

The Octavius 2021 Reviews

100 Points

Deep inky colour. Intense blackberry pastille, roasted coffee, roasted chestnut hint vanilla aromas with star anise, mint/sage notes. Gorgeously concentrated palate with pure blackberry, espresso, dark chocolate flavours, fine loose knit cedary textures and underlying roasted chestnut notes. Richly flavoured, yet not overly dense with linear fresh acidity intertwined with underlying aniseed notes. Finishes bittersweet and minerally with seductive blackcurrant/blackberry pastille flavours and hints of herb garden/ nutmeg. A lasting vintage with superb vinosity, inky density and typical gentle vigour. Very expressive and beguiling showing the hallmarks of 19th/early 20th Century old vine provenance and a stellar vintage. At the vanguard of the Barossa Shiraz experience. Sealed under cork. 55% Barossa Valley, 45% Eden Valley. 19 months in 24% new and seasoned French oak. Now - 2050+ 14.5% alc

Andrew Caillard MW, *The Vintage Journal*, 31 January 2026

19.5+/20

The finest Octavius ever has been born, and while I am certain that much of the spotlight will be absorbed by The Caley, leaving The Octavius penumbra-ed, it is my duty and that of all responsible wine scribes to beat this drum as loudly as one can to highlight its glory. At first, this is a quiet, stealthy, stalking, panther-like wine with a beyond-black hue. Aside from the rhythmic pulse of icy manse soot, unyielding peat and iron-hard slate, this is a sensational, quiet if grand wine with a phenomenal back story. It is gloriously beautiful and equally elevating. It expands on the palate, filling every void and then steps back to allow you to admire its grace and poise. This is a sensational The Octavius, and yes, it is only one half-point behind its iconic stablemate (below)! I have no idea what a half-point equates to in the hundred-point system, but whatever it is, it will not have as much gravitas as a nineteen and a half!

Matthew Jukes, 28 January 2026

97 Points

The oldest vines used for this quintessential Barossa/Eden Valley Shiraz date back to the 1850s and the vines have an average of well over a century. The oak used comes from the Yalumba cooperage and includes a percentage which is new. Time in oak has been reduced from past years and the wine benefits from it. This is also from the superb 2021 vintage, making it as close to a slam dunk as one could wish. Under cork.

Opaque maroon/purple, the nose does have lashings of high quality but well integrated oak. They sit comfortably with aromas of plums, cassis, chocolate, blackberries, coffee beans and mocha. The wine is supple, plush, dense, concentrated and immaculately balanced. So long, and yet the intensity is maintained for the full length, through to the finish with its furry tannins. An absolutely gorgeous Shiraz, which will sail through the next two decades.

Ken Gargett, *Winepilot*, February 2026

96 Points

Picture perfect aromas of blackberry, milk chocolate, and dried sage lead to a taut, and focussed palate of saltbush, pepperberry and garrigue savoury complexity accenting sweet dark cherry flavours. Seamless in style, with a firm, claret line of tannins that drive an ethereal, beautifully long and fine finish. Eden Valley shines bright in this release, which is brilliant and one of the best yet under this label

Angus Hughson, *The Vintage Journal*, 8 February 2026



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YALUMBA

FAMILY WINEMAKERS 1849

THE Octavius





From the first vines planted in 1849, Yalumba has been at the forefront of every turning point in Australian wine history.

With six generations of family ownership, Yalumba has helped to forge Australia's enviable wine culture from table wines to those that sit proudly amongst the finest wines of the world. With ancient vines sustained by the world's oldest soils and enriched by the craftsmanship of generations, Yalumba is writing the next chapter in Australia's fine wine story – a future for the wine world that thrives with authenticity, diversity, and distinction.



YALUMBA THE OCTAVIUS OLD VINE SHIRAZ 2021

The Octavius is Yalumba's flagship expression of the Barossa, shaped by time, place, and craftsmanship.

Sourced from revered old-vine Shiraz, including vineyards planted back in 1854, the wine spans the Barossa and Eden Valley to deliver a layered, generous, and finely textured style.

Its name comes from the 100L "octave" barrels, handcrafted at Yalumba's on-site cooperage, the only one in the Southern Hemisphere. Originally seasoned as staves for fortified puncheons, these were reimagined in 1987 into small-format barrels that gently elevate the fruit.

Today, a refined blend of French, Hungarian, and American oak supports the wine with elegance and restraint. The Octavius is a true expression of ancient vines, skilled hands, and Yalumba's enduring connection to the Barossa.

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

Late winter and spring rains set the vines up with sufficient moisture for the growing season. The vines grew well and established great balance between their crop and canopy. Summer was mild to warm with cool nights that led to the development of wonderful aromatics and varietal flavours.

TERROIR / PROVENANCE / REGION

Fruit for this wine was selected from five main vineyards across the Barossa. The oldest parcel of Shiraz is gently hand-picked from Eden Valley vines planted in 1854. With an average vine age of 88 years, 55% of this Shiraz is sourced from the Barossa Valley and 45% from Eden Valley.

FIRST VINTAGE

1990

PROVENANCE

Region: Barossa, South Australia

Sub region: Barossa Valley and Eden Valley

HISTORIC VINEYARDS

Planted 1854 and between 1901 to 1974 on own roots

GRAPE VARIETY

Pre-phylloxera heritage Shiraz with a history going back to 1832

Eden Valley Shiraz provides the exotic aromatics and seamless palate structure, while Barossa Valley Shiraz provides richness, density and concentration.

TASTING NOTES

Deep ruby in colour with vibrant purple hues. Inviting and complex aromas with layers of blueberry, baking spices, graphite minerality, coffee bean, liquorice and hints of purple flowers. The wine glides effortlessly across the palate, finely grained tannins provide structure and depth balanced by vibrant acidity. The finish is a generous mix of blue fruit, spice and mineral nuances.

STYLE

A classic, modern and expressive Barossa Shiraz with the freshness, balance and complexity for long term aging

MATURATION

Matured for 18 months in 24% new French oak hogsheads and barriques, balance in 1 year and older French and American Yalumba coopered octaves and French hogsheads and barriques.

SEAL

High grade long corks

WORK PRACTICES

Sustainable Winegrowing Australia and International Wineries for Climate Action gold member