



Jim Barry

Jim Barry's The Armagh 2018 is a collector's wine with exceptional concentration and poise, embodying the strength and elegance of Clare Valley's terroir.

**JIM BARRY
WINES**



The Armagh 2018

Clare Valley, Australia

Region and Vineyards

The **Armagh vineyard** is one of the most iconic sites in the **Clare Valley**, a region known for its historic vineyards and celebrated for premium Shiraz and Riesling. Established in **1968** by Jim Barry, the vineyard was named after the lush rolling hills reminiscent of **Armagh, Ireland**, by early settlers in the 19th century. With vines that yield only around **27 hectolitres per hectare**, The Armagh vineyard produces highly concentrated fruit due to its low yields.

The vineyard is positioned on a **northwest-facing slope**, creating a natural sun trap that aids in ripening, while the soil—a mix of **sandy gravel and clay layers**—adds mineral complexity. The **continental climate** of Clare Valley, with its significant day-to-night temperature swings, enables even ripening of the tannins and maintains the vibrant acidity and structure needed for aging.

Winemaking

The 2018 vintage had a notably dry season, with only minimal rainfall between October and March. However, crucial rainfall in November and December supported healthy canopy growth, enabling even development of the fruit. The grapes were meticulously **hand-harvested** and **sorted** before gentle crushing. **Fermentation** occurred in small open-top fermenters using heading down boards for controlled extraction of color and flavor, with **twice-daily pump-overs and daily rack-and-return** for a balanced texture.

Following a **16-month maturation** in **60% French and 40% American oak hogsheads**—with a significant portion in new oak—the wine achieved a polished structure. **Peter Barry** oversaw the vinification to ensure that each element, from tannins to oak integration, harmonized with the wine's natural intensity.

Alcohol :13,80 %

Composition: 100% Syrah



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep crimson with a vivid intensity.
- **Aroma:** Layers of blackberry, mocha, and garden herbs are complemented by hints of sage and praline.
- **Palate:** Concentrated dark fruit flavors of black cherry and blackberry dominate, supported by fine chocolatey tannins. Mocha, vanilla, and subtle smoky oak linger on the finish, with aniseed and raspberry adding complexity to the long, firm finish.

Did you know?

Jim Barry Wines holds a distinguished place in Australian wine history, with Jim Barry as the first qualified winemaker in Clare Valley. **The Armagh Shiraz**, first released in **1985**, has since become one of Australia's most revered single-vineyard wines, achieving an **Exceptional** rating in Langton's Classification of Australian Wine. The 2018 vintage garnered **99 points from Andrew Caillard, MW, and Nick Stock of JamesSuckling.com**, a testament to its craftsmanship and legacy.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled Ribeye with Black Pepper Sauce:** The bold structure and dark fruit notes of the Shiraz enhance the flavors of a robust, peppery steak.
- **Mushroom and Truffle Risotto:** The wine's earthy, mocha notes find harmony with the truffle and mushroom's umami.
- **Venison Stew with Root Vegetables:** The gamey flavors of venison are balanced by the wine's depth and spiced character.
- **Aged Gouda or Manchego Cheese:** The richness of these cheeses complements the wine's intense fruit and velvety tannins.



James Suckling (JS) : **99 Points** (2018)

The explosion of black and blue berry aromas with a dazzling interplay of fruit and oak takes your breath away. Very concentrated and compact, but not a jot too heavy at 13.8% alcohol. The incredibly fine tannins provide an extremely sensual texture, yet everything is precisely balanced at the super-long finish. The best ever Armagh! Drink or hold. Screw cap.



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Robert Parker (RP) : 98 Points (2018)

In the context of the four vintages tasted alongside each other here, the 2018 The Armagh Shiraz is the silkiest, the reddest fruited and the most compact. In my opinion, the best Shirazes/Syrahs in this country present (within a sensible ripening bandwidth) a complex array of both sweet and savory fruit characters, not as a result of too little hang time, or too much, but purely as a result of the interaction between the brine, the soil and the climate. This vineyard and this wine achieves that complexity. So here, while the fruit has a mellifluousness and a suppleness that make it insanely attractive, I would suggest waiting a little longer for this wine to gain the momentum that it surely will gain in another year or two. Equally, if you want to see the pristine, almost sparkling fruit on show, then buy two bottles and open one tonight. It is gorgeous. This was my favorite wine here today for its silky, delicate line of tannin and fruit. In perfect sync. (EL)



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