



WINEWISE

THE CONSUMER'S WINE GUIDE

NOVEMBER 2014



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Outstanding	★★★★★	97-100
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2014 WINEWISE SMALL VIGNERON AWARDS

BEST OF CABERNET SAUVIGNON

A classy “interloper” from Orange, New South Wales took the prize, but the traditional regions, especially Margaret River, were strongly represented. Again there is good value to be had.

★★★★



2012 Ross Hill Tom & Harry Cabernet Sauvignon Sheer purity of varietal expression won the judges over. Redcurrant and blackcurrant merge beautifully with a hint of leaf. The medium-weight palate is finely structured and focused, with excellent freshness and persistence of flavour. (\$25.00)

Note: This wine also won a trophy at the Orange Regional Wine Show which was judged last month.

<http://rosshillwines.businesscatalyst.com/family-series>

2012 Bowen Estate Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon This is a cabernet of substance, but that doesn't mean it lacks varietal character. There's plenty of cassis aroma and flavour which is very fresh and appealing. The finish is firm, but the palate is balanced. Ideal for cellaring. Cork. (\$32.00)

2011 Higher Plane Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon A vibrant, intense cabernet with all the attributes – cassis, mint and faint leaf. The oak is a little prominent, but a few years is all this wine needs to shine. (\$50.00)

2012 Terra Felix Yarra Valley Cabernet Sauvignon This is a very impressive cabernet in the classic Bordeaux-inspired style, showing hints of leaf and dried herbs. A wine of fineness and balance. (\$45.00)

2012 Mandoon Research Station Margaret River Cabernet Rich, powerful and strongly varietal, with impressive length and structure. Another cellaring style. (\$45.00)

2012 Chalkers Crossing Hilltops Cabernet Sauvignon Plenty of dark, ripe varietal fruit backed up by an excellent tannin structure. Needs a couple of years to soften. (\$30.00)



2011 Knotting Hill Vineyard Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Tightly structured and yet to fully open, but it has attractive choc-mint overtones to enhance the blackcurrant varietal flavour. (\$38.00)

2012 Montara Grampians Cabernet Sauvignon An attractive cassis/leaf style that is fresh and well structured. Give it 2-3 years for best results. (\$25.00)

2010 Juniper Estate Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Plenty of firm structure, but there's flavour to match. The fresh nose of cassis with hints of black olive bodes well. (\$60.00)

2013 After Hours Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Shows good varietal character but is just a little lean. (\$22.00)

2013 Dowie Doole McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon A big, fresh plummy style which shows too much oak. (\$25.00)

2012 Shaw Vineyard Estate Canberra District Cabernet Sauvignon Fresh blackcurrant/blackberry coulis with a hint of leaf. Nicely structured. (\$25.00)

2012 Squitchy Lane Yarra Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Although some oak shows through, this is a very attractive spicy, red fruits cabernet with a fine, firm structure. (\$35.00)

2010 Higher Plane Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon A richly flavoured, firm cabernet with choc-mint overtones. (\$45.00)

2011 Hutton Triptych Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon A big, rich, savoury cabernet with its share of oak. (\$50.00)

2013 Robert Stein Reserve Mudgee Cabernet Sauvignon Excellent varietal fruit. Long and firm, with a fairly oaky finish. (\$50.00)

2012 Vintners Ridge Estate Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Plenty of both blackcurrant and mint. A firm style that needs some time. (\$28.00)



2012 Grove Estate Partners Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

2010 Mount Avoca Cabernet Sauvignon

2011 Juniper Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

2011 Mandoon Research Station Cabernet

2011 Heafod Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

2013 Two Rivers Rocky Crossing Cabernet Sauvignon

2012 Anvers Langhorne Creek Cabernet Sauvignon

2009 Saracen Estates Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

2012 Mount Avoca Cabernet Sauvignon

2012 Rojomama Red N1 Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Flints of Coonawarra Gammons Crossing Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Redman Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Knotting Hill Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Warner Glen Estate Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Credaro Family Estate Cabernet Sauvignon
2008 Zarephath Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Ross Hill Pinnacle Cabernet Sauvignon



2012 Glenwillow Bendigo Cabernet Sauvignon
2007 Willespie Reserve Old School Cabernet Sauvignon
2010 Windance Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon
2010 Mount Avoca Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon
2011 Juniper Crossing Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Burk Salter Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Bundaleer Volunteer Cabernet Sauvignon
2010 Freeman Altura Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon
2013 Mandoon Research Station Cabernet
2011 TeAro Estate Pump Jack Cabernet Sauvignon
2011 Terra Felix The Lucky Country Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Koppamurra Wrattenbully Barrel Selection Cabernet
2012 Balgownie Estate Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Ros Ritchie Cabernet Sauvignon
2013 Harcourt Valley Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon
2010 Terra Felix, The Lucky Country McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon
2011 Morgan Simpson Row 42 Cabernet Sauvignon
2010 Longview Devil's Elbow Cabernet Sauvignon
2010 Patrick of Coonawarra Estate Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Kersbrook Hill Cabernet Sauvignon
2009 Saracen Estates Cabernet Sauvignon
2010 Yarrh Cabernet Sauvignon
2011 Hedberg Hill Cabernet Sauvignon
2013 Cargo Road Wines Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Brangayne of Orange Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Albert River Wines Cabernet Sauvignon
2012 Koonara Angel's Peak Cabernet Sauvignon

Cabernet Sauvignon is still doing well in some parts of Australia. However in many cases we encounter wines that miss the point of classic cabernet, either by showing excessive ripeness and tannins or by being too lean, green and minty. Clearly, cabernet sauvignon is far less tolerant than shiraz when it comes to the location in which it is grown.

FRANKLAND ESTATE RIESLING

I first visited Frankland Estate in its very early days. Even then it was different. Its isolation and individuality translated to its wines, particularly riesling, and to this day it has a style that is unique in Australia.

It leans more towards Alsace than it does towards Clare or Eden Valley. Even its nearest neighbours Mount Barker and Porongurup produce styles that differ markedly from those of Frankland Estate, being more delicate, often showing a certain grassiness.

Why do I choose Alsace for comparison? First, the wines show obvious phenolics (tannin grip) – common in Alsatian rieslings but not in Australian. Second there is (I assume deliberately) a cutback in primary fruit in favour of complexity.

Years of experience told me that putting Frankland Estate riesling into current vintage line-ups for the panel was almost a waste of time because they always struggled against the mainstream wines that offered much more primary fruit.. This time I gave them a few months to settle down and then tasted them over a four day period. As I suspected they improved after opening and were at their best after about two days. I kept them in the refrigerator between tastings.



FRANKLAND ESTATE

2013 Frankland Estate Isolation Ridge Vineyard Riesling

Very Alsace-like – citrus with slight development and chalky/minerally overtones. The palate is bone-dry, finishing with steely acidity. The austerity will be a challenge for some but it will suit the widely-tasted riesling purist. (\$35.00) ★★★

2013 Frankland Estate Poison Hill Vineyard Riesling

This wine was quite dull on opening, but found some lemony aromatics after 24 hours. There's an underlying earthy/minerally character to both nose and palate. (\$30.00) ★★★

2013 Frankland Estate Netley Road Vineyard Riesling

Shows more developed character than the other two, but the palate came up after a couple of days, showing apple and lemony flavours with good acidity. A hard wine to get to know. (\$30.00) ★★★

Lester Jesberg

HOBART WINE SHOW

I had the considerable pleasure of chairing judging panels at the 2014 Royal Hobart international Wine Show last week. My particular responsibilities were cabernet sauvignon, premium sparkling wine and sauvignon blanc, and I'm delighted with the results. All the trophy winners (below) thoroughly deserved their gold medals, and I strongly commend them to you. The best cellaring style is the Deep Woods Cabernet.

I'll do some cherry-picking of the wines I tasted, describing them in more detail in the next bulletin.

Best Chardonnay 2013 Robert Oatley Finisterre Margaret River Chardonnay

Best Riesling 2014 Gatt High Eden Riesling

Best Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Watershed Wines Senses Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc

Best Varietal White other than Riesling, Chardonnay or Sauvignon Blanc The Wine Society Premium Selection 2013 Tyrrell's Hunter Valley Semillon

Best Sweet Wine – Unfortified 2011 Craigow Botrytis Riesling

Best White Wine in Show 2013 Robert Oatley Finisterre Margaret River Chardonnay

Best Sparkling Wine 2002 House of Arras EJ Carr Late Disgorged

Best Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Deep Woods Estate Margaret River Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

Best Shiraz 2013 Best's Great Western Bin 1 Shiraz

Best Pinot Noir 2012 Villa Maria Estate Cellar Selection Marlborough Pinot Noir

Best Blended Red 2012 Yalumba The Scribbler Barossa Cabernet Shiraz

Best Varietal Red Wine, other than Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon or Shiraz 2014 Serafino Bellissimo Montepulciano

Best Red Wine in Show 2012 Deep Woods Estate Margaret River Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

Best Fortified Wine Morris Old Premium Rare Liqueur Topaque

Best Individual Vineyard Wine 2012 Home Hill Estate Pinot Noir

Best Tasmanian White Wine 2012 Stefano Lubiana Estate
Chardonnay

Best Tasmanian Red Wine 2012 Home Hill Estate Pinot Noir

Best Tasmanian Sparkling Wine 2002 House of Arras EJ Carr
Late Disgorged

Best Tasmanian Wine 2002 House of Arras EJ Carr Late
Disgorged

Most successful Tasmanian Exhibitor Bream Creek Vineyard

Most Successful Exhibitor De Bortoli Wines Pty Ltd

Chairman's Trophy for Best Wine Show 2013 Robert Oatley
Finisterre Margaret River Chardonnay

TASTINGS

2014 Vickery Watervale Riesling This wine is the result of a collaboration between legendary winemaker John Vickery and Phil Lehmann. It's a pure, delicate, floral style with great linearity and a steely acid backbone. It certainly needs a few years to build some richness, and it has all the attributes required. (\$20.00) ★★★★★
<http://www.nicks.com.au/2014-vickery-watervale-riesling>

2013 Kerrigan + Berry Mount Barker Great Southern Riesling A tightly-knit cellaring style showing floral and lime aromatics. The palate is long, but tight and restrained, finishing with racy acidity. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

2013 Deen de Bortoli Vat 8 Shiraz Looking for a casual barbecue wine for \$120 a dozen? Look no further. This red is fresh, varietal, well made and ready to go, underlining the great work done by the De Bortoli Bilbul team. (\$10.00) ★★★
<http://www.jimscellars.com.au/product/view-product/deen-de-bortoli-vat-shiraz?id=18028d9313ae0578304877c94db67a82&key=oLzdGL&sessid=1e39a30508b71918a56a68afe6793d6b>

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