

## Plexus SGM Overview

By John Duval

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- First vintage 2003
- Eleven vintages made
- Current vintage 2012

Many people were expecting when I left Penfolds, my first release would be small volumes of high end Shiraz. But in a region that boasts the oldest Shiraz, Grenache and Mourvedre vines in the world, I decided to focus on this famous Barossa Valley blend. GSM in category but Plexus is always a SGM blend; ideally 50%, 30% and 20% respectively.

- Shiraz provides the blackberry core structural backbone.
- Old vine, low yielding Grenache (some over 100 years old) provides aromatics and texture.
- Old vine, low yielding Mourvedre (the oldest 115 years old) add savory, spice and earthy notes.

Stylistically I am not aiming for the fruits bombs high alcohol interpretation, but rather Plexus is a respectful, elegant expression of very old Barossa Valley vineyards. 100% barrel maturation in 300 liter hogsheads with only 10% new French oak. While drinking well as a young wine, Plexus does mature well with good cellaring conditions. The first vintage 2003, is now a lovely mature wine showing a complex array of savory and mature berry notes and a generous core of sweet fruit and soft tannins.

2003 – **94 pts (WA), 93 pts (W&S)**  
 2004 – **95 pts (AWC), 93 pts (WA), 91 pts (WS)**  
 2005 – **93 pts (IWC), 92 pts (WA)**  
 2006 – **95 pts (WA), 95 pts (AWC), 92 pts (IWC)**  
 2007 – **93 pts (AWC), 92 pts (IWC)**  
 2008 – **95 pts (AWC), 93+ pts (WA), 93 pts (IWC), 90 pts (WS)**  
 2009 – **96 pts (AWC), 92 pts (IWC), 92 pts (WS)**  
 2010 – **92+ pts (WA), 92 pts (IWC)**  
 2011 – **91 pts (WS), 91 pts (IWC)**