

TASTED THIS WEEK

In a week where the best wine news was that the Seppelt Great Western cellar door and historic drives were rescued from closure, the tasting bench again yielded several well made, ready to drink wines.

The cellaring special is the 2013 Seppelt Mount Ida Heathcote Shiraz which fared just as well in the recent Winewise Championship judging.

WHITES

2015 Patritti Adelaide Hills Vermentino The aromatics are interesting, tending to apple, pineapple and lemon. Rewarding flavours fill the palate which also features lively acidity and some phenolic grip. (\$16.00) ★★★★★

2015 Zonte's Footstep Doctressa Di Lago Adelaide Hills Pinot Grigio The delicate pear perfume leads to a very dry, almost flinty, palate with a phenolic edge and obvious acidity. The flavour is a little light. Reads like an Italian version, doesn't it? (\$18.00) ★★★

2015 Angullong Orange Sauvignon Blanc The gooseberry/lychee aroma is very attractive and the bone-dry palate features the typical regional acidity. Although it's a little light, there's good drinking to be had for sauvignon blanc fans who prefer subtlety of bouquet and flavour to a full-on assault on the senses. (\$19.00) ★★★★★

2015 Ottelia Mount Gambier Sauvignon Blanc A fresh, grassy style of sauvignon blanc which is delicate but long-flavoured, with lively balancing acidity. (\$22.00) ★★★★★

2015 Cape Jaffa Anna's White Blend (Gewürztraminer, sauvignon blanc, semillon) A light, but lively, white with a delicate rose petal perfume. There's a suggestion of sweetness, but it's neutralised by mouth-watering acidity. (\$25.00) ★★★

2015 Robert Stein Mudgee Semillon The delicate green apple overtones are varietal enough, and the palate is fresh and clean, but on the light side. It may build up with a little bottle age. (\$25.00) ★★★

2015 Wirra Wirra The 12th Man Adelaide Hills Chardonnay The nose shows off intense white peach and grapefruit aromas backed up by classy oak and the cashew influence of lees. This is a long, elegant, textured wine with refreshing acidity. (\$31.50) ★★★★★

2015 Thorn-Clarke Sandpiper Eden Valley Chardonnay A light citrus/stone fruit style which is fresh but simple. (\$18.00) ★★★

REDS

2014 Mount Trio Vineyard Porongurup Pinot Noir Fresh, lively and strawberry-scented. A very pleasant luncheon drink with ham and charcuterie, and worth trying with grilled salmon or tuna. (\$22.00) ★★★

2014 Tarrawarra Reserve Yarra Valley Pinot Noir A very attractive red berry/dark cherry style with subtle dried herb complexity. The palate is silky and long, with very fine tannins. (\$70.00) ★★★★★

2013 Montara Grampians Gold Rush Shiraz The red fruits and spice nose has a lot of appeal, enhanced by the faintest hint of mint. However the palate is on the lean side, allowing the tannins and acid to show out a little too obviously. (\$25.00) ★★★

2014 Wirra Wirra Woodhenge McLaren Vale Shiraz A whiff of licorice adds positively to the vibrant dark berry fruit. Fine tannins and a fresh acid finish contribute elegance to this stylish McLaren Vale shiraz. (\$35.00) ★★★★★

2013 Seppelt Mount Ida Heathcote Shiraz The classic shiraz characteristics of blackberry and exotic spices come to the fore here. It's a rich, ripe-flavoured red with plenty of length and firm, but balanced tannins. A very complex, fascinating wine that will age very gracefully. (\$57.00) ★★★★★☆

http://www.worldwine.com.au/r/products/10921236/seppelt-mount-ida-shiraz-2013?utm_source=wine-searcher&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ws-listing

2013 Montara Gold Rush Grampians Cabernet Sauvignon The fresh red and black-currant nose carries an attractive touch of varietal leaf. The palate is a little too firm for its weight. (\$25.00) ★★★☆

2014 Sandalford Prendiville Reserve Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon A solid cabernet in which the classic blackcurrant aromas are almost overcome by mint. The palate is intense, but firm and angular, lacking fineness. Will prolonged cellaring improve the wine? Maybe, but the tannins are very assertive. (\$120.00) ★★★

Lester Jesberg

NEXT WEEK

A look at the latest wines chosen in the McLaren Vale **Scarce Earth** program.

In two weeks' time the panel convenes for a feature tasting of Australia's finest rieslings. Expect the report soon after.

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