

Halliday Wine Companion 2018



DEAKIN ESTATE
WINES OF AUSTRALIA

La La Land
WINES

Keenly anticipated each year by winemakers, collectors and wine lovers worldwide, James Halliday's *Halliday Wine Companion* is recognised as the Australian wine industry benchmark.



“Deakin Estate is owned by Freixenet of Spain. For over 10 years, Dr Phil Spillman steered the development of Deakin Estate, his rather large shoes to be filled by Frank Newman. Frank has had a long and varied career, starting at Penfolds working alongside Max Schubert, then Angove (for more than a decade) and BRL Hardy at Renmano. The very large production, with an enlarged range of brands, is only part of the story: with other labels produced at the estate, the annual crush of 2500 tonnes for Deakin is doubled, as is the production of bottled wines under those other labels. Exports to all major markets.”



4 & ½ Glass Rating

Highly recommended. Wines of great quality, style and character, worthy of a place in any cellar.



La La Land Tempranillo 2015

92 points ★ *Special Value*

Drink by 2020

Has retained excellent crimson-purple hue, the flavours equally surprisingly fresh and juicy, with a seductive lift to the red fruits on the finish. A great success.



4 Glass Rating

Recommended. Above-average quality and with clear varietal expression.



Deakin Estate Shiraz 2016

89 points ★ *Special Value*

Drink by 2019

You wouldn't be unhappy at a barbecue drinking this bright, soft, slurpy shiraz with enough savouriness and spice to match the T-bone.



La La Land Pinot Gris 2016

88 points

Drink by 2019

90% fermented with cultured yeast, 10% wild, matured for 3 months in used French oak. This is an impressive wine, all things considered, with a mix of pear, apple and citrus on the neatly structured and balanced palate.

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Deakin Estate Viognier 2016

88 points ★ *Special Value*

Drink by 2017

Bright straw-green; has abundant stone fruit/apricot and a touch of tropical fruit, but does cloy somewhat on the phenolic fruit.



Deakin Estate Artisan's Blend Shiraz Viognier 2016

88 points ★ *Special Value*

Drink by 2019

Supple, juicy upfront fruit, but not tutti-frutti and the viognier is not obvious. A whisper of tannin and immediately appealing.



La La Land Tempranillo 2016

87 points

Drink by 2018

The wine is juicy fruity with a dash of oak, and an off-dry finish. Easy rider stuff.



3 & ½ Glass Rating

Acceptable. Wines of good commercial quality.



Azahara Shiraz 2015

86 points

Drink by 2018

Light, but bright, colour; has god red fruits shot through with black notes. Ready now or soonish.



Deakin Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2016

86 points ★ *Special Value*

Drink by 2017

Crunchy green apple, touch of citrus, zesty, fresh and clean. No worries.



Deakin Estate Chardonnay 2016

86 points ★ *Special Value*

Drink by 2018

Stone fruit, dried mango and flecks of spice with soft acidity, it's simple but fresh.



Azahara Pinot Grigio 2016

86 points

Drink by 2018

Has more flavour than many warm-grown, generously cropped grigios, albeit with no frills winemaking. The fruits are ripe, the mouthfeel soft, so it's ready to go, and is vegan friendly.