

Decanter

Top Australian Wines Made From Italian Grape Varieties

“From Riverland Fiano to McLaren Vale Aglianico, growing numbers of Australian winemakers are experimenting with Italian grape varieties and our expert team has picked out 15 favourites - mostly from the recent Australia Day tastings in London.

Those in-the-know will be aware of Australian winemakers’ experiments with Italian grape varieties over the last several years.

More recently, growing numbers of wines are becoming available – some only at the ‘cellar door’, but others are finding their way overseas – as shown by the tasting lists at the Australia Day tasting organised by Wine Australia in London in January.

Some of the trials started with climate change in mind, but several winemakers have also long held the view that certain Australian climates – Riverland, for example – were already a good natural fit for the sun-loving varieties of southern Italy, in particular. Some winemakers also have ancestral links to Italian regions.

Below, you’ll see examples of how McLaren Vale and Riverland have been explored as a base for varieties from the south of Italy’s ‘boot’, such as Fiano, Aglianico and Nero d’Avola.

Adelaide Hills and Clare and King valleys have emerged as front-runners for varieties found in central and northern Italy, such as Sangiovese, Montepulciano and Nebbiolo, although it is still early days and so difficult to generalise.

Below, Decanter’s tasting team pick out 15 Italian-inspired highlights that are worth tracking down in 2018. Due to the small quantities, availability may be patchy, so if you come across any of these, snap them up.”

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http://www.decanter.com/wine-reviews-tastings/australian-wine-italian-grape-varieties-383478/?utm_source=Direct

Unico Zelo, Riverland, Jade & Jasper Fiano, 2017

Brendan and Laura Carter's cellar door is at their Gumeracha distillery in the Adelaide Hills, but the fruit for this superb Fiano comes from ancient, sandy limestone soils on the lauded Ricca Terra Farm in the Riverland, a specialist in alternative varieties. With 24 hours' skin contact it's beautifully creamy,...

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Unico Zelo, Riverland, The River Nero D'Avola, 2017

Nero d'Avola hails from hot, arid Sicily, and finds the same climes in South Australia's Riverland - not usually championed as a region for high-quality wines. But this is a cracker, with very approachable, sappy fruit, seeing five days on its skins and no oak to maximise its savoury berry...

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UNICO ZELO



2017 Jade & Jasper Fiano
2017 The River Nero



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