

September 9, 2015

2015 WINEWISE SMALL VIGNERON AWARDS



In this bulletin you'll find reviews of the crème de la crème of the 800+ wines entered in the 2015 Winewise Small Vigneron Awards. Only the gold medal winners feature here. They represent the top 8.5% and are either five or four and a half star wines.

After this bulletin we'll work our way through all the entries, category by category. Reviews of the gold medal winners will be reprinted for completeness, and comments on silver medal wines will also be included. Star ratings will be provided for all the others.

[All the wines featured in this bulletin are eligible for the 2016 Winewise Championship to be conducted next February.](#)

RIESLING



2015 The Vintner's Daughter Riesling This Canberra District wine is vibrant and precise, showing floral, citrus and faintly grassy notes. The acid merges seamlessly into the long, dry, satisfying palate. (\$28.00)

★★★★☆ **TROPHY WINNER**

This label is **new**. See below from the producer..

We will be officially launching our brand and wines very shortly - we are just in the process of designing our website and waiting for that to be finished. Customers will be able to purchase the wines through the website once it is launched, but in the meantime they can email winery@thevintnersdaughter.com.au to be put on our mailing list. Our mailing list customers will be given first chance to purchase the wines when they are released. Our postal address is 5 Crisps Lane, Murrumbateman NSW 2582.

The Vintner's Daughter was established by husband and wife team, Stephanie Helm and Benjamin Osborne in 2014 after they purchased a small winery and vineyard, formerly known as Yass Valley Wines, at Murrumbateman in the Canberra District. The property is not far from where Stephanie grew up learning to make wine with her winemaker and vintner father, Ken Helm, at Helm Wines. With vines dating back to 1978, situated next to some of Murrumbateman's most renowned vineyards. The site was perfect for Stephanie and Benjamin to pursue their dream of creating their own unique styles of wines. Together they control the entire process from vine to glass.

2015 Stage Door Green Room Eden Valley Riesling Very floral and limey, with an excellent core of fruit supported by a talc-like texture and excellent acidity. (\$25.00) ★★★★★☆

<http://stagedoorwineco.com.au/shop/2015-riesling/>

2015 Robert Stein Reserve Mudgee Riesling The nose offers very enticing vibrant citrus aromas, and the palate follows through beautifully with long flavour, excellent acidity and positive textural elements.

(\$50.00) ★★★★★☆

<http://www.robertstein.com.au/categories/Reserve-Range/>

2014 Capital Wines Gundaroo Vineyard Riesling Lime and jonquil florals show on an impressive nose, and the palate offers excellent fruit drive backed by lively acidity. Another classy Canberra District riesling.

(\$28.00) ★★★★★☆

<http://www.capitalwines.com.au/product-list.html>

Well, well, well. One riesling from a traditional region and three from the New South Wales highlands. Is there a "new guard" forming?

SEMILLON



MEEREA PARK



2005 Meerea Park Alexander Munro Semillon This remarkable Hunter Valley wine is comparatively undeveloped, but shows the early stages of toasty complexity. The palate is intense and decidedly linear, finishing with uplifting acidity. Enjoy now or cellar further – up to five years at least. (\$75.00) ★★★★★ **TROPHY WINNER**
www.meereapark.com.au/

2013 Mistletoe Reserve Hunter Valley Semillon A first-class semillon that is in its “in-between” stage but still shows particularly well. The citrus aromas and flavours are very fresh, and the long palate finishes with lip-smacking acidity. Give it another couple of years. (\$24.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.mistletoewines.com.au/our-wines/whites.aspx>

2006 Coolangatta Estate Semillon Another marvellous aged semillon, this time from the Shoalhaven Coast of NSW. It’s a richly flavoured, delicious dry white with mature honey and toast characteristics. Although this wine is nearing its peak, the freshness and length of flavour are impressive. (\$60.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.coolangattaestate.com.au/>



2014 Andrew Thomas Cellar Reserve Braemore Hunter Valley Semillon The lime/lemon aromatics are fresh and varietal, and the palate has excellent fruit drive backed up by appropriate acidity. There’s plenty of enjoyment to be had now, but a couple of years in bottle will be beneficial. (To be held back for later release) ★★★★★☆
TROPHY WINNER

2009 Pokolbin Estate Phil Swannell Semillon This wine is just entering its ideal drinking window, offering hints of toasty maturity to complement the lively citrus aromas and flavours. It will hold its form for another couple of years at least. (\$30.00) ★★★★★☆
<https://www.pokolbinestate.com.au>

2015 McLeish Estate Hunter Valley Semillon A vibrant young wine with hints of lemon curd and lemon grass among the aromatics. The intense palate has excellent length and acid balance. Well worth cellaring for a few years. (\$25.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://mcleishhunterwines.com.au/shop>

2014 Gundog Estate Sunshine Vineyard Semillon A very fresh young Hunter Valley semillon that is comparatively full flavoured, showing classic lemony varietal characteristics. It will provide very enjoyable drinking over the next couple of years. (\$40.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.gundogestate.com.au/>

SAUVIGNON BLANC



2015 Hahndorf Hill Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc This is a sauvignon blanc with both power and restraint. Gooseberry, lime and capsicum show on a vibrant nose. The palate delivers strong varietal flavour and racy acidity. (\$23.00) ★★★★★☆ **TROPHY WINNER**
<http://www.hahndorhillwinery.com.au/>

2015 Riposte The Foil Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc The aromatics tend to passionfruit in this very lively, textural sauvignon blanc which is packed with varietal flavour. (\$20.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.timknappstein.com.au/shop/>

2014 Topper's Mountain Barrel Aged Sauvignon Blanc There's a hint of sulphidic funk which adds positive complexity to the gooseberry/snow pea aromas. The palate has both length and texture. From New England, NSW. (\$30.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.toppers.com.au/wine/toppers-wines/whites-en/sauvignon-blanc/>

2013 Symphony Hill Barrel Fermented Sauvignon Blanc There's just a hint of funk, but essentially this is a pure grassy varietal packed with flavour. A very successful wine from Queensland's Granite Belt. (\$30.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://symphonyhill.com.au/shop/>

CHARDONNAY



SITTELLA



2014 Sittella Reserve Wilyabrup Chardonnay Without doubt this is one of *the* wines of the Small Vigneron Awards. It's restrained yet complex, showing very attractive nougat characteristics which complement the white nectarine fruit beautifully. Persistence of flavour and balance are key palate features, and perfect textural grip is icing on the cake – not to mention the bargain price – especially for a premium quality Margaret River chardonnay. (\$25.50) ★★★★★☆ **TROPHY WINNER**
<https://www.sittella.com.au/purchase-online>

2013 Hutton Triptych Margaret River Chardonnay A bold, beautifully made chardonnay with plenty of everything. It's in the full-on Margaret River style, but everything is in balance. The white peach and citrus varietal flavours carry the oak comfortably, and the palate is creamy, with a good acid line. (\$40.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.huttonwines.com/>

2014 Seville Estate Yarra Valley Chardonnay A very impressive chardonnay showing a touch of matchstick complexity as well as nectarine and grapefruit aromas. The varietal flavour finishes long on a beautifully creamy palate which carries a touch of oak very gracefully. (Not yet released. The 2013 is \$36.00) ★★★★★☆

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2014 Juniper Estate Margaret River Chardonnay The powerful white peach fruit is well matched with slightly toasty oak and nutty barrel ferment notes. This is a delightfully textured, balanced chardonnay that is very satisfying. (\$37.00) ★★★★★☆
<https://www.juniperestate.com.au/>

2013 Rowlee Wines Chardonnay A very nicely restrained chardonnay from Orange, NSW showing citrus aromas and hint of barrel-ferment funk. The palate is very fresh and textural, with a genuine delicacy. (\$35.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.rowleewines.com.au/Store>

2013 Coppabella Sirius Tumbarumba Chardonnay A fine, fresh, racy style of chardonnay showing citrus overtones and a hint of nuttiness. Typical regional acidity lifts the finish of the intense, persistent palate. (\$45.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.differentdrop.com/products/2013-coppabella-sirius-chardonnay?variant=3486587073>

2012 Higher Plane Margaret River Chardonnay This is a vibrant peaches and cream chardonnay. The fruit is comparatively unevolved, and the palate is textural and very well balanced. (\$35.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.higherplanewines.com.au/cart.php>

2013 Dawson James Tasmania Chardonnay This wine reflects its cool origins through grapefruit and lemon aromas together with a touch of peachiness. The palate is delicate but intense, finishing with good acidity and a touch of new oak. (\$52.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.dawsonjames.com.au/>

OTHER DRY WHITE VARIETALS



2015 Hahndorf Hill White Mischief Adelaide Hills Grüner Veltliner This is a squeaky clean, well put together white with a hint of sweetness that contributes balance to an essentially dry palate. The nose shows melon and spice aromas and the finish is lifted by fresh acidity. (\$23.00) ★★★★★☆ **TROPHY WINNER**
<http://www.hahndorfillwinery.com.au/Buy-online>

2015 Risky Business Western Australia Pinot Grigio There's plenty of peach and citrus flavour to be enjoyed in this vibrant pinot grigio. The phenolic grip has been very well managed, adding considerably to a very rewarding palate. (\$25.00) ★★★★★☆
sales@bestdist.com.au

2015 Mandoon Estate Swan Valley Verdelho An absolute beauty of a varietal showing lemon sherbet aromas and flavours. The palate is a textural delight. Delicious. Very few, if any verdelhos would match this. (\$22.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://shop.mandoonestate.com.au/whites>

2015 Gibson Wines Discovery Road Fiano The southern Italian white variety fiano is on a roll in Australia, and this Barossa wine demonstrates why. The nose is quite complex – floral, white pepper, lemon grass – and the palate offers punchy fruit, length and texture. (\$20.00) ★★★★★☆
sales@gibsonwines.com.au

2015 Hahndorf Hill Adelaide Hills Pinot Grigio Attractive musky pear characteristics show out clearly on nose and palate. Powdery tannins provide just-right structure. An exemplary example of dry pinot gris. (\$25.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.hahndorfhillwinery.com.au/Buy-online>

DRY WHITE BLENDS



2015 Andrew Thomas Two of a Kind Semillon Sauvignon Blanc Why hasn't anyone else thought of this? The Hunter Valley is our best semillon region and the Adelaide Hills is hard to beat for sauvignon blanc. Andrew Thomas combines the two and comes up with a winner. It has the linearity of semillon, and lemon grass and nettle aromatics. An intense, lively, satisfying young white. (\$20.00) ★★★★★☆ **TROPHY WINNER**
<https://www.thomaswines.com.au/shop-online/>

2014 Meerea Park Indie Marsanne Roussanne There are many attempts at the “Rhône” blends, but few provide much excitement for us. This barrel-fermented wine from the Hunter Valley delivers very good peach/honeysuckle characteristics backed by a whiff of toasty oak. Very good short term drinking. (\$30.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.meereapark.com.au/>

ROSÉ



2015 Colmar Estate Pinot Rosé This wine from Orange NSW is pale salmon pink, and offers lively strawberry aromatics and a dry, fruity, textured palate with balanced acidity. (\$26.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.colmarestate.com.au/>

2015 Harcourt Valley Vineyards Rosé Bright light pink colour. A very fresh rosé from central Victoria that resembles the classic Provence style. The palate offers plenty of flavour backed by good acidity and balanced savoury tannins. (\$20.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.harcourtvalley.com.au/>

Two rosé gold medals. Unheard of! It's good to see at least two producers putting some serious effort into the style.

PINOT NOIR

There was absolutely nothing between the top two wines. They received exactly the same score in the first round of judging, and in the trophy taste-off two judges gave it to the Merricks Block over the Pennon Hill by a small margin, but the third strongly preferred the Pennon Hill, giving it the narrowest of victories.



2014 Montalto Pennon Hill Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir

This is a pinot noir of great elegance and length of flavour. There's a hint of undergrowth complexity to the bright red berry/cherry nose and the tannins are supremely fine. Almost-subliminal oak completes the picture. The best-value pinot noir we've tasted this year. (\$32.00) ★★★★★

TROPHY WINNER *Believe it or not, the Montalto web site offers this wine for \$330.00 a dozen.*

http://montalto.com.au/shop/?product_cat=wines&orderby=price-desc

2014 Montalto Merricks Block Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir

An intense, fragrant, complex wine showing dark cherry, high quality oak and a hint of whole bunch character. The palate is intense, structured and long, but above all, beautifully balanced. (\$70.00) ★★★★★

Big price difference. Small difference in quality. However, the Merricks Block is built to cellar. The Pennon Hill is an obvious choice if you're looking for a pinot to enjoy over the next 2-3 years. Pinot noir fans who like to cellar for five years and more should opt for the Merricks Block.

2013 Yal Yal Rd Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir A ripe, fleshy, strongly varietal pinot noir of impressive concentration. The palate is nicely structured, and, although this wine could be enjoyed now, it will reward 3-5 years' cellaring. A real bargain. (\$25.00) ★★★★★☆

<http://www.yalyal.com.au/order/>

2014 Montalto Estate Pinot Noir Complex freshly-tilled soil and mushroom aromas merge with those of fresh dark cherry. The palate offers excellent structure and fruit drive. (\$50.00) ★★★★★☆

2013 Home Hill Kelly's Reserve Pinot Noir The dark cherry/strawberry aromas and flavours provide a lot of appeal and the fine, firm tannins contribute just-right structure. We haven't seen the best of this Huon Valley, Tas. pinot yet. (\$60.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.homehillwines.com.au/store#!/Red-Wines/c/12248323/offset=0&sort=normal>

2013 Curly Flat Pinot Noir The nose of this Macedon Ranges wine is very engaging, showing a delicate red berry perfume with positive input from stems and oak. The palate is long and silky, with a fine tannin structure. (\$50.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.curlyflat.com/buy>

2013 Paringa Estate The Paringa Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir Great fruit. Great oak. The nose is very fragrant, hinting at rose petals, and the oak sits well with the varietal aromatics. It's close to Volnay in style, in that it is firm, fine, elegant and long flavoured, with early complexity. (\$90.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.paringaestate.com.au/>

2013 Home Hill Estate Tasmania Pinot Noir A densely packed, dark cherry-scented pinot of substance. Its freshness and structure suggest that a few years' cellaring would be beneficial. (\$36.00) ★★★★★☆

2013 Paringa Estate Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir Another substantial pinot noir of considerable depth. The dark cherry fruit and oak come together very well. Cellar 2-3 years for best results. (\$60.00) ★★★★★☆

The pinot noir category was the strongest in the competition. Sixty-seven wines were judged, yielding nine gold medals – an amazing strike rate. What's more, there were six impressive silver medal wines that will be reported on in our next bulletin.



SHIRAZ



2014 Catlin Adelaide Hills Shiraz The most exciting wines reflect high standards of viticulture, and artistry in the winery. This one is an excellent example. The dark berry varietal characteristics are bolstered by skilful use of whole bunches in the fermentation which add a beguiling complexity to the nose. Low-key oak also plays a complexing role, and the plush palate is balanced by fine, perfectly managed tannins. (\$45.00) ★★★★★ **TROPHY WINNER**

<http://www.catlinwines.com.au/wines/2014-catlin-shiraz/>

2013 Twisted River Shiraz Viognier This Central Ranges (NSW) wine came close to topping the Winewise Championship in February. It's a very fragrant medium-bodied red with attractively complex notes often found in Rhône valley wines. The tannins are delightfully fine and the length of palate is very impressive. (\$22.00) ★★★★★ **\$216.00 a dozen on the Twisted River web site.**

<http://twistedriverwines.com.au/buy-wines/>

2014 Garners Heritage Wine Strathbogie Ranges Shiraz The spicy summer pudding nose is a winner, as is the beautifully balanced medium-bodied palate. A very well made wine which is an excellent expression of shiraz. (\$24.95) ★★★★★☆

garnerswine@gmail.com

2014 Lerida Estate Lake George Shiraz Viognier This could be the best Shiraz Viognier yet from Lerida Estate, but the quantity is minuscule. It's a fragrant, spicy red of great persistence, with very fine tannins. Another top shiraz from the Canberra district. (\$75.00) ★★★★★☆

wine@leridaestate.com

2013 Tellurian Tranter Heathcote Shiraz A vibrant, spicy, peppery shiraz with a whiff of undergrowth complexity. The palate is a savoury delight, with excellent fruit expression. (\$39.00) ★★★★★☆

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

2013 Riposte The Cutlass Adelaide Hills Shiraz The dark berry aromas and flavours are enhanced by well judged use of oak. Satisfaction guaranteed by a plush, medium-bodied palate. (\$25.00) ★★★★★☆

<http://www.timknappstein.com.au/shop/>

2011 Pokolbin Estate Reserve Hunter Valley Shiraz The vibrancy of fruit is a strong point here, and the power and length of palate carry the oak very well indeed. This wine is built to last, and the best is definitely yet to come. (\$60.00) ★★★★★☆
<https://www.pokolbinestate.com.au>

2013 Fernfield Eden Valley Old River Red Shiraz This is a richly flavoured, beautifully balanced shiraz that is a vibrant expression of the variety. The tannins have been beautifully managed and the palate is utterly satisfying. (\$37.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.fernfieldwines.com.au/the-wines.htm>

2012 Balgownie Estate Shiraz The dark berry fruit and slightly chappy oak are a good match here, and notes of cinnamon add extra complexity. Firm tannins merge well with the intense fruit, and we'll see the best of this Bendigo wine in several years' time. (\$45.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.balgownieestatewines.com.au/>

2012 Mornington Estate Shiraz A wine of fascinating complexity, showing some whole bunch character, pepper and spice that work well with the high-toned dark cherry fruit. Interestingly delicious, and it delivers a lot for the price. (\$25.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.dromanaestate.com.au/shop/>

CABERNET SAUVIGNON



SITTELLA



2013 Sittella Berns Reserve This Margaret River cabernet sauvignon really delivers the goods in terms of freshness, regionality, complexity and varietal character. The cassis of cabernet sauvignon is clearly evident, and the oak handling provides structure and balance. Although this wine is very impressive now, it will be even better after a few years. (\$41.60) ★★★★★☆ **TROPHY WINNER**
<https://www.sittella.com.au/purchase-online>

2013 Banks Thargo Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon Another very good regional and varietal wine. It's packed with blackcurrant and red berry flavours, and the tannins are firm but fine. A great example of what cabernet sauvignon is all about. (\$25.00) ★★★★★☆
info@banksthargo.com.au

2013 Graham Stevens McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon Very impressive cassis aromas and flavours make this wine stand out. The full flavoured palate is very well balanced by skin tannins and oak. A great example of the McLaren Vale style. (\$30.00) ★★★★★☆
<https://www.grahamstevenswines.com.au>

2013 Brash Vineyard Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon A cabernet of substance showing rich dark berry and cassis fruit together with some quality oak. The intensity of flavour is matched by a classic fine, firm structure. Cellar. (\$39.95) ★★★★★
<http://brashvineyard.com.au/product/cabernet-sauvignon/>

2012 Peccavi Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon A cabernet of considerable power, with elements of cassis and black tea. The palate is intense, firm and beautifully balanced. Cellar. (\$68.00) ★★★★★
<http://www.peccavi-wines.com/>

2014 Mandoon Estate Research Station Reserve Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon The classic blackcurrant and leaf are there in abundance, as are the fine, firm tannins. Oak is showing now, and this wine just needs time to integrate all components (\$68.00) ★★★★★
<https://mandoonestate.com.au/>

OTHER DRY RED VARIETALS



2014 Willunga 100 McLaren Vale Tempranillo Tempranillo has taken a while to secure a foothold in Australia. Vine age is now kicking in, and this wine is testimony to what can be achieved. The dark richness is impressive and a touch of oak enhances the picture. Savoury tannins provide a slight Iberian touch. (\$22.00) ★★★★★ **TROPHY WINNER**
<http://willunga100.com/shop/2014-willunga-100-mclaren-vale-tempranillo>



2014 Tintilla Saphira Hunter Valley Sangiovese Think Hunter Valley and you don't often think sangiovese, but this one is an eye-opener. It is packed with spicy dark cherry savouriness backed by a liberal but balanced lash of oak. A wine of substance and varietal character. (\$35.00) ★★★★★ **TROPHY WINNER**
<http://www.tintilla.com.au/red-wines>

2013 Hahndorf Hill Blueblood Adelaide Hills Blaufrankisch The purple-tinged colour is eye-catching, and the vibrant floral/spice nose is captivating, as is the plush palate. Above all, this is an absolutely delicious drink made from an A grade Austrian varietal. (\$40.00) ★★★★★
<http://www.hahndorfhillwinery.com.au/Buy-online>

2014 Willunga 100 McLaren Vale Grenache This is a splendid, perfumed, spicy expression of grenache. The red fruits aromas and flavours are fresh - definitely not jammy – and the palate has substance and structure. (\$23.00) ★★★★★

2014 Santolin Individual Vineyard Heathcote Nero d'Avola This wine strikes a big blow for nero d'avola in Australia. It's a very serious red indeed. The nose suggests such diverse things as dark berries, spices, grilled meats and potpourri. The palate is richly mouthfilling, with excellent depth of flavour. (\$29.00) ★★★★★☆

<http://www.winestyleonline.com.au/santolin-nero-d-avola-2014626991.html>

2013 Juniper Crossing Margaret River Tempranillo A very bright red in all respects, showing hints of dark chocolate to complement the dark fruits and licorice. Savoury tannins and well handled oak complete the picture. (\$20.00) ★★★★★☆

<https://www.juniperestate.com.au/>

CABERNET BLENDS



2013 Mandoon Estate Margaret River Cabernet Merlot It wouldn't be a Small Vignerons Awards without a Mandoon Estate trophy. The fresh blackcurrant and toasty oak nose heralds a "juicy" satisfying palate of excellent structure, typical of the Margaret River region.

(\$29.50) ★★★★★☆ **TROPHY WINNER**

<http://shop.mandoonestate.com.au/reds/2013-cabernet-merlot>



2013 Rockcliffe Quarram Rocks Shiraz Cabernet Here's a vibrant, substantial red that delivers on all fronts, including price. The dark fruits characteristics are complemented by slightly toasty complexity and the tannins form a perfect match. This classy red is well worth cellaring. (\$21.00) ★★★★★☆ **TROPHY WINNER**

2012 Sandhurst Ridge Fringe Shiraz Classic Blend This is a very consistent red from Bendigo with a great track record in the Small Vignerons Awards. It's very much a classic Australian interpretation of a time-honoured blend featuring intense dark berry fruit with a touch of charry oak. (\$24.00) ★★★★★☆

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

2012 Wine By Brad Margaret River Cabernet Merlot This wine has its share of oak but wears it well. The fresh red fruits aromas and flavours are intense, and the palate is well balanced and satisfying. Give it 2-3 years to begin showing its best. Bargain-priced. (\$18.00) ★★★★★☆

<http://amatovino.com.au/brad/>

OTHER RED BLENDS



2014 De Iuliis LDR Vineyard Hunter Valley Shiraz Touriga

Dark berry shiraz with a whiff of touriga perfume – it works very well. The palate is delightfully medium-bodied, encased in very fine tannins. A winner in more ways than one. (\$40.00) ★★★★★ **TROPHY WINNER**

2014 Mandoon Estate Surveyor's Red This Swan Valley blend of grenache, shiraz and mataro is very drinkable indeed. Red fruits and licorice aromas lead into a palate of excellent weight and structure. (\$22.50) ★★★★★

2013 Z Roman Barossa Valley Grenache Shiraz Mataro A great example of this traditional blend. The shiraz and mataro add weight and structure to the perfumed red fruits of the grenache. Drinking very well now. (\$25.00) ★★★★★

<http://zwine.com.au/our-wines/>

SPARKLING



2009 Sitella Methode Traditionelle Pinot Noir Chardonnay

Brioche and mushroom characteristics of autolysed yeast contribute an appealing complexity to the nose. The palate is long, with lively acidity and a fine mousse. (\$32.00) ★★★★★ **TROPHY WINNER**

FORTIFIED



NV Stanton & Killeen Grand Topaque

The classic characteristics of malt and toffee are here in abundance, and the aged rancio character is lifted by skilful freshening. A fine example of this great Rutherglen style. (\$85.00/500 ml) ★★★★★ **TROPHY WINNER**

NV 919 Wines Classic Tawny A genuine tawny style with the right colour and some barrel age. Most importantly it's not too sweet. The nutty overtones are attractive and are very much part of the style. Well nurtured. (\$30.00/500 ml) ★★★★★

The Winewise Small Vigneron Awards judging was conducted from 19-22 August, 2015. All the wines were sorted, numbered and poured “blind” by our much-appreciated band of stewards. Classes with more than 12 wines were broken down into smaller sub-classes. Judges tasted no more than 12 wines at a time after random sorting by the stewards. In the larger classes, wines passed through heats and semi-finals, the best making the grand final.

State Scorecard (Numbers of gold medals)

NEW SOUTH WALES	21
VICTORIA	17
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	16
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	15
TASMANIA	3
QUEENSLAND	1

And we don't give away five star ratings like cheap confectionery. Only eight wines out of 800 made the grade. That's as it should be. We don't pander to advertisers (there aren't any) or the industry in general. **We do not seek spin-offs from our top ratings.**

★★★★★ Outstanding	97-100 pts
★★★★☆ Highly Recommended	93-96 pts

JUDGES

Bryan Currie	McWilliams winemaker (Panel chair)
Andrew Guard	Andrew Guard Wine Imports
Lex Howard	Winewise
Lester Jesberg	Winewise editor (Chairman)
Simon Killeen	Simão & Co. winemaker
Tim Knappstein	Riposte Wines winemaker (Panel chair)
Nick Knappstein	Riposte Wines
Jo Marsh	Billy Button winemaker
Ian McKenzie	Consulting oenologist (Panel chair)
Nick O'Leary	Nick O'Leary Wines winemaker (Panel chair)
Dean O'Reilly	Moët & Chandon
Deb Pearce	Winewise (Panel chair)
Jen Pfeiffer	Pfeiffer Wines winemaker
Nick Spencer	Eden Road winemaker
David Yeates	Winewise

Winewise thanks all the judges for their ability, opinions and companionship. The chairman firmly believes in a mix of backgrounds, ages and gender when it comes to choosing judges for a wine show. He practises what he preaches.

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<http://winewise.net.au/register/>