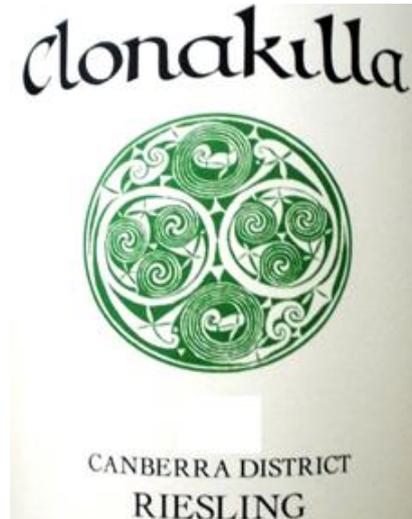


## RECENTLY TASTED

**T**he past few weeks have been busy ones. The build-up to the Small Vigneron Awards continues, and there are plenty of current releases to taste. Here's a range of dry whites with some rosés and sparklers as well.

### Riesling



**2015 Clonakilla Riesling** The Canberra district remains under-rated for riesling despite the sterling efforts of a few key producers. This wine may set a new standard for the region. It's as pure as the driven snow. The classic regional lemon sherbet aroma wafts from the glass and the palate is long and precise, delivering a marvellous acid-driven finish. (Not yet released, but expect to pay around \$30.00) ★★★★★  
<http://www.clonakilla.com.au/cellar-door/>

**2015 Seppelt Drumborg Riesling** This is a very fragrant wine with a “slatey” character often encountered in the rieslings of the Mosel. The palate is very “lime-juicy”, finishing with steely acidity which is balanced by 7.5 gm/litre residual sugar, resulting in a lively dryness. This is a pure riesling of exceptional quality and cellaring potential. (\$25.00) ★★★★★  
<http://www.winestyleonline.com.au/seppelt-drumborg-vineyard-riesling-2014568693.html>

**2014 Henschke Julius Eden Valley Riesling** What a delightful expression of Eden Valley riesling this is! It's reserved yet intense, with aromas of flowers and a linear citrus palate. Superbly racy and dry. (\$28.00) ★★★★★  
[http://www.aussiewines.com.au/wine\\_Growing\\_Regions.php?pid=2491&page=324&s=&f=&wines=SouthAustralia](http://www.aussiewines.com.au/wine_Growing_Regions.php?pid=2491&page=324&s=&f=&wines=SouthAustralia)

**2010 Pewsey Vale Museum Reserve The Contours Eden Valley Riesling** Five years is often an ideal drinking age for any high quality white or red wine. Sure, many will improve well past that stage, but at five years of age any wine will at least begin to show some form. By holding back this riesling Yalumba has done us all a favour. It's lost the acidic edges of extreme youth and the flavour has taken on a faintly honeyed character without totally losing its primary charm. If you don't "get" riesling, I suggest you try this one. If you do "get" it, you'll agree it's a bargain. (Not yet released but RRP is \$34.00) ★★★★★☆

**2015 Kerrigan + Berry Mount Barker Great Southern Riesling** Quite restrained, but limey, with that touch of grassiness often found in WA rieslings. The palate is intense, long and dry, finishing with lip-smacking acidity. Cellar for 3-5 years at least. (\$26.00) ★★★★★☆  
<http://www.hayshedhill.com.au/view/cellar-new>

**2015 Pewsey Vale Eden Valley Riesling** Another little gem adding to a long line of wines under one of Australia's most famous labels. This one has the classic "slatey" Eden Valley aroma together with floral and citrus inputs. This is a beautifully made wine typifying one of our most treasured styles. (\$17.00) ★★★★★☆  
<http://www.boccaccio.com.au/buy/pewsey-vale-eden-valley-riesling-2015/LQ07530>

**2014 Mesh Eden Valley Riesling** Ripe lime aromas with a whiff of the tropics. It's quite full-flavoured for an Eden Valley riesling but the acidity is nicely steely. Good drinking. (\$25.00) ★★★★★

**2015 Ravensworth Riesling** Clonakilla co-winemaker Bryan Martin, as usual, puts a stamp of individuality on this (and his other) wines. The vibrantly lemony nose leads to a fullish, acid-fresh palate with a phenolic edge and lees influence. It's a very rewarding drink that owes more to the rusticity of Alsace than the precision of the Mosel. (\$25.00) ★★★★★

**2014 Catlin The Molly Mae Clare Valley Riesling** There's an Alsace-like fascination about this riesling. The palate is intense and bone-dry with low level phenolics and a refreshing acid finish. (Sold out) ★★★★★

**2013 Catlin Dry Grown Clare Valley Riesling** An intense limey riesling. There's a faint hint of kerosene aroma which cautions against long term cellaring, but the richness of flavour, combined with lively acidity, makes this wine a good drink now. (\$30.00) ★★★★★☆

**2015 Elderton Eden Valley Riesling** A fairly forward, limey riesling with a lively flavour-packed palate. Short term drinking. (\$24.00) ★★★★★☆

**2014 Brangayne of Orange Riesling** There's plenty of citrus aroma and flavour here, but the palate shows some coarseness, although the acid lifts it. (\$22.00) ★★★

**2014 Mr Riggs Watervale Riesling** A fresh, perfumed, ready to drink riesling with a hint of balanced residual sugar and a slight phenolic grip. (\$18.00) ★★★

## Sauvignon Blanc & Blends



**2014 Terre à Terre Wrattenbully Sauvignon Blanc** Here we have a rarity – a sauvignon blanc that is still on the improve more than a year after vintage. It's comparatively complex and textural as a result of barrel fermentation, but retains its gooseberry/grass varietal character. (\$32.00)

★★★★☆

<http://www.eastendcellars.com.au/category-list/white-wine/terre-a-terre-wrattenbully-sauvignon-blanc-2014995904.html>

**2015 Grosset Clare Valley/Adelaide Hills Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc** A fresh white with plenty of depth. The grassy/lantana blossom nose is pristine, and the impressive flavour is backed up by structure and acidity. (\$35.00) ★★★★★

**2014 Catlin Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc** An impressive sauvignon blanc which is greatly enhanced by skilful barrel work. The aromas and flavours are in the gooseberry/tropical fruit range and zippy acidity plays a key role. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

**2015 Shaw + Smith Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc** If you can't abide stridently grassy, herbaceous sauvignon blanc, take heart. While it's strongly varietal, this release of one of Australia's truly popular wines is crammed with gooseberry, passionfruit and grapefruit aromas and flavours. Don't wait. Drink it while it's at its freshest. (\$24.00) ★★★★★

**2014 Hay Shed Hill Block 1 Margaret River Semillon Sauvignon Blanc** A mango/tropical fruit style with oak that is a little too prominent, although the palate offers plenty of flavour and balanced firmness. (\$30.00) ★★★★☆

## Chardonnay

**2014 Shaw + Smith Adelaide Hills Chardonnay** Restraint is the key factor here. Although white peach, grapefruit and barrel ferment nuttiness show on the nose, nothing is at full volume. The long, textural palate is acid-fresh, needing time to fill. It's enjoyable now but needs 2-3 years to be in full voice. (\$40.00) ★★★★★☆

<http://www.winestar.com.au/shaw-smith-m3-vineyard-chardonnay-2014>

**2014 West Cape Howe Styx Gully Mount Barker Chardonnay** The fresh white peach aromas and flavours are enhanced by subtle barrel ferment complexity, and the palate is long and delightfully creamy, with just-right phenolic grip. (\$28.00) ★★★★★☆

<http://www.aussiewines.com.au/wine-Growing-Regions.php?pid=990&page=252&s=&f=&wines=WesternAustralia>

**2014 West Cape Howe Old School Frankland River Mount Barker Chardonnay** Not surprisingly, this chardonnay has much in common with the Styx Gully. It's not quite as intense or structured, but offers very enjoyable current drinking. (\$17.00) ★★★★★

<http://www.nicks.com.au/2014-west-cape-howe-old-school-chardonnay>

**2012 Yering Station Village Chardonnay** .A cashew-like lees complexity adds an extra dimension to the fresh varietal fruit, and the palate has length and creaminess, with a clean acid finish. (\$24.00) ★★★★★

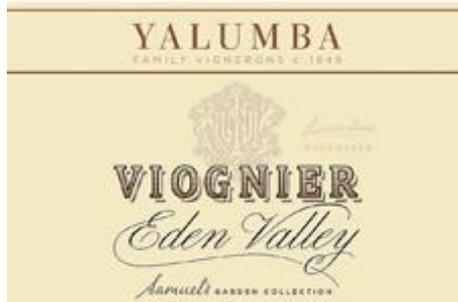
**2012 Meursault Les Chevalières (Rémi Jobard)** A fresh nutty style, typical of Meursault chardonnay. The well-textured palate offers adequate fruit intensity, with obvious acidity on the finish. (\$140.00) ★★★★★☆

**2014 Hay Shed Hill Block 6 Margaret River Chardonnay** The fresh peachy chardonnay fruit struggles to cope with the oak. A chardonnay that will suit some but not others. (\$38.00) ★★★★★☆

**2013 Seppelt Drumborg Chardonnay** The positives are the attractive nougat complexity and oak which complements the cool grapefruit flavour. However, the acidity certainly makes its presence felt. (\$34.00) ★★★★★

**2013 Henschke Croft Vineyard Adelaide Hills Chardonnay** A fresh, attractive chardonnay with lightly nutty overtones and white peach characteristics. It's a little lean and acidic. (\$39.50) ★★★★★

## Other Dry White



**2014 Yalumba Eden Valley Viognier** Yalumba unquestionably leads Australia with viognier, and this little gem reflects decades of hard work and experience. The nose glows with apricot and ginger, and the rich palate is built around the typical varietal phenolic structure. Most importantly the finish is acid-fresh. We tried it with one of our “house” dishes – grilled pork cutlet with sautéed cabbage and apple – and it formed a near-perfect match. (\$228.00/dozen) ★★★★★☆  
<https://www.crackawines.com.au/product/2014-yalumba-eden-valley-viognier>

**2014 Oakridge Murrummong Vineyard Yarra Valley Arneis** I’ve tried plenty of Arneis in Piemonte, Italy, and haven’t often been impressed. Given the short time Australian winemakers have had to work with arneis, some of the wines produced have been remarkably good – and this is one of them. It has characteristics somewhat like pear, but there’s much more, including some lees character and a hint of oak. Intense flavour flows through the palate which is all about texture and creaminess. (\$26.00) ★★★★★☆

**2015 Chandon Pinot Gris** The grapes for this fascinating wine were grown in the Whitlands vineyard high up in the King Valley of Victoria. The cool-grown fruit carries with it a distinct perfume, more than a little like that of wines from Alsace. However, the Alsatians often lean too much on sweetness with pinot gris. This wine does not. The intense varietal fruit is the major player here, and it’s supported by balanced phenolics and acidity. If you think Australian pinot gris is boring and one-dimensional, this wine will change your mind. (Not yet released, but will be about \$25.00) ★★★★★☆

**2009 Pokolbin Estate Phil Swannell Hunter Valley Semillon** Want to enjoy a semillon that’s at the peak of its form and will hold that peak for a while? Here it is. It’s fresh, strongly varietal and lemony, with excellent acidity. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

**2014 Yalumba Eden Valley Roussanne** The second of the Yalumba “textural twins”. There’s a touch of apricot about this one too, and a pleasant grip to the palate which helps balance the richness. Another vibrant, full-flavoured white. (\$25.00) ★★★★★

**2014 Smith & Hooper Wrattenbully Pinot Grigio** A squeaky clean wine that expresses the variety very well. The fresh fruitiness is very appealing, and acidity lifts the finish. (\$19.00) ★★★★★

**2015 Grosset Clare Valley Apiana (Fiano & semillon)** The apple/pear of fiano shares the stage with the grassiness of semillon in this vibrant fruity white. Pleasant short term drinking. (\$40.00) ★★★★★

**2012 Tim Adams Clare Valley Semillon** Still fresh, yet shows an attractive honeyed maturity. It's drinking well, but oak is quite prominent. (\$22.00) ★★★☆

**2014 Riposte The Stiletto Adelaide Hills Pinot Gris** There's no lack of colour or aroma, the latter bringing to mind baked pear. The rich flavour copes with the phenolic grip. (\$20.00) ★★★

**2015 Mr Mick Clare Valley Vermentino** A grapey, grassy white with good fruit and acidity. There appears to be a touch of sweetness filling out the mid palate. Sound current drinking. (\$17.00) ★★★

## Sparkling

**2014 Redbank Prosecco** This King Valley wine actually smells quite like some Italian proseccos, although I find it difficult to describe the varietal character. The main thing is that it's fresh and lively, with a fine persistent mousse. (\$21.95) ★★★☆

**2012 Redbank King Valley Ellora Chardonnay Pinot Noir (High Altitude vineyards 550m & 860m)** There's a hint of breadiness and good initial fruit, but the palate finishes a little short. (\$23.95) ★★★

**NV Redbank King Valley Emily Chardonnay Pinot Noir (High Altitude vineyards 550m & 700m)** Shows some peachy chardonnay character and is quite simple. (\$14.95) ★★★☆

## Rosé

**2015 Chandon Pinot Noir Rosé** Bright light pink colour. The nose is fragrantly raspberry-like, and the palate offers good fruit weight and balance. (\$32.00) ★★★☆

**2015 Luna Rosa Central Ranges Rosado** (Mourvèdre, shiraz, grenache) Pale pink. This wine shows delicate red fruits characteristics and a hint of sweetness. The finish is lively and acid-fresh. (\$16.00) ★★★☆

**2015 Hayshed Hill Margaret River Pinot Noir Rosé** Some time in the past, in fits of enthusiasm, grape growers planted pinot noir in Margaret River. Here, at last, some of it has been put to good use. Strawberry aromas and flavours abound in this very fresh wine. (\$28.00) ★★★☆

**2014 Headstone Primitivo Rosé** Pale pink. A crisp, clean, dry style with a whiff of raspberry. Pleasant drinking, but it needs little more flavour. (\$28.00) ★★★

Lester Jesberg