



INNOCENT BYSTANDER

2010 SHIRAZ

Review Summary



89 pts “Opaque purple. Pungent aromas of cherry, cassis, smoked meat, olive and black pepper; reminds me of a Rhone wine. Intensely flavored and supple in texture, offering dark fruit and smoky herb qualities and a restrained sweetness. Closes on a spicy note, with good grip and fine-grained tannins.”

Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar
July/August 2012

89 pts “From a cooler terroir, the 2010 Innocent Bystander Shiraz is downright perfumed and exotic, showing loads of leafy herbs, eucalyptus, lavender, peppercorn, and brambly red and black fruits on the nose. Medium bodied and lively on the palate, with juicy acidity, and a firm, tannic spine, this isn’t your typical Aussie Shiraz. It’s loaded with character, will be versatile on the dinner table, and drink well for 5-8 years.”

Jeb Dunnuck, The Rhone Report
March 2012

87 pts “Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2010 Syrah is intensely scented of freshly crushed blackberries, cassis and eucalyptus with suggestions of licorice and powdered cinnamon. Medium-bodied, the palate reveals expressive fruit, a medium level of rounded tannins, medium to high / balanced acidity and a long finish. Drinking nicely now, it should keep through 2015.”

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Advocate
June 2012

87 pts “Smooth, lilting red, offering blueberry and spice flavors that dance through a lively finish.”

Harvey Steiman, Wine Spectator
May 31, 2012

GOLD MEDAL

Sommelier Challenge 2012



Wine to Try

Ray Isle, FoodandWine.com
December 5, 2012

Very Highly Recommended “Raspberry, plums, a hint of Rhône pepper, dark cherries, and a high-toned aroma. This lean and dry red wine has loads of character and food friendliness. It is a project of wine maker Phil Sexton’s successful Giant Steps in Yarra Valley.”

Dan Berger, Vintage Experiences
March 22, 2012

“Made from several fruit sources in Victoria, this Shiraz has a loose conglomeration of flavors all pointing in the direction of cooler-climate Syrah. Floral with violets and rose bush, pepper, smoke and layers of cedar and vanilla-tinged blue fruits, held together with firm acidity and supple tannins, it has quite a few things going on.”

Pamela S. Busch, San Francisco Examiner
February 28, 2013

“People turned off by the super-ripe Shirazes of the world should seek out cool-climate wines like this one; it’s spicy and bright rather than big and jammy.”

Ray Isle, Eatocracy.cnn.com
August 31, 2012

“A man in touch with his feminine side, a dark suit with a purple pinstripe, this stylish example of cool climate Syrah is made with fruit from two cool climate regions - the Yarra Valley and the Pyrenees. Made under Innocent Bystander's overriding philosophy of 'no additions and less is more' the fruit is handled gently and allowed to shine all the way to the bottle. And shine it does, offering beautiful aromas of cherry, redcurrant and spice with wafts of savory and herbal notes as a result of half of the fruit being whole bunch fermented. A seductive, medium-bodied and stylish Syrah to revel in as autumn transitions to winter.”

Andrea Frost, The Melbourne Review
June 2012

“Michael Leunig inspired the label, Phil Sexton the wine, leaving the execution to Sexton’s talented winemaker Steve Flamsted. It’s an inspired triumvirate yielding a Shiraz/Syrah oozing with exotic white pepper, allspice and ripe cherry aromas. While only medium-weight, its palate is stacked full of flavor, the finish a balance of juicy acidity and textured tannins.”

Sydney Morning Herald
May 25, 2012