

# TASTED THIS WEEK

Quality is certainly up this week. Shiraz is particularly strong, once again demonstrating how versatile our major red varietal is. A gem of a riesling adds more depth to an impressive list, as does a Central Otago pinot noir which offers excellent value.

## WHITE

**2014 West Cape Howe Styx Gully Mount Barker Chardonnay** This is a fresh, fruit-driven, delicate, white peach style of chardonnay. The flavour tapers off a little. (\$28.00) ★★★

**2015 Angullong Pinot Grigio** Here we have a lively, well made white with varietal character, but if Grigio means dry to you, the Angullong may surprise with its touch of sweetness. Nevertheless the finish is acid-fresh. (\$19.00) ★★★☆

**2015 Pauletts Polish Hill River Clare Valley Riesling** Intensity and precision are the high points of this delightfully fragrant, limey riesling. The palate is dry, long and lively. Without doubt, it's a top-flight regional example. (\$23.00) ★★★★★☆  
<http://paulettwines.com.au/>

**2015 Pikes Traditionale Clare Valley Riesling** Although it's not as dry as the Pauletts, this richly limey riesling offers plenty of fruit and balancing acidity, making it a good drink now. (\$20.00) ★★★★★

**2014 Robert Stein Mudjee Reserve Chardonnay** Mudjee hasn't kicked many goals with chardonnay but this one delivers the goods. It shows fresh yellow peach aromas and flavours, and a touch of oak. A rich and ready chardonnay. (\$40.00) ★★★★★

## RED

**2014 Heathcote Winery Mail Coach Shiraz** It's so shiraz – a sensory delight of dark red fruits and spice. The tannins are very fine, balancing an acid-fresh, medium-bodied palate that invites indulgence. (\$35.00) ★★★★★☆

**2014 Heathcote Winery Slaughterhouse Paddock Shiraz** A fresh dark cherry and red berry shiraz enhanced by black pepper and spice. There's also a hint of mint. The palate is beautifully velvety, with a fine, firm ending. (\$55.00) ★★★★★☆  
<http://heathcotewinery.com.au/index.php/wines/>

An impressive brace of shiraz from Heathcote Winery. The wines are very expressive of the region, and deliver intensity without heaviness or hotness. The Slaughterhouse Paddock is the one to cellar.

April 21, 2016

**2014 S.C. Pannell Adelaide Hills Syrah** This is a beautifully made wine in which red plum and red cherry aromas and flavours are enhanced by some whole bunch input. The palate is long, fine, silky and acid-fresh. (\$33.00) ★★★★★

[http://www.winestar.com.au/sc-pannell-adelaide-hills-syrah-2014?utm\\_source=wine-searcher&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=ws-listing](http://www.winestar.com.au/sc-pannell-adelaide-hills-syrah-2014?utm_source=wine-searcher&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ws-listing)

**2013 St Hallett Blackwell Barossa Shiraz** An excellent regional example packed with vibrant dark berry varietal characteristics. It's a very well balanced red that is in no way too big or heavy. Tannins and oak play positive roles, but don't overwhelm the impressive fruit. (\$37.00) ★★★★★

**2014 West Cape Howe Two Steps Mount Barker Shiraz** It's fresh and fruity, offering dark cherries and spice, but it's on the light side. Drinking ok now. (\$28.00) ★★★

**2014 Maude Central Otago Pinot Noir** A supple, delicious, dark cherry pinot noir with a hint of dried herb complexity. It has the typical Central Otago power without straying into shiraz-like territory. (\$33.00) ★★★★★

[https://www.nicks.com.au/2014-maude-pinot-noir?utm\\_source=wine-searcher&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=ws-listing](https://www.nicks.com.au/2014-maude-pinot-noir?utm_source=wine-searcher&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ws-listing)

**2014 Nanny Goat Vineyard Central Otago Pinot Noir** This is a bright cherry style with dried herb overtones. It's fresh and varietal, but acid shows a little too strongly on the finish. (\$27.00) ★★★★★

Lester Jesberg

## HUNTER VALLEY WINE FESTIVAL

A multitude of events await at the festival. One that caught our eye is the major event at the *Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley - Saturday June 4, \$20 Pre-Sale, \$25 on the Day*

Your chance to immerse yourself in everything Hunter Valley has to offer. Taking place within the grounds of the Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, this community event will spoil Festival goers with an extensive array of wine, food, beer and cider. It will be a memorable Hunter Valley experience. [www.huntermvalleywinefestival.com](http://www.huntermvalleywinefestival.com)

**Bookings recommended:** [info@huntermvalleywinefestival.com](mailto:info@huntermvalleywinefestival.com)