

# REVIEWS & ACCOLADES

## 2016 Church Block

Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz Merlot



**GOLD MEDAL** - 2018 China Wine & Spirits Awards

WBM, Tyson Stelzer - FEB 2019

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**93 POINTS**

"2016 confidently carries on the legacy of this legendary blend, celebrating the crunchy blackcurrants and leaf of cabernet, the glossy black plums of shiraz and the fragrant lift of merlot. It's compact and consummately crafted with a web of firm, fine tannins that guarantee a long life."

JamesSuckling.com, Nick Stock - AUG 2018

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**92 POINTS**

"Bright and effusive. It very much embodies what the region does well with a strong core of raspberries and red plums. Silky easygoing tannins, too. A blend of cabernet sauvignon, shiraz and merlot. Screw cap. Drink now."

The Real Review, Toni Patterson - JUL 2018

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**91 POINTS**

"Tamarillo, spice and sarsaparilla aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with lovely raspberry fruit and gentle savouriness. Needs some time in bottle. Great character and flavour."

The Advertiser, Tony Love - JUL 2018

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**4.5 STARS**

"A long-time favourite, this cabernet sauvignon (52 per cent), shiraz (37 per cent) and merlot (11 per cent) mix succeeds in encouraging the predominant cabernet to come to the fore aromatically, while ensuring a solid, structural palate remains the core strength of the wine. It's a full-bodied McLaren Vale ambassador of the region's respected earthy, muscly style, while light, cedary tannins add background gravitas to its enjoyable juicy vibe."

Winsor's Choice, Winsor Dobbin - APR 2018

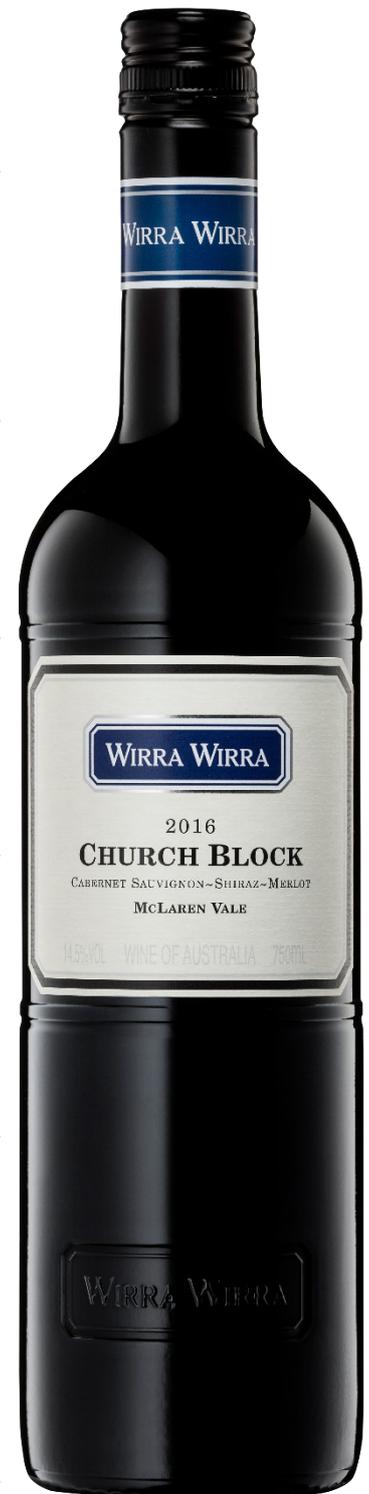
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"Vintage after vintage, Wirra Wirra's Church Block is one of those rare wines that can be guaranteed to deliver both quality and value for money. That's certainly the case with the lip-smackingly good new 2016 release, a blend of McLaren Vale cabernet sauvignon, shiraz and merlot. Church Block was the first wine released by the late Greg Trott under the Wirra Wirra label, back in 1972. Today it maintains its reputation as a big softy; a wine with plenty of flavour and power but equally easy to drink. Matured in French and American oak, it is nonetheless fruit driven; enjoyable in its youth but with the structure to mature over the years. Terrific buying at \$22."

Sunday Telegraph, John Fordham - APR 2018

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"This latest vintage of the McLaren Vale winery's best-known and sough-after label reveals another step up in quality. Winemaker Paul Smith's judicious blending of cabernet sauvignon, shiraz and merlot is in near-perfect balance, its flavours both generous and subtle."



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The Vinsomniac, Stuart Robinson - APR 2018

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### 92 POINTS

Church Block smelling mighty fine, for all its intoxicating mix of Cabernet and Shiraz (plus a dollop of Merlot for good measure). It carries the plummy/damson/Mulberry signature with a generous carry of chocolate and damp earth. Simply good to go now, the fruit well pitched with a fine rub of tannin. Mere suggestion of oak lends middle-weight support, delivering a wine that successfully straddles both generosity and substance. Consistently a cracking release, the 2016 no exception.

Best 100 Australian Wines 2018/19, Matthew Jukes - AUG 2018

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“There is a middle bracket of wines, between the High Street and the starting point of the premium labels which I call miracle-value-wines and Church Block is one of those. Very few epic estates make these wines in the greater wine world, but Australia understands their importance and comes up with a goodly number of stars. These stepping stone, miracle-value-wines are necessary because they give us a route from the High Street to the hero labels. I have described Church Block in the past and the essence of McLaren Vale. Its blend, 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Shiraz, 11% Merlot combined with 70% French and 30% American oak for 18 months is a classic. This is always a reliably delicious wine, but in 2016 it is a particularly plush and succulent Church Block. Polished, honed and glossy, the quality of fruit is clear to see and while it fulfils its brief to reward all-comers in this no man’s land price point dead zone, it does, in fact, over-deliver by a very large margin.”

