



WINEWISE

THE CONSUMER'S WINE GUIDE

February 2014



Page 2 Top Wines of the 2014 Winewise Championship

Page 6 Winewise Championship – State of Origin

Page 9 Winewise Championship Riesling

THE TOP WINES OF THE 2014 WINEWISE CHAMPIONSHIP

The panel, a maximum of six of the following, tasted 480 wines.

Panel Members:

Fran Austin (Delamere Wines, Tasmania)

James Halliday

Lex Howard (Winewise)

Lester Jesberg (Winewise)

Peter Nixon (Dan Murphy's)

Nick O'Leary (Nick O'Leary Wines)

Deb Pearce (Winewise)

Nick Spencer (Eden Road Wine)

David Yeates (Winewise)

To be invited to enter the Championship wines had to have won a gold medal in at least one of the following shows in the twelve months preceding the Championship. Eight exceptional wines, in the opinion of the Chairman, that did not meet the above criterion were also invited to enter.

List of Qualifying Shows

Adelaide Hills Wine Show
Australian Alternative Varieties Wine Show
Barossa Wine Show
Canberra Regional Wine Show
Clare Valley Wine Show
Geelong Wine Show
Gippsland Wine Show
Hunter Valley Wine Show
International Riesling Challenge
International Sweet White Challenge
Limestone Coast Wine Show
Margaret River Wine Show
McLaren Vale Wine Show
Mudgee Wine Show
National Cool Climate Wine Show
National Wine Show
New England Wine Show (Incl. Granite Belt, Qld.)
New South Wales Wine Awards
Orange Region Wine Show
Tasmanian Wine Show
Victorian Wines Show
Wine Show of Western Australia
Yarra Valley Wine Show

All eligible wines were judged in small groups of no more than seven, and ranked in order of preference (as per show trophy tastings) by the judging panel. Where possible, wines were grouped by region and vintage. Here are the top three wines (in order) for each class.



WHITE

Riesling

2008 Richmond Grove Watervale Riesling
2002 Jacob's Creek Riesling
2013 Orlando St Helga Eden Valley Riesling

Semillon

2007 McGuigan Wines Bin 9000 Hunter Semillon
2006 Coolangatta Estate Semillon
2010 First Creek Wines Winemaker's Reserve Hunter Semillon

Sauvignon Blanc

2013 Jarretts of Orange Sauvignon Blanc
2013 Sidewood Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc
2013 Sidewood Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc Cellar Select

Sauvignon Blanc Blends

2013 Next of Kin Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc Semillon (Xanadu)
2012 Xanadu Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc Semillon
2012 Warner Glen Estate Margaret River PBF Sauvignon Blanc Semillon

Chardonnay

2011 Coldstream Hills Reserve Yarra Valley Chardonnay
2012 Penfolds Bin 311 Tumberumba Chardonnay
2011 Xanadu Stevens Road Margaret River Chardonnay

Note: James Halliday did not rank the Coldstream Hills Chardonnay first. Three of the five judges did.

Viognier

2012 Pepper Tree Wines Limited Release Wrattenbully Viognier
2013 Heafod Glen Swan Valley Viognier

Note: Only five viogniers were eligible and only two of those were entered. Both are of Highly Recommended standard. Next year viognier will be part of the Other Dry Whites class.

Other Dry White

2013 Bleasdale Adelaide Hills Pinot Gris
2013 Rutherglen Estates Arneis
2013 Coriole McLaren Vale Fiano

Sweet White

2010 Blue Pyrenees Cellar Door Series Botrytis Riesling
2011 Gramps Botrytis Semillon

2010 Pressing Matters R69 Riesling

Sparkling Wine

2001 Courabyra 805 Tumbarumba Pinot Noir Chardonnay Pinot Meunier

2009 Salinger Vintage Cuvée

2011 Coombe Farm Nellie Melba Blanc de Blancs

RED

Pinot Noir

2012 Wicks Estate Adelaide Hills Pinot Noir

2012 Montalto Teurong Block Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir

2012 Home Hill Kelly's Reserve Pinot Noir

Shiraz

2011 Thomas Wines Elenay Hunter Valley Shiraz

2011 Mandoon Estate Frankland River Reserve Shiraz

2012 Shaw + Smith Adelaide Hills Shiraz

Cabernet Sauvignon

2012 Shingleback The Davey Estate McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon

2012 De Bortoli Estate Grown Yarra Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

2012 Pepperjack Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon

Italian Red Varietals

2012 Coriole McLaren Vale Barbera

2012 Waywood Wines McLaren Vale Montepulciano

2012 Kirrihill Clare Valley Sangiovese

Spanish Red Varietals

2013 Moonrise Estate Tempranillo (Granite Belt, Qld)

2012 Bremerton Wines Special Release Graciano

2012 Eaglerange Estate 3 Daughters Limited Release Tempranillo

Other Red Varietals

2012 Dutschke 80 Block Barossa Merlot

2012 Shingleback Kitchen Garden McLaren Vale Mataro

2011 Silverstream Wines Reserve Cabernet Franc

Bordeaux Blends

2012 Clairault Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot

2011 Rosemount District Traditional Red

2011 Vasse Felix Heytesbury Cabernet Sauvignon Malbec Petit Verdot

Australian Classic Blend

2012 Bleasdale Petrel Reserve (Langhorne Creek)

2012 Anvers Wines Razorback Road Adelaide Hills Shiraz Cabernet

2012 Longview Vineyard Adelaide Hills Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon

Grenache & Blends

2011 Rosemount GSM

2012 Shingleback Red Knot Grenache Shiraz Mourvèdre

2012 Rosemount GSM

Other Red Blends

2012 Maximus McLaren Vale Tempranillo and Garnacha
2012 Mockingbird Hill Clare Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Malbec
2012 Rosemount Nursery Project GMG

Fortified

Penfolds Great Grandfather Rare Tawny
Saltram Show Reserve Rare Tawny
Saltram Mr Pickwick Rare Tawny

You'll receive much more information from the 2014 Winewise Championship over the next few weeks, including 480 reviews.

CURLY FLAT PINOT NOIRS

Although they were not eligible for the 2014 Winewise Championship, two fascinating pinot noirs came my way during the hectic weeks prior to the event.

The tales of 2011 vintage woe spread quickly from central and highland Victoria. However we've pointed out the folly of vintage generalisations before, and these two Curly Flat Pinot Noirs from the Macedon Ranges support that view.

2011 Curly Flat Pinot Noir There's a hint of whole bunch complexity here, but the main feature of the bouquet is fresh raspberry. The palate isn't at the big end of the pinot noir spectrum, but it definitely has length, and the fine, savoury tannins are impressive and ripe. Cellar 2-4 years. **Highly Recommended**

2011 Curly Flat "The Curly" Pinot Noir This wine has a little more stems complexity, and there's impressive fruit drive on the fine palate which features silky tannins. It will also benefit from cellaring. **Highly Recommended**

Well done Phillip Moraghan. This pair of wines add even more "cred" to an ever-growing reputation.

Lester Jesberg

<http://www.curlyflat.com/>

Winewise is On-line only - \$AUD35.00 per year

Telephone 61 (0) 412148577

Direct transfer BSB 082902 Acc 617374440

In the case of direct transfer, please include your name in the transfer details and then email your name to winwisesubscriptions@gmail.com

WINEWISE CHAMPIONSHIP – STATE OF ORIGIN

State against state? I guess it's been so since 1901. Here are the top three in key categories for each state. The Championship winners are shown in **red**.

- Note: New South Wales includes the Australian Capital Territory.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Riesling

2013 Ravensworth Riesling
2013 Mount Majura Vineyard Riesling
2013 Clonakilla Riesling

Semillon

2007 McGuigan Wines Bin 9000 Semillon
2006 Coolangatta Estate Semillon
2010 First Creek Wines Winemakers Reserve Semillon

Chardonnay

2012 Penfolds Bin 311 Tumbarumba Chardonnay
2012 Eagles Rest Dam Block Chardonnay
2011 Ross Hill Pinnacle Series Chardonnay

Shiraz

2011 Thomas Wines Elenay Shiraz
2012 Mount Majura Vineyard Shiraz
2011 Tulloch Pokolbin Dry Red

VICTORIA

Chardonnay

2011 Coldstream Hills Reserve Chardonnay
2011 Montalto Hawkins Hill Chardonnay
2011 Coldstream Hills Deer Farm Chardonnay

Pinot Noir

2012 Montalto Teurong Block Pinot Noir
2012 Domaine Chandon Barrel Selection Pinot Noir
2012 del Rios of Mount Anakie Pinot Noir

Shiraz

2012 Sanguine Estate Progeny Heathcote Shiraz
2010 Sanguine Estate Heathcote Shiraz
2010 Yarrowood Barrel Select Shiraz

TASMANIA

Riesling

2013 Leo Buring Leopold Riesling
2012 Pressing Matters R9 Riesling
2012 Riversdale Estate Cygnus Riesling

Chardonnay

2011 Dawson & James Chardonnay
2012 Riversdale Estate Crater Chardonnay
2010 Dawson & James Chardonnay

Pinot Noir

2012 Home Hill Kelly's Reserve Pinot Noir
2011 Home Hill Estate Pinot Noir
2012 Kelvedon Estate Pinot Noir

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Riesling

2008 Richmond Grove Watervale Riesling
2002 Jacob's Creek Riesling
2013 Orlando St Helga Eden Valley Riesling

Chardonnay

2012 Wolf Blass White Label Chardonnay
2012 Lobethal Road Bacchant Chardonnay
2012 Peter Lehmann Hill and Valley Chardonnay

Pinot Noir

2012 Wicks Estate Pinot Noir
2012 Riposte The Sabre Pinot Noir
2010 Riposte The Sabre Pinot Noir

Shiraz

2012 Shaw + Smith Adelaide Hills Shiraz
2011 Shingleback The Gate Shiraz
2010 Sons Of Eden Romulus Shiraz

Cabernet Sauvignon

2012 Shingleback The Davey Estate Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Pepperjack Cabernet Sauvignon
2009 Malone Cabernet Sauvignon

Classic Australian Blend (predominantly cabernet & shiraz)

2012 Bleasdale Petrel Reserve
2012 Anvers Wines Razorback Road Shiraz Cabernet
2012 Longview Vineyard Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Riesling

2012 Ducketts Mill Riesling
2013 Duke's Magpie Hill Riesling
2013 Bellarmine Riesling Dry

Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc

2013 Next of Kin Sauvignon Blanc Semillon (Xanadu)

2012 Xanadu Sauvignon Blanc Semillon
2012 Warner Glen Estate PBF Sauvignon Blanc Semillon

Chardonnay

2011 Xanadu Stevens Road Chardonnay
2012 Windows Estate Chardonnay
2012 Xanadu Reserve Chardonnay

Shiraz

2011 Mandoon Estate Frankland River Reserve Shiraz
2012 Cow Bombie Margaret River Shiraz
2011 Juniper Estate Margaret River Shiraz

Cabernet Sauvignon

2011 Sittella Berns Reserve Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon
2010 Juniper Estate Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Grace Farm Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon

Bordeaux Blends (predominantly cabernet & merlot)

2012 Clairault Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot

2011 Vasse Felix Heytesbury Cabernet Sauvignon Malbec Petit Verdot
2011 Mandoon Estate Cabernet Merlot

Queensland is missing from the above because so few wines were eligible for the Championship. However, we must pay tribute to three wines which are listed in alphabetical order rather than order of preference.

2012 Lucas Estate Shiraz
2013 Moonrise Estate Tempranillo
2013 Symphony Hill Barrel Fermented Gewürztraminer

All three wines hail from the Granite Belt region, of which Stanthorpe is the major population centre. This is very much an area on the rise, and it is most definitely worthy of your attention.

WINEWISE CHAMPIONSHIP

RIESLING

Note: **Os** = Outstanding
HR = Highly Recommended
R = Recommended
Ag = Agreeable
Ac = Acceptable
Un = Unacceptable

Excellent value wines in purple.

Judged by: Fran Austin, James Halliday, Lester Jesberg, Peter Nixon & Deb Pearce

2012-13 Tasmanian Riesling

2013 Leo Buring Leopold Riesling A classic example of dry Tasmanian riesling. It's a high acid style with lemony and slatey overtones, and it verges on being austere. (\$44.00) **HR**

2012 Pressing Matters R9 Riesling An intense yet restrained and aromatic style with hints of citrus. There's a suggestion of sweetness which is neutralised by racy acidity. (\$33.00) **HR**

2012 Riversdale Estate Cygnus Riesling This is an impressive citrus/floral riesling with a long, beautifully balanced, dry palate. (\$28.00) **HR**

2012 Richard Meyman Wines Waseca Riesling There are hints of Rheingau-like aromatics here, and the long palate finishes with crisp acidity. (\$22.00) **HR**

A classy foursome indeed, with very little between them. Regardless of sub region Tasmania produces rieslings with comparatively high acidity. Some, like the Leo Buring, are made bone dry. This style can only be successful if there is considerable fruit intensity. That is indeed the case with all four wines.

2013 Clare Riesling (Part 1)

2013 Leo Buring Leonay Watervale Riesling Looking for a riesling that exemplifies what Clare is all about? Look no further. The lime blossom, intense fruit and mouth-watering acidity are all here. This wine is built for cellaring. (\$35.00) **Os**

<http://www.wineboxwarehouse.com.au/White-Wine/Riesling/Leo-Buring-Premium-Regional-Leonay-Watervale-Riesling-2013>

2013 Koppamurra Clare Valley Riesling The familiar Clare lime blossom shows through in this classy riesling. The lively palate is long and satisfying. (\$19.50) **HR**

<http://www.koppamurrawines.com.au/>

2013 Leo Buring Leonay Mature Release Watervale Riesling A richly flavoured limey riesling with acidity that begs for cellaring. Top notch. (Not yet released) **HR**

2013 Jim Barry The Lodge Hill Dry Riesling Just a little forward in style, but it offers plenty of genuine varietal and regional flavour supported by fresh acidity. Short term. (\$18.00) **R**

2013 Clare Riesling (Part 1)



2013 Leo Buring Clare Valley Dry Riesling This is a text book example of what Clare riesling should be. Do we need to say more? Enjoy now and/or cellar up to ten years. (\$16.00) **Os**
<http://www.boccaccio.com.au/buy/leo-buring-clare-valley-riesling-2013/LQ06200>

2013 Annie's Lane Riesling A rich limey style with an excellent acid line. Ideal short-term drinking for riesling enthusiasts. (\$12.00) **HR**
http://www.jimscellars.com.au/_product/view-product/annies-lane-riesling?id=3fffd8d8a8cc2c5bc6698c5f2c0d6b2f&key=vWoE7p&sessid=9e6b81f503579385b72f7e068022b3a9

2013 Mocandunda Vineyard Riesling Shows a little advanced character, but certainly delivers plenty of fresh genuine flavour. (Not yet released) **R**

2013 Mitchell Watervale Riesling Nicely limey, with complex, almost slately, overtones. It has good linear acidity and should develop well. (\$18.00) **R**

2012 Clare Riesling

2012 Paulett Polish Hill River Riesling This is a rich, flavour-packed riesling showing all the attributes of a great Clare vintage. The long, powerful fruit is supported by just-right acidity. (\$20.00) **Os**
http://www.jimscellars.com.au/_product/view-product/pauletts-polish-hill-riesling?id=e991f88d2e092dbe20f4b4b3ef8dc030&key=sdBnr6

2012 Mockingbird Hill Clare Valley Reserve Riesling There's no missing the Clare characteristics in this rich, racy riesling. The excellent acid backbone is a big plus. (\$14.00) **HR**
<http://search.cellarmasters.com.au/search?w=mockingbird%20hill%20riesling&asug=>

2012 Richmond Grove Watervale Riesling This wine is a regional classic that will evolve into something very special. No further description necessary. (\$20.00) **HR**
http://www.jimscellars.com.au/_product/view-product/richmond-grove-watervale-riesling?id=86dc332b095c96ca976c1896127a5d65&key=sdBnr6

2012 Tim Adams Riesling This is a typical Tim Adams riesling. In a vintage where most of the wines are flashy show-offs, Tim's is restrained and classic, demanding cellaring. (\$20.00) **HR**
http://www.jimscellars.com.au/_product/view-product/tim-adams-riesling?id=bf45434230bc519f37c53cf3e76167cb&key=4Oe7ki

2012 Taylors St Andrews Riesling A big, full-on riesling in which the ripe citrus characteristics merge with a hint of tropical fruit. A delicious wine to enjoy in the short term. (\$35.00) **HR**

The top wines of the previous three brackets were then tasted off against one another. It was a very close contest in which the two Leo Buring wines scored two first votes and the Paulett polled one.

Clare Riesling Final

2013 Leo Buring Clare Valley Riesling (Winner)
2013 Leo Buring Leonay Riesling
2012 Paulett Riesling

It's very easy to see why the Clare Valley has long been considered to be one of Australia's finest riesling regions.



2012-13 Eden Valley & Adelaide Hills Riesling



2013 Orlando St Helga Eden Valley Riesling The lime character shown by the rieslings of Clare is discernible to some extent here, but is over-ridden by florals. Length and fineness are the major strengths of the dry, beautifully balanced palate. Cellar. (Not yet released but will be under \$20.00) **Os**

2013 McLeans Farm Reserve Eden Valley Riesling There's an almost-ethereal quality to this very expressive floral riesling. The palate is purity itself, built on a long acid spine. (\$16.00) **Os**
http://www.cellarmasters.com.au/wines/Mclean's-Farm-Reserve-W4033_Y51_Q_Y5_13.aspx

2013 Peter Lehmann Wigan Riesling Although it's comparatively closed at the moment, there's a lot below the surface of this riesling. The long, dry palate has all the intensity and acidity required for long term cellaring. A sleeper. (Not yet released) **Os**

2013 Leo Buring Leonay Mature Release Eden Valley Riesling Surprisingly full flavoured and spicy. Nevertheless there's enough acidity to support cellaring. (Not yet released) **HR**

2013 Paracombe Wines Holland Creek Riesling Very reserved on the nose and the palate is very delicate. Needs time to build up. (\$20.00) **R**

2013 Longview Iron Knob Riesling Strong Granny Smith apple aroma. The palate is fresh but needs more weight. (\$19.50) **R**

2013 Forbes Wine Company Eden Valley Riesling Very closed up, showing itself grudgingly at the moment. (\$20.00) **R**

2013 Great Southern & Geographe Riesling

2013 Duke's Magpie Hill Riesling The combination of power and restraint in this wine is captivating. Delicate floral aromas carry through to an impressive dry, minerally palate. Cellar five years at least. (\$27.00) **Os**

<http://www.dukesvineyard.com/orders.html>

2013 Bellarmine Riesling Dry Pronounced passionfruit and citrus aromas signal a rich palate. The abundant fruit is supported by excellent acidity. (\$24.00) **HR**

2013 Rockcliffe Single Site Riesling This is a fresh floral/lime style with a stylish dry, linear palate. Cellar this one. (\$28.00) **HR**

2013 Talisman Riesling A fresh, slightly grassy riesling with good weight of fruit. Short term. (\$20.00) **R**

2013 Abbey Creek Riesling The palate offers generous citrus-like flavour and lively acidity, but the nose is slightly dull.

2012 Great Southern Riesling

2012 Ducketts Mill Riesling No doubt about it, this is the type of riesling that drives the reputation of Great Southern onwards. It's racy, steely, delicate and, at the same time intensely varietal. (Not yet released, but likely to be about \$17.00) **Os**

2012 Arcadia Wines Riesling Slightly advanced, but there's plenty of varietal flavour. Drink over the next couple of years. (Not yet released) **R**

2012 Abbey Creek Riesling Just a little funky on the nose, but it delivers the goods on a long dry palate. **R**

Then came the clash between two exceptional wines for the honour of best Western Australian riesling.

Western Australian Riesling Final

2012 Ducketts Mill Riesling (Winner)

2013 Duke's Magpie Hill Riesling

2012-13 Canberra Dist & Southern Highlands Riesling

2013 Ravensworth Riesling Wow! Three judges (including the chairman) for the Ravensworth and two for the Mount Majura. The Ravensworth is delicate, fine and racy, with lingering lemony varietal flavour. It's a ripper! (\$20.00) **Os**

<https://www.wineboss.com.au/Order.aspx?ref=mkv&wsrsrc=mkv>

2013 Mount Majura Vineyard Riesling Even though grown on a completely different Canberra district site from the Ravensworth, there are distinct similarities. This wine is fragrantly lemony, dry and long, backed up by cleansing acid. Enjoyable now, but has great potential. (\$27.00) **Os**

<http://www.mountmajura.com.au/>

2013 Clonakilla Riesling A marvellously delicate, perfumed riesling which is almost fragile. Picture very fine glass blown into a particularly graceful shape. It's delicate, but not weak. Cellar 5-10 years. (\$27.00) **Os**

<http://www.princewinestore.com.au/Product/tabid/60/438788/Clonakilla-Riesling-2013>

- *There may not be much riesling made in the Canberra district but, at its best, it matches Australia's finest.*

2012 Tertini Riesling There's no lack of varietal flavour, but the phenolic grip is just little too strong. However, if you're a fan of Alsace rieslings you'll enjoy this wine from Bowral. (\$30.00) **R**

2013 McKellar Ridge Riesling Lacks a little freshness and the flavour trails off on the finish. (\$22.00) **Ag**

2013 Shaw Vineyard Estate Riesling Too developed, showing some volatile acidity. (\$22.50) **Ac**

2008-2011 Riesling



2008 Richmond Grove Watervale Riesling What a gem of a mature riesling this is. The nose suggests limes and buttered toast, and the acid-fresh palate is prodigiously long. (Not available) **Os**

2009 Paulett Aged Release Polish Hill River Riesling A splendid example of seamlessly merged maturity and freshness. This riesling is beginning to drink superbly. (Not available) **Os**

2008 Paulett Aged Release Riesling Polish Hill River Riesling Another cracker of a riesling from Pauletts. It seems to be drinking at its peak, yet the underlying acidity promises still more. (\$50.00) **Os**
<http://www.paulettwines.com.au/>

2008 McGuigan Shortlist Riesling The nose is quite honeyed, but the palate is remarkably fresh and packed with limey, toasty mature riesling flavour. (Not available) **HR**

2008 Wolf Blass White Label Riesling The limes and honey of the bouquet come together on an impressively fresh palate. This wine is drinking beautifully. (Not available) **HR**

2011 Pressing Matters R0 Riesling Very perfumed, dry, long and delicate. A fine example of Tasmanian riesling that has years ahead of it. (\$33.00) **HR**

2001-2007 Riesling

2002 Jacob's Creek Riesling Wonderfully fresh yet mature. There are florals, honey, citrus fruits and more. This is a marvellous 11 year old riesling. (Not available) **Os**

2005 Paulett Aged Release Polish Hill River Riesling Australian riesling doesn't come much better than this. The 2005 has reached a very high peak that it is likely to hold for quite a while. (Not available) **Os**

2004 Mitchelton Blackwood Park Riesling We tasted this riesling from a 750ml bottle rather than the magnum quoted, and it was in fine form – hints of golden syrup, toast and marmalade – with marvellous underlying freshness. (\$60.00 (magnum) from Winestar)) **HR**

2004 Jim Barry The Florita Riesling An impressive, toasty riesling that is now in full cry. The Clare Valley in all its glory. (\$50.00) **HR**

2007 Pressing Matters R0 Riesling Remarkably pale in colour and backward in flavour. A baby. Lime with hints of guava. Long, dry and fine. (Not available) **HR**

2001 Wolf Blass White Label Riesling This classic wine is approaching the end of its life. Although there's considerable toasty maturity, the palate is beginning to dry out. (Not available) **R**

Crunch time! And the winner is,

RIESLING FINAL

2008 Richmond Grove Watervale Riesling (**Medallion Winner**)

2002 Jacob's Creek Riesling

2013 Orlando St Helga Eden Valley Riesling

2013 Ravensworth Riesling

2013 Leo Buring Clare Valley Riesling

2013 Leo Buring Leopold Riesling

2012 Ducketts Mill Riesling

What a joy it was to taste this select group of Australian rieslings.