



Katnook

COONAWARRA

Halliday Wine Companion 2019

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.



"Second in size (in the region) to Wynns Coonawarra Estate, Katnook has made significant strides since its acquisition by Freixenet, the Spanish Cava producer; at one time selling most of its grapes, it now sells only 10%. The historic stone woolshed in which the second vintage in Coonawarra (1896) was made, and which has served Katnook since 1980, has been restored. Likewise, the former office of John Riddoch has been restored and is now the cellar door, and the former stables now serve as a function area. Well over half the total estate plantings are cabernet sauvignon and shiraz, with the Odyssey Cabernet Sauvignon and Prodigy Shiraz the icon duo at the top of a multi-tiered production. In March 2018 Freixenet announced that Henkell, the Oetker Group's sparkling wine branch, had acquired 50.67% of Freixenet's shares, creating the world's leading sparkling wine group. In the same month, and by coincidence, Katnook announced that Tim Heath, Cloudy Bay's chief winemaker for the previous 14 years, had taken up the major role at Katnook following the death of long-term incumbent Wayne Stehbens. Exports to all major markets."



5 Glass Rating

Outstanding. Wines of the highest quality, often with a distinguished pedigree.

Katnook Odyssey Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

97 points

Drink by 2044

Matured for 39 months in French and American oak (52% new). This has always been an iconic wine, and the bright crimson colour is a great start, quickly followed by beautifully pitched cassis/blackcurrant fruit and finely shaped tannins in perfect balance. There's not much to say about this wine, so perfect is the balance and mouthfeel.



Katnook Prodigy Shiraz 2014

95 points

Drink by 2039

Although the only obvious difference between this and its Estate sibling is the 20% more new oak, there has to be some fruit and barrel selection. This is in the opulent style consistently made by Katnook for many years, the one gradual change for the better less new oak and less time in barrel.





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Katnook Estate Shiraz 2015

94 points

Drink by 2035

Matured in French and American oak (27% new) for 14 months. A very well made, medium-bodied wine, supple and long with high quality fruit its foundation, although oak had a hand in its evelage. It points the way for Prodigy in coming years.



Katnook The Caledonian Cabernet Shiraz 2016

94 points

Drink by 2036

Clever winemaking. The influence of the American oak was absorbed into the synergy already created by the two varieties, their flavours, and the tannins. A full-bodied wine made to feel deceptively light.



Katnook Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2015

93 points

Drink by 2030

Well-made and ticks all the boxes. The choice of 20% new oak (16% French, 4% American) for 15 months maturation gets the wine off to a good start, and the medium-bodied palate carries on the good work. The tannins are notably soft, the oak integrated, black fruits and black olive tying the parcel.



Katnook Amara Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2016

90 points

Drink by 2030

The varietal character is intense, including the cabernet tannins in splendid control of the palate. Do not buy this unless you've tasted it and promised yourself you'll not taste it again pre-'23 at the earliest.



4 Glass Rating

Recommended. Above-average quality, fault-free and with clear varietal expression

Katnook Estate Merlot 2015

89 points

Drink by 2025

Merlot allowed to stand on its own two feet...a nice wine with plenty of fruit.



Katnook Estate Chardonnay 2016

89 points

Drink by 2022

Far from unscripted, has been wild-fermented and matured for 14 months in French and American oak.





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Katnook Founders Block Shiraz 2016

89 points

Drink by 2022

A neatly put together light to medium-bodied shiraz with good mouthfeel and balance.



Katnook Founder's Block Cabernet Sauvignon 2015

88 points

Drink by 2024

All about the fruit. Curranty flavour with a splash of herbs; no real sign of oak. It's mid-weight with a slight dip to the mid-palate and assertive tannin to close.



Katnook Founder's Block Merlot 2015

88 points

Drink by 2022

Varietal fruit flavour is both the aim and game here, and so it plays out with mulberry, spice and blueberry flavour to the fore. It's soft in general with just enough shape to keep it from feeling blowsy.



Katnook Founder's Block Chardonnay Pinot Noir

87 points

Drink by 2020

60% chardonnay/40% pinot noir...pleasant and easy to enjoy wine at a reasonable price.



Katnook Founder's Block Chardonnay 2016

86 points

Drink by 2020

Peachy but very forward. Unoaked.