

TASTED THIS WEEK

We have a sure and steady group this week, low on all-out excitement but high on drinkability. But surely drinkability is a major positive quality of wine, and a steady diet of spectacular wine would most likely create a certain sensual numbness in the consumer. Some of the wines here will provide instant pleasure.

2015 Mount Trio Vineyard Porongurup Riesling This is a limey riesling with delicate aromatics. However, the acid contributes a touch of hardness to the finish. (\$22.00) ★★★

2014 d'Arenberg The Lucky Lizard Adelaide Hills Chardonnay Peachy and forward, lacking the desired freshness and texture. (\$25.00) ★★★

2015 Josef Chromy Tasmania Chardonnay The rich white stone-fruit aromas and flavours are backed up attractive nutty lees complexity. Lively acidity lifts the long palate. (\$35.20) ★★★★★

2014 Wirra Wirra Church Block McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz Merlot A very well made “commercial” red which is bursting with life. The vibrant fruit is balanced by fine, firm, inviting tannins. A good buy. (\$20.00) ★★★★★

2015 Wirra Wirra Original Blend McLaren Vale Grenache Shiraz The red berry aromas are quite perfumed, reflecting the grenache component. Overall, the wine is fresh, simple and enjoyable. (\$25.00) ★★★☆

2014 Yangarra McLaren Vale GSM This is a very attractive savoury style that rises above many of its fresh and fruity rivals. It's the tannins that give this wine the edge – more typical of Cairanne or Rasteau than the Vale. (\$25.00) ★★★★★
http://au.unitedcellars.com/yangarra-estate-grenache-shiraz-mourvedre-2014?utm_source=wine-searcher&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ws-sponsor

2013 Hickinbotham Banks Road McLaren Vale Shiraz A faintly earthy dark berry shiraz with delightfully fine tannins, and a palate that is long and intense. (\$70.00) ★★★★★

2014 West Cape Howe Hannah's Hill Frankland River Cabernet Merlot This young red is a very enjoyable drink, offering blackcurrant and dark berry aromas and flavours, with a hint of leaf. (\$22.00) ★★★★★

2014 Thorn-Clarke Shotfire Barossa Quartage (Cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, petit verdot, merlot) There's no shortage of fresh, ripe blackcurrant aroma and flavour. Another one that is easy to drink. (\$20.00) ★★★☆

May 6, 2016

2014 Sandalford Margaret River Cabernet Merlot The vibrant nose shows the expected cassis and tobacco leaf, and is very encouraging, but the palate is comparatively lean and firm. (\$17.00) ★★★

2014 Terre à Terre Wrattenbully Cabernet Franc I have no doubt that many wine drinkers frown down on cabernet franc. I must admit that I did once – until I tasted from a barrel of 1990 cabernet franc at Cheval Blanc 25 years ago. This wine is no Cheval Blanc, but it does have the raspberry/cranberry aromas that reminded me a little of the wines of that illustrious St-Emilion producer. The palate isn't substantial, but it's finely structured and has admirable length. This is a very pleasant drink. (\$39.00) ★★★★★

2010 Moulin de La Lagune This, the second wine of grand cru classé Château La Lagune, is quite impressive. It has the classic Haut Médoc red fruits and tobacco leaf, and the palate is of admirable intensity. (\$75.00) ★★★★★

2013 Château Roumieu Sauternes To complete the brace of Bordeaux, here's a delicious sweet white packed with citrus peel and crème brûlée goodness. It's well worth trying. (\$61.95) ★★★★★

VICTORIAN HIGH COUNTRY HARVEST

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Brewer's Breakfast at Beechworth

Brodo, Beast & Barbera at Cheshunt

La Fiera Italian Festival at Myrtleford

Autumnal Abundance Long Lunch at Porepunkah

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