

Times Wine

French inspiration

**Wine: The Sledge Shiraz
Viognier**

Winery: Heydon

**Reviewer: Elin Hogan,
Boho Bar**

MARGARET River shiraz is stepping out of the shadow cast by the well-known red brethren and forging a name for itself as an elegant new world style that gains inspiration from the Northern Rhone Valley in France.

With subtleties that usually disappear into fruit-driven, drink-now shiraz, The Sledge bucks the trend and opens up into a cheeky little number.

Since planting in 1988, George and Mary Heydon have worked fastidiously to cement themselves as a bastion in boutique winemaking in the Wilyabrup region.



Elin Hogan

The Sledge Shiraz Viognier is the culmination of many years' experience, arriving at a youthful yet vibrant interpretation of an old world shiraz from Cote de Rhone.

On first drinking, it becomes obvious that synergy between winemaker and viticulturist can result in phenomenal characteristics.

With deep plum and crimson

hues, The Sledge has an electric bouquet displaying mulberry and dark cherry, with pervasive raspberry and violets.

Once allowed to blossom in the glass underlying star-anise, vanilla, and cinnamon combine with spicy hints to form an all-rounder that will entice the younger player and appease the veteran.

The quality of fruit translates over into the wine, creating a voluptuous palate that is rich, layered and complex.

It displays incredible balance, focus and sophistication with notes of ripe plum, blueberry, cocoa, chocolate and lightly roasted coffee bean interlaced with a touch of white pepper and toasty, savoury oak.

An excellent result, with a long, lingering finish that leaves the mind reeling.

The protracted growing season of 2009 provided ideal ripening conditions, with warm days and cool nights contributing to excellent structure, opulent fruit, and fine tannin.

Viognier skins were used in co-fermentation with estate-grown shiraz leading to the delicate fragrance.

A small amount of American oak has been used to balance a majority of French oak shortened barrel fermentation, providing an elegance that is becoming a trademark of Margaret River shiraz.



To win a bottle of
The Sledge,
send the name of the wine and
your contact details, including your
name and phone number to
win@amrtimes.com.au