

SVA WHITE WINES

We apologise for the lateness, but feel we should wrap up the 2015 Small Vignerons Awards before the Championship takes place. The vast majority of the impressive wines were covered in “The Cream” last September. Riesling and chardonnay have been reported on in detail, and we now wrap up the other whites and sparkling wines. A couple of wines not reviewed in “The Cream” are covered here.

Semillon

2005 Meerea Park Alexander Munro Semillon (\$75.00) ★★★★★

TROPHY WINNER

www.meereapark.com.au/

2013 Mistletoe Reserve Hunter Valley Semillon (\$24.00) ★★★★★☆

http://www.mistletoewines.com.au/our_wines/whites.aspx

2006 Coolangatta Estate Semillon (\$60.00) ★★★★★☆

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

2014 Andrew Thomas Cellar Reserve Braemore Hunter Valley Semillon (To be held back for later release) ★★★★★☆

TROPHY WINNER

https://www.thomaswines.com.au/shop_online/

2009 Pokolbin Estate Phil Swannell Semillon (\$30.00) ★★★★★☆

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

2015 McLeish Estate Hunter Valley Semillon (\$25.00) ★★★★★☆

<http://mcleishhunterwines.com.au/shop>

2014 Gundog Estate Sunshine Vineyard Semillon (\$40.00) ★★★★★☆

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

2015 Briar Ridge Stockhausen Signature Series Hunter Valley Semillon A very bright and lively semillon with hints of lemon grass and lime. The palate offers an excellent line of acidity. (\$28.00) ★★★★★☆

http://www.briarridge.com.au/our_wines_and_shop/

2015 Ridgeview Generations Reserve Semillon (\$25.00) ★★★★★

2013 Andrew Thomas Cellar Reserve Braemore Semillon ★★★★★

2009 Andrew Thomas Cellar Reserve Braemore Semillon ★★★★★

2014 Mistletoe Reserve Semillon (\$26.00) ★★★★★

2009 Mistletoe Reserve Semillon (\$32.00) ★★★★★

2015 Briar Ridge Dairy Hill Semillon (\$35.00) ★★★★★

2015 Heafod Glen Semillon ★★★★★☆

2015 De Iuliis Semillon ★★★★★☆

2015 Huntington Estate Special Reserve Semillon ★★★★★☆

- 2015 Robert Stein Semillon ★★★☆
- 2014 Tintilla Angus Semillon ★★★☆
- 2013 Mistletoe Home Vineyard Semillon ★★★☆
- 2015 Tintilla Angus Semillon ★★★
- 2015 Shaw Vineyard Estate Semillon Sauvignon Blanc ★★★
- 2015 Coolangatta Estate Semillon ★★★
- 2014 Ridgeview Generations Reserve Semillon ★★★
- 2014 Leogate Estate Creek Bed Reserve Hunter Valley Semillon ★★★
- 2011 Pokolbin Estate Ken Bray Semillon ★★★
- 2006 Mistletoe Reserve Semillon ★★★
- 2011 Mistletoe Reserve Semillon ★★★
- 2009 Coolangatta Estate Semillon ★★★
- 2005 Coolangatta Estate Semillon ★★★
- 2015 Huntington Estate Semillon ★★☆
- 2015 Andrew Thomas Synergy Semillon ★★☆
- 2015 Gundog Estate Hunter's Semillon ★★☆
- 2013 Leogate Estate Creek Bed Reserve Hunter Valley Semillon ★★☆
- 2015 Gundog Estate The Chase Semillon ★★☆
- 2015 Andrew Thomas Murphy's Semillon ★★
- 2014 Hutton Triptych Margaret River Semillon ★★
- 2013 Ridgeview Generations Reserve Semillon ★★
- 2009 Coolangatta Estate Wollstonecraft Semillon ★★
- 2010 Meerea Park Alexander Munro Semillon ★★
- 2009 De Iuliis Aged Release Semillon ★★
- 2015 De Iuliis Wilderness Road Vineyard Semillon ★☆
- 2015 Andrew Thomas Braemore Semillon ★☆
- 2015 Shaw Vineyard Estate Winemaker's Selection Sem Sauv Blanc ★☆
- 2014 Meerea Park Hell Hole Semillon ★☆
- 2015 Coolangatta Estate Wollstonecraft Semillon ★
- 2015 Andrew Thomas Cellar Reserve Braemore Semillon ★
- 2015 Shaw Vineyard Estate Reserve Semillon ★
- 2011 Morgan Simpson Endangered Species Semillon ★

The 2015 Hunters are something of a mixed bag. Some are impressive, but others are on the green side.

Pinot Gris/Grigio

It's a popular variety, but relatively few producers are really “nailing” pinot gris. Balanced low-level sweetness isn't a bad thing, but phenolic grip has to be well managed for bone-dry examples to succeed. Quite a few of the wines were simply under-fruited, reflecting young vines and/or over-cropping.

2015 Risky Business Pinot Grigio (\$25.00) ★★★★★☆
sales@bestdist.com.au

2015 Hahndorf Hill Pinot Grigio (\$25.00) ★★★★★☆
http://www.hahndorfhillwinery.com.au/Buy_online

2014 Moorilla Estate Muse Pinot Gris (\$30.00) ★★★★★

2015 Montalto Pennon Hill Pinot Grigio (\$25.00) ★★★★★

2015 Lobethal Road Pinot Gris ★★★

2015 Galli Estate Pinot Grigio ★★★

2015 Sidewood Pinot Gris ★★★

2015 Main & Cherry Pinot Grigio ★★★

2015 Beach Head Pinot Gris ★★★

2014 Courabyra Pinot Gris ★★★

2014 Hahndorf Hill Pinot Grigio ★★★

2014 Rowlee Wines Pinot Gris ★★☆☆

2014 Singlefile Pinot Gris ★★☆☆

2015 Stable Hill Palomino Pinot Grigio ★★

2015 Bundaleer Golden Spike Clare Valley Pinot Gris ★★

2015 TeAro Estate Minnie & Elsa Pinot Grigio ★★

2014 Riposte The Stiletto Pinot Gris ★★

2014 Sidewood Pinot Gris ★★

2014 Stefano Lubiana Pinot Gris ★★

2014 Curly Flat Pinot Gris ★☆☆

2015 Ross Hill Pinnacle Series Pinot Gris ★

2014 Delatite Estate Pinot Gris ★

2013 Provenance Tarrington Pinot Gris ★

Sauvignon Blanc & Blends

Fresh is best in this category. Having made that declaration, we applaud the producers who have taken the barrel fermentation route in pursuit of complexity and texture. The best of those wines also have better cellaring potential, but this time the pure fruit-driven wines came out on top.

In our view a few of the barrel-fermented styles were pushed too far in terms of sulphidic funkiness.

2015 Hahndorf Hill Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc (\$23.00)

★★★★☆ **TROPHY WINNER**

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

2015 Andrew Thomas Two of a Kind Semillon Sauvignon Blanc

(\$20.00) ★★★★★ **TROPHY WINNER**

https://www.thomaswines.com.au/shop_online/

2015 Riposte The Foil Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc (\$20.00)

★★★★☆

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

2014 Topper's Mountain Barrel Aged Sauvignon Blanc (\$30.00)

★★★★☆

http://www.toppers.com.au/wine/toppers_wines/whites_en/sauvignon_blanc/

2013 Symphony Hill Barrel Fermented Sauvignon Blanc (\$30.00)

★★★★☆

<http://symphonyhill.com.au/shop/>

2015 Sidewood Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc A fresh grassy style of good intensity and length. (\$20.00) ★★★★★

http://sidewood.com.au/productdetail/4_2015_Sidewood_Sauvignon_Blanc.html/

2014 Saracen Estates Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc Semillon

(\$22.00) ★★★★★

2015 Kies Family Wines Semillon Sauvignon Blanc (\$20.00) ★★★★★

2015 Mandalay Estate Semillon Sauvignon Blanc (\$32.00) ★★★★★

2014 Lakehouse Sauvignon Blanc ★★★★★

2014 Santolin Individual Vineyard Sauvignon ★★★★★

2015 Bay of Shoals Sauvignon Blanc ★★★

2015 Mandoon Estate Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc ★★★

2015 Wignalls Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc ★★★

2014 Borrodell Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc ★★★

2014 Brangayne of Orange Sauvignon Blanc ★★★

- 2015 Juniper Crossing Margaret River Semillon Sauvignon Blanc ★★★
- 2015 Beach Head Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc Semillon ★★★
- 2013 Juniper Estate Margaret River Semillon ★★★
- 2014 Chalkers Crossing Hilltops Semillon ★★★
- 2013 Juniper Estate Aquitaine ★★★
- 2009 Willespie Old School Margaret River Semillon ★★★
- 2014 Sidewood Mappinga Sauvignon Blanc ★★★
- 2013 Sidewood Mappinga Sauvignon Blanc ★★★
- 2014 South By Southwest Semillon Sauvignon Blanc ★★★
- 2015 After Hours Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc ★★★☆
- 2015 Windance Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc Semillon ★★★☆
- 2015 Koppamurra Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc ★★★☆
- 2015 Brash Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc ★★★☆
- 2015 Carillion Estate Sauvignon Blanc ★★★☆
- 2014 Abbey Creek Porongurup Sauvignon Blanc ★★★☆
- 2015 After Hours Sauvignon Blanc Semillon ★★★☆
- 2013 Peccavi Sauvignon Blanc Semillon ★★★☆
- 2015 Bromley Alchemy Semillon Sauvignon ★★★☆
- 2015 Sitella Wild One Sauvignon Blanc ★★
- 2015 Lobethal Road Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc ★★
- 2014 Credaro Family Estate Sauvignon Blanc ★★
- 2014 Risky Business Fumé Blanc ★★
- 2014 Catlin Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc ★★
- 2015 Colmar Estate Sauvignon Blanc ★★
- 2015 Yarrh Sauvignon Blanc ★★
- 2015 Ross Hill Lily Sauvignon Blanc ★★
- 2014 Stefano Lubiana Sauvignon Blanc ★★
- 2014 Karrawatta Anna's Sauvignon Blanc ★★
- 2013 Moorilla Estate Muse Sauvignon ★★
- 2015 Anvers Sauvignon Blanc ★☆
- 2014 Freycinet Sauvignon Blanc ★☆
- 2014 Cannibal Creek Sauvignon Blanc ★☆
- 2014 Ross Hill Pinnacle Series Sauvignon Blanc ★☆
- 2014 Courabyra Sauvignon Blanc ★☆
- 2014 Anvers Brabo Sauvignon Blanc ★

Gewürztraminer

An “old” grape variety that is now considered “alternate”, gewürztraminer suddenly finds itself just a little bit trendy. Mike Hayes, of Symphony Hill on Queensland’s Granite Belt, is putting a lot of effort into the variety, and the result is wine of intensity, complexity and texture. For decades Australian winemakers treated gewürztraminer like riesling. Mike is taking a more Alsatian approach.

2015 Symphony Hill Gewürztraminer (\$35.00) ★★★★★

2015 Huntington Estate Gewürztraminer ★★★★☆

2014 Topper's Mountain Gewürztraminer ★★★

2012 Borrodell Vineyard Gewürztraminer ★★

2015 The Vintner's Daughter Gewürztraminer ★★

2015 Robert Stein Gewürztraminer ★★

Viognier

2015 Heafod Glen Viognier (\$29.00) ★★★★★

2013 Twisted River Viognier ★★★

2014 Savina Lane Barrel Ferment Wild Yeast Viognier ★★

2014 Ballinaclash Eleanor Viognier ★★

2015 Fernfield Gold Leaf Reserve Viognier ★

The rush to viognier has obviously slowed despite the marvellous work of Yalumba. Only one wine really holds its head high here.

Italian Varietals

2015 Gibson Wines Discovery Road Fiano (\$20.00) ★★★★★☆
sales@gibsonwines.com.au

2015 Carillion Estate Verduzzo (\$20.00) ★★★★★

2015 919 Wines Reserve Vermentino ★★★

2014 Rowlee Wines Arneis ★★★

2014 Mistletoe Hunter Fiano ★★☆

2014 Savina Lane Fiano Classico ★★

Amid all the publicity for McLaren Vale fiano, we have a star performer from the Barossa. It’s early days, but fiano may cement a spot at the quality end of the Australian market. The verduzzo is quite an achievement.

Other Dry White Varietals

2015 Hahndorf Hill White Mischief Adelaide Hills Grüner Veltliner (\$23.00) ★★★★★ **TROPHY WINNER**

http://www.hahndorhillwinery.com.au/Buy_online

2015 Mandoon Estate Swan Valley Verdelho (\$22.00) ★★★★★

2015 McLeish Estate Verdelho (\$18.00) ★★★★★

2015 Coolangatta Estate Savagnin ★★★★★

2015 Main & Cherry Grüner Veltliner ★★★★★

2010 Coolangatta Estate Savagnin ★★★

2015 Amato Vino Bela ★★★

2015 Yarralaw Springs Chenin Blanc ★★

2013 Quarry Hill North Block Savagnin Sauvignon Blanc ★★

2015 Hahndorf Hill GRU Grüner Veltliner ★★

2015 919 Wines Reserve Petit Manseng ★★

2015 Eden Hall Grüner Veltliner ★★

2005 Chambers Rosewood Gouais ★★

2015 Heafod Glen Verdelho ★★

2014 Mistletoe Hunter Verdelho ★★

2013 Barwon Ridge Geelong Marsanne ★

Other Dry White Blends

2014 Meerea Park Indie Marsanne Roussanne (\$30.00) ★★★★★

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

2014 Topper's Mountain Bricolage Blanc ★★★★★

2015 Mandoon Estate Surveyor's White ★★★

2015 Burge Family Winemakers Olive Hill Roussanne Semillon ★★

2013 Freeman Fortuna ★★

2015 Caudo Vineyards Semillon Chardonnay ★★

2013 Riposte The Halberd White Co Ferment ★

2014 Gilligan Roussanne Marsanne ★

Sweet White

- 2013 Mistletoe Hilltops Noble Viognier (\$22.00) ★★★★★
- 2014 Mistletoe Moscato ★★★☆
- 2013 Lerida Estate Lake George Botrytis Pinot Gris ★★★
- 2012 Juniper Estate Cane Cut Riesling ★★★
- 2015 Robert Stein Half dry Riesling ★★
- 2010 Jirra Wines Beagle's Run Sweet White (Viognier) ★★
- 2014 Mistletoe Silvereye Semillon ★★
- 2015 Z Xave Late Harvest Barossa Valley ★☆
- 2014 Ballinacash Bernadette Viognier ★☆

Sparkling

2009 Sitella Methode Traditionelle Pinot Noir Chardonnay (\$32.00)
★★★★☆ **TROPHY WINNER**

- NV Stefano Lubiana Non Vintage Brut Reserve (\$34.00) ★★★★★
- 2012 Mandon Estate Reserve Methode Traditionelle ★★★☆
- 2010 Courabyra Brut ★★★☆
- 2012 Mistletoe Petillant Blanc de Blancs ★★★
- 2012 Sidewood Isabella Rosé ★★★
- 2011 Capital Wines Press Gallery Sparkling White ★★★
- 2010 Honey Moon Vineyard Blanc de Blancs Brut ★★
- 2010 Saracen Estates Sparkling Maree ★★
- 2002 Courabyra 805 Late Disgorged ★★
- 2012 Lobethal Road MÃJA Blanc de Blancs ★★
- 2011 Cannibal Creek Methode Traditionelle (Chardonnay) ★★
- 2011 Honey Moon Vineyard Rosé Brut ★★
- 2010 Ross Hill Vintage Brut ★★
- 2012 Seville Estate Blanc de Blancs ★☆

