmon Safe as well as being vegan and gluten free. Interestingly, it also lists the growing degree days for the 2017 vintage on the label (3,599) compared with the average for the site (3,000). Bottled unfined and unfiltered. 259 cases made.*

Smells of beautifully perfumed white pepper and cassis. Savoury notes of gunflint and white pepper mesh seamlessly with floral notes and cassis and blackberry fruit. Faint powdery tannins and excellent acidity round out this standout package of a wine. (AY) 13.5%

Drink 2020 – 2030

\$40 producer's website

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## Hightower Merlot 2017 Red Mountain

16

*Contains 7% each of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. 346 cases made.*

Aromas of prunes, dried cherries and herbs. Hints of dried herbs and black tea mix with flavours of cherry and dried orange peel. Faint, putty-like tannins. Good acidity. (AY) 14.3%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$30 RRP

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## Hightower Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain

17+

*Includes 13% Petit Verdot and 6% Malbec. Roughly 400 cases made.*

Smells of ripe cherry with tobacco notes. Juicy cherry and black-cherry fruit mixes with cola and notes of sweet oak. Fine-grained tannins add some musculature to the wine. Excellent acidity. Perhaps a touch too much new oak, but many will appreciate the vanilla notes that linger in a long finish. (AY) 14.6%

Drink 2020 – 2026

\$40 RRP

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## Hightower, Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain

17.5

*Includes 13% Merlot. Roughly 200 cases made.*

Slightly nutty cherry and tobacco-leaf aromas. Suede-like tannins wrap around a core of cherry and mocha with a touch of bitter herbs. Smooth and nicely integrated oak. Good acidity. Quite tasty. (AY) 14.6%

Drink 2020 – 2026

\$50 RRP

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## Januik, Andrew Januik Stone Cairn 2017 Red Mountain

17.5

*100% Cabernet Sauvignon.*

Aromas of cherry and tobacco leaf with a hint of oak translate to similar flavours on the palate, plus a red-miso umami quality that sets the mouth watering. Excellent acidity and fleecy supple tannins that are slightly drying. Hints of grilled meats mix with cherry compote in the finish. With some air, the oak peeks out a bit more than it should. Delicious. (AY) 14.6%

Drink 2022 – 2033

\$40 producer's website

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**Januik Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain** **17**

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*Contains 6% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc. 585 cases produced.*

Slightly cloudy garnet with aromas of bright cherry fruit and dry earth. Lovely cherry, cola and dry-earth flavours mix with dried herbs. Powdery tannins.

Excellent acidity keeps the fruit bright and delicious. (AY) 14.4%

Drink 2020 – 2026

\$40 RRP

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**Januik, Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain** **18**

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*Contains 4% Merlot. 471 cases made.*

Aromas of black cherry and flowers. Dark-cherry and tobacco-leaf flavours mix with floral and darker carob notes. Excellent acidity. Beautifully supple tannins and great length. Excellent overall. (AY) 14.4%

Drink 2020 – 2030

\$45 producer's website

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**Januik, Klipsun Vineyard Merlot 2017 Red Mountain** **17**

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*100% Merlot. 293 cases made.*

Aromas of red fruits and, somewhat inexplicably, raw frankfurters. Juicy cherry and plum flavours have a zingy acidity that keeps the fruit fresh and bright, as faint tannins and notes of herbs creep into the finish. (AY) 14.4%

Drink 2020 – 2026

\$35 producer's website

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**Januik, Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Syrah 2017 Red Mountain** **17.5**

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*100% Syrah. 284 cases made.*

This wine smells of doused campfire, cassis and blackberries. Faintly salty flavours of blackberry and woodsmoke mix with cedar shavings and dusty earth. A hint of citrusy brightness lingers in the finish. Faint powdery tannins. Excellent acidity.

(AY) 14.4%

Drink 2020 – 2028

\$35 producer's website

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**Kiona, Red Blend NV Red Mountain** **16.5**

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*An unusual multi-year blend of one-third Cabernet Sauvignon from the 2015*

*vintage, one-third Malbec from the 2018 vintage, and one-third Carmenère from the 2017 vintage. 240 cases made.*

Smells of cherry and dark chocolate with a hint of green bell pepper. Cherry and chopped green herbs mix with a touch of cedar and jalapeño pepper. Good acidity and length. Fine, barely perceptible tannins. (AY) 14.8%

Drink 2020 – 2026

\$40 RRP

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### **Kiona, Old Block Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 Red Mountain** **16.5**

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*300 cases made.*

Aromas of black cherry and mocha. Rich black-cherry and cola flavours are bright with juicy acidity but also have a faint dried-cherry note to them. Flirts with overripeness as notes of prune sneak into the finish. Fine tannins. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$75 RRP

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### **Kiona, Heart of the Hill Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 Red Mountain** **17.5**

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*131 cases made.*

Very dark garnet with aromas of black cherry and a touch of black olive. In the mouth, rich black-cherry fruit mixes with a darker, herbal earthiness made bright with excellent acidity. A hint of dried herbs enters the finish. Chalk-dust tannins have a gauzy quality to them. Excellent. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2022 – 2032

\$75 producer's website

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### **Kiona Lemberger 2018 Red Mountain** **16**

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*An unusual blend of 85% Lemberger (Blaufränkisch), 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Carmenère and 5% Mourvèdre. 3,310 cases made.*

Smells of red fruits, mulberry and dates. Date and cherry flavours mix with cedar and dried citrus-peel notes. (AY) 14%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$17 producer's website

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### **Kiona, Nyx II NV Red Mountain** **16.5**

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*An unusual multi-year blend of 5% Grenache from the 2016 vintage, 15% Syrah from the 2017 vintage, and 80% Mourvèdre from the 2017 vintage. 277 cases made.*

Aromas of blackberry and blueberry jam. Faintly sweet black and blue fruits have a lovely brightness to them and a simple, easy-to-drink profile. Missing some

complexity and grip but betrays none of its 15% alcohol. (AY) 15%

Drink 2020 – 2026

\$40 producer's website

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### **Kiona, Ice Wine Chenin Blanc 2018 Red Mountain**

**16.5**

*2,290 cases of 50-cl bottles made.*

Smells of quince paste and honey. Bright and only moderately sweet flavours of apple and quince have a nice acidity to them that makes for decent crispness.

Missing some complexity however. (AY) 9%

Drink 2020 – 2028

\$50 per 50 cl producer's website

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### **Klipsun Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 Red Mountain**

**18.5**

*A blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 5% Syrah. 491 cases made.*

Very dark garnet with aromas of rich cherry and cocoa powder. Juicy cherry and black-cherry fruit mix with cola and a touch of salty liquorice. Faint hint of barnyard. Fantastic, medium-bodied weight and a gauzy haze of tannins add texture and depth. Notes of herbs and flowers linger in the finish. Outstanding.

(AY) 14.5%

Drink 2020 – 2030

\$150 RRP

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### **Klipsun Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain**

**18**

*A blend of 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Syrah, 4% Merlot and 4% Malbec. 498 cases made.*

Smells of cherry, cedar, and a touch of manure. In the mouth, cherry and cola and salty liquorice flavours are shot through with the faint umami and barnyard note I associate with *Brettanomyces*. Here, it is a grace note that adds to the wine's lovely balance of savoury and lush fruit. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2020 – 2028

\$150 RRP

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### **Domaine Magdalena, Magdalena Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain**

**17**

*Certified organic and Demeter biodynamic certified. Bottled unfined and unfiltered in a burgundy bottle. 620 cases made.*

Aromas of wet earth with a touch of oak. Hints of farmyard mix with darker

cherry and earth fruit dusted with dried herbs. Muscular, fleecy tannins wrap around the core of fruit which is bright with good acidity. Savoury herb and salted liquorice notes linger in the finish. Unusual. (AY) 13%

Drink 2020 – 2026

\$38 RRP

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### **Market Vineyards, Alpha Merlot 2017 Red Mountain**

**15.5**

*145 cases made.*

Smells of black plums and mocha. Somewhat sharp flavours of cherry and plum mix with bitter herbs. Good acidity, putty-like tannins. (AY) 14.9%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$55 RRP

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### **Muret-Gaston, Klipsun Vineyard Merlot 2014 Red Mountain**

**16**

*100 cases made.*

Smells of earth and black plum and black cherry. Black-cherry and plummy flavours have a herbal bitterness that lingers in the finish. Good acidity and length, but comes across as slightly bitter. (AY) 14.6%

Drink 2018 – 2022

\$50 RRP

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### **Muret-Gaston, Klipsun Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2014 Red Mountain**

**16.5**

*200 cases made.*

Aromas of cherry and tobacco with a touch of bitter orange. Cherry and bitter-orange flavours have a bright zing to them thanks to excellent acidity. Faint powdery tannins add texture while bitter orange peel lingers in the finish. (AY) 14.6%

Drink 2018 – 2024

\$50 RRP

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### **Pacific Rim, Thick Skinned 2015 Red Mountain**

**17**

*From Heart of the Hill vineyard. A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Malbec and 7% Petit Verdot. 500 cases made.*

Aromas of cherry compote and cedar. Rich and ripe flavours of cherry and plum mix with a touch of bluer fruits. Good acidity and fleecy tannins. Only the slightest bit of heat on the finish betrays its 15% alcohol. (AY) 15%

Drink 2018 – 2024

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**Pacific Rim, Thick Skinned 2016 Red Mountain** **18**

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*A blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Malbec and 10% Petit Verdot. 605 cases of annoyingly heavy bottles made.*

Smells of carob and black cherry. Fleecy tannins drape a core of cherry and black-cherry fruit enlivened with excellent acidity. The tannins gain muscle in the finish along with notes of herbs and dried citrus peel. Lovely, balanced and rich without being heavy. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2019 – 2029

\$65 RRP

**Quilceda Creek, Galitzine Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain** **17.5**

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Smells of black-cherry fruit and mocha with a touch of oak. Bright flavours of cherry and cola have an espresso and chocolate character thanks to well-integrated oak. Excellent acidity keeps the fruit lively while a powdery, gauzy blanket of tannins wraps the core of fruit. Cedary notes that have a hint of leather and earth linger in the finish. Tasty. (AY) 14.8%

Drink 2022 – 2032

\$175 RRP

**Mark Ryan, Lonely Heart Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain** **18**

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*420 cases made.*

Smells of cherry and a touch of green herbs. Bright and juicy cherry and black-cherry fruit flavours are shot through with green herbs and draped in a powdery blanket of tannins that coat the mouth and have a drying effect on the palate. Comes across as slightly high-toned, but will likely age beautifully, in part thanks to excellent acidity. (AY) 14.8%

Drink 2020 – 2028

\$95 producer's website

**Mark Ryan, Dead Horse Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain** **17.5**

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*Blend of 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. 1,900 cases made.*

Smells of black cherry and sweet oak. Black-cherry, mocha and cassis flavours have a faint sweetness and a juicy brightness thanks to excellent acidity. Nicely balanced, well-integrated wood and plush, velvety tannins. (AY) 14.9%

Drink 2020 – 2026

\$60 RRP

### **Mark Ryan, Water Witch 2017 Red Mountain**

**18 +**

*Quintessence Vineyard. A blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. 615 cases produced.*

Aromas of cherry, cola, and a touch of tobacco give way to flavours of rich black

cherry and cola with a hint of mocha and cigar box. Suede-like tannins build muscle as the wine finishes with a hint of liquorice. Polished, nicely balanced and with beautifully integrated wood. (AY) 14.9%

Drink 2020 – 2030

\$60 producer's website

### **Mark Ryan, Wild Eyed Syrah 2018 Red Mountain**

**16**

*100% Syrah. 800 cases made.*

Very dark, vivid purple. Aromas of cassis, woodsmoke and a touch of bloody meat. Meaty cassis and blackberry flavours have decent acidity and a soft, smooth tannic musculature. There's a faint sweetness in the finish. (AY) 15.1%

Drink 2020 – 2024

\$50 producer's website

### **Sparkman, Kingpin Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 Red Mountain**

**17**

*Contains 7% Petit Verdot. 333 cases made.*

Aromas of cherry, dusty earth and chopped herbs. Flavours of black cherry and a touch of cedar are draped in a fleecy blanket of tannins that stiffen a bit as the wine finishes. Notes of tobacco and earth linger in the finish with a touch of liquorice.

Good acidity, but could use more. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2022 – 2032

\$65 producer's website

### **Sparkman, Ruckus Syrah 2016 Red Mountain**

**17**

*A blend of 75% Syrah, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Viognier. 209 cases produced.*

Smells of bloody meat and black fruits. White-pepper, blackberry and black-cherry flavours. Also there's a meaty umami character that is quite charming.

Powdery tannins have a nice muscular firmness to them. Good acidity. Could be more dynamic. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2020 – 2026

\$55 producer's website

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### **Sparkman, Preposterous Malbec 2017 Red Mountain**

**16.5**

*Contains 22% Syrah. 325 cases made.*

Dark purple with a shy nose of blue- and black-fruit aromas. Blueberry and black-cherry fruit have a nice lift thanks to excellent acidity, but lean a bit high-toned.

Seems to be missing some bass note. Firm tannins. Good length. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2022 – 2028

\$48 producer's website

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### **Syncline, Heart of the Hill Mourvèdre 2018 Red Mountain**

**18.5 +**

*Contains 5% Syrah. Fermented in open-top fermenters and then aged in neutral 500-litre French oak puncheons for 15 months. 200 cases made.*

Smells richly of mulberries and forest herbs. Incredibly juicy mulberry, blackberry and chopped-herb flavours dance across the palate thanks to excellent acidity. Faint tannins dust the edge of the mouth as citrusy, and even slightly saline flavours just end up making the mouth water. Utterly delicious and extremely quaffable. (AY)

14.3%

Drink 2020 – 2028

\$55 RRP

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### **Upchurch Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 Red Mountain**

**18 +**

*Contains 9% Merlot. Farmed with the LIVE sustainability certification. 650 cases made.*

Smells of cherry and tobacco leaf. Juicy cherry and plum flavours burst with fantastic acidity. Really lovely, fine-grained tannins hang like a gauze around the fruit, which incorporates a hint of black-tea and floral notes as it finishes long and satisfying. (AY) 14.6%

Drink 2020 – 2030

\$75 producer's website

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### **Upchurch, Counterpart 2017 Red Mountain**

**17.5**

*A blend of 65% merlot and 35% Cabernet Sauvignon farmed with the LIVE sustainability certification. 225 cases made.*

Aromas of black plum and cherry. Plummy, cherry fruit flavours have a wonderful brightness and lift thanks to excellent acidity that leans towards citrus peel in the

finish. Fine-grained, powdery tannins coat the mouth. The wine comes across as slightly high-toned, but I think will have wonderful staying power. It's a bit rare to suggest that a winery's Merlot might benefit from more ageing than its Cabernet, but this one should be held a couple of years before drinking for best results. (AY)

14.2%

Drink 2022 – 2028

\$50 producer's website

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## Upchurch, LTL Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain

17

*LTL ostensibly stands for larger than life. 925 cases made.*

Smells of sweet cherries and plums. Juicy, sweetish cherry and plum flavours are positively mouth-watering thanks to excellent acidity. More on the simple side of complexity but undeniably a pleasing burst of fruit. Hints of herbs add complexity on the finish as tannins tighten the edges of the mouth. (AY) 14.2%

Drink 2020 – 2025

\$30 RRP

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## Andrew Will, Ciel du Cheval Vineyard 2015 Red Mountain

16

*A blend of 63% Merlot and 37% Cabernet Franc. 640 cases made.*

Aromas of black cherry, salty liquorice and dried flowers. Rich, ripe flavours of black cherry, black olive, liquorice and leather have a hint of heat as they come across as quite ripe and extracted. Powdery tannins are suede-supple, and there's decent acidity. (AY) 14.5%

Drink 2018 – 2024

\$65 producer's website

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## Andrew Will, Ciel du Cheval Vineyard 2016 Red Mountain

17

*A blend of 57% Merlot and 43% Cabernet Franc. 610 cases made.*

Dark, almost opaque garnet. Aromas of black cherry, plum and liquorice with a hint of fresh green herbs. Bright acidity makes the rich dark flavours of plum and black cherry quite lively on the palate. Muscular, fine-grained tannins firmly support the fruit core as hints of lavender and thyme join the red and black fruits in the finish. A brawny wine, but relatively well balanced for its 15% alcohol. (AY)

15%

Drink 2020 – 2029

\$65 RRP

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## Andrew Will, Ciel du Cheval Vineyard 2017 Red Mountain

17

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*A blend of 50% Merlot and 50% Cabernet Franc. 615 cases made.*

Opaque garnet with aromas of black cherry, liquorice, and cedar. Black cherry and liquorice flavours are dark and rich, squeezed tightly by putty-like tannins that gain strength as the wine finishes with hints of dried black cherry. (AY) 14.8%

Drink 2024 – 2030

\$65 RRP

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## **Waterbrook, Icon Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Red Mountain**

**17**

*197 cases made.*

Aromas of cherry and chocolate feature a hint of mint. Somewhat high-toned flavours of cherry and mocha have a nice brightness thanks to excellent acidity, and are draped in fleecy tannins. Notes of sweet mocha linger in the finish. (AY) 14.9%

Drink 2020 – 2026

\$39 producer's website