



# Shaw and Smith

Shaw + Smith Balhannah Vineyard Shiraz is an aromatic and finely textured single-site Shiraz, showcasing the unique terroir and complexity of Adelaide Hills.

## Balhannah Shiraz 2020

Adelaide Hills, Australia

### Region and Vineyards

The **Balhannah Vineyard**, located at **380 meters** altitude in the **Adelaide Hills**, provides a prime setting for cool-climate Shiraz. Established in **2005**, this north-facing vineyard sits on complex soils of **loam over red clay, ironstone, quartzite, and shale**, which impart structure and minerality to the wine. The 2020 vintage brought several challenges, but ideal ripening conditions in February allowed for even, balanced fruit development, resulting in small berries with high flavor concentration and natural acidity.

With a planting density of **5,500 vines per hectare** and the **Savii17 clone** selected for its suitability to this unique terroir, the vineyard yields Shiraz with remarkable aromatic complexity and intensity. The combination of high elevation, well-draining soils, and meticulous vineyard management ensures a Shiraz that reflects the depth and elegance of the Balhannah Vineyard.

### Winemaking

Shaw + Smith's winemaking approach for the 2020 Balhannah Vineyard Shiraz emphasizes minimal intervention to showcase the vineyard's character. The wine is aged in **500 to 600-liter French oak puncheons** (20% new) for **14 months**, enhancing texture without overwhelming the fruit's freshness. Following barrel aging, the wine undergoes an additional **14 months of bottle aging**, further integrating flavors and allowing the wine's structure to develop.

The wine's complexity is enhanced by whole-bunch fermentation, which adds layers of spice and herbal notes, as well as balanced tannins. This approach yields a Shiraz with vibrant acidity, a long finish, and a refined texture, embodying the best qualities of cool-climate Shiraz.



Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Syrah



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## Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby with a purple hue.
- **Aroma:** Intricate aromas of spiced plum, fennel seed, and dried sage, with hints of red berries and earthiness.
- **Palate:** Medium-bodied with fresh acidity and structured tannins, flavors of red fruit and spiced plum are complemented by a subtle herbal undertone. The finish is long and balanced, with a delicate minerality and fine tannins that promise longevity.

## Did you know?

The **Balhannah Vineyard Shiraz** is a unique expression of Adelaide Hills Shiraz, emphasizing cool-climate characteristics. Shaw + Smith has tailored every aspect of the vineyard to highlight these qualities, from choosing the **Savii17 clone** to managing yields, making this wine a standout among Australian single-site Shiraz.

## Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Braised lamb shanks with rosemary and garlic:** The wine's tannins and herbal notes complement the richness of the lamb, while its acidity balances the dish's savory flavors.
- **Beef tagine with prunes and spices:** The wine's spiced plum and fennel seed notes echo the tagine's flavors, creating a harmonious pairing.
- **Grilled portobello mushrooms with thyme:** The earthy, herbal profile of the Shiraz pairs beautifully with the umami depth of the mushrooms.
- **Charcuterie board with aged cheeses and cured meats:** The wine's acidity and structure balance the richness of cheeses, and its complexity pairs well with the flavors of cured meats.



### Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2020)

*The fruit for this 2020 Balhannah Vineyard Shiraz is, as the name suggests, from the Balhannah vineyard, which was planted in 2005. Balhannah, for those who have not yet had the pleasure of visiting the Adelaide Hills region, is an area within the Adelaide Hills GI, north of Hahndorf. The vineyard is at 380 meters above sea level and is north facing. When I was there in 2022, the vineyard was undergoing layering (a method to increase the density of the plantings of vines. In the mouth, the wine speaks clearly of its whole bunches, which bring an exoticism and chalkiness to the wine. These notes will subdue over time and ensure that the wine remains detailed and complex as it ages. It smells of light fruitcake (the dense, spicy kind), and it is textural, chalky and lingering. The tannins hold the fruit in stasis and encourage it to pace itself out over the long finish. There are notes of clove, star anise, cinnamon, orange peel, sultana, vanilla pod, black tea, cassis and blueberry compote. There is plenty of fruit here in the short term, but I wager this will be at its apogee some time in the future. I'd consider it from 2025 onward. If you are restless in the meantime, try the estate Shiraz. 14% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.*



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### Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 92 Points (2019)

*Shaw and Smith have had a good year, with chief winemaker Adam Wadewitz recently named Winemaker of the Year in a major Australian publication. This single-vineyard bottling is aromatic and sweet-fruited, with succulent blueberry and red plum, fresh violets and a gentle spice. The palate is similarly juicy, satiny textured and wound by chalky, chiseled tannins.&nbsp;*



### James Suckling (JS) : 91 Points (2019)

*Sliced plum, cracked white pepper and some stems. Dried flowers, too. Medium to full body. Cloves and other spices. Finishes austere this year. Turns bitter. Missed it.*

