

TASTED THIS WEEK

Shiraz shines this week, and it comes from a wide range of grape-growing environments. However, there are also distinguished examples of chardonnay and pinot noir. Tellurian is clearly now one of the stars of the Heathcote region.

WHITES

2015 Penfolds Max's Adelaide Hills Chardonnay A good example of the region and grape. Very much white peach aroma and flavour backed up by subtle nutty lees characteristics and a touch of oak. The palate features creaminess and a clean acid finish. (\$35.00) ★★★★★

2015 Sandalford Estate Margaret River Reserve Chardonnay This one has white peach aroma and flavour with a greenish edge. The acidity shows out on the finish. (\$22.00) ★★★

2012 Josef Chromy Zdar Tasmanian Chardonnay There was no holding back here. It's rich and funky on the nose, with a hint of toast, and the palate is very well structured and textural, finishing with a Tasmanian acid kick. (\$75.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://shop.josefchromy.com.au>

2015 Giant Steps Yarra Valley Chardonnay A nicely crafted chardonnay packed with white peach and nutty flavours on a long, creamy palate. (\$35.00) ★★★★★

Riesling heads-up: The **2013 Jaeschkes Hill River Clare Estate Riesling** rated ★★★★★☆ in the 2016 Winewise Championship. I've received word from Lyn Jaeschke that the wine has just been awarded a gold medal and trophy for Best Clare Riesling at the International Wine Challenge in London. It's still available at the ridiculous price of \$130 a dozen. <http://www.hillriverclareestate.com.au/order-form/>

REDS

2012 Josef Chromy Zdar Pinot Noir A spicy, cherry-scented pinot noir with attractive herbal complexity. The palate is delightfully fine and silky. (\$75.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://shop.josefchromy.com.au>

2014 Pokolbin Estate Reserve Shiraz The Pokolbin Estate Reserve is usually quite substantial in Hunter terms. This release is an impressive interpretation of the Hunter "burgundy" style, and is perfumed, fine, and most definitely medium-bodied. A subtle oak input completes the picture. Well worth cellaring. (\$70.00) ★★★★★

2014 Mr Riggs The Truant McLaren Vale Shiraz Shows quite ripe fruit but is fresh enough. Opulent palate with "sweet" fruit and firm, furry tannins. (\$17.00) ★★★

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2014 Zonte's Footstep Chocolate Factory McLaren Vale Shiraz A fresh, dark berry-scented McLaren Vale shiraz. Is there a hint of chocolate? Well, yes. A supple red that drinks very well. (\$17.00) ★★★★★

2014 Ross Hill Jack's Lot Orange Shiraz Both red and blackberries are prominent in this fresh, slightly spicy wine which offers very enjoyable drinking now. (\$25.00) ★★★★★

2014 Ross Hill Pinnacle Series Orange Shiraz A powerful, spicy, complex shiraz that most definitely retains its cool area origins. The tannins are super-fine, and balance a long, elegant palate which shows the classic regional acidity. (\$40.00) ★★★★★☆

2013 Tellurian Pastiche Heathcote Shiraz The perfumed, spicy red berry aromatics are very enticing, as is the strongly varietal medium-bodied palate. Fine, firm tannins provide just-right balance. (\$27.00) ★★★★★



2013 Tellurian Tranter Heathcote Shiraz This is an impressive young red. Aromas of red berry, black pepper and cardamom show out, and the lengthy palate is built on a framework of very fine tannins. A delicious shiraz that will cellar well. (\$39.00) ★★★★★☆

<https://www.tellurianwines.com.au/secure-order-form/>

2013 Michael Hall Triangle Block Barossa Valley Shiraz This impressively rich red is full of life, showing the classic blackberry characteristics of the Barossa. The tannins have been beautifully managed, providing structure and balance. (\$38.00) ★★★★★☆

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

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2013 Michael Hall Flaxman's Valley Eden Valley Shiraz The blackberry aromas carry a hint of mint and a whiff of oak. The impressive "sweet" fruit works well with the fine, drying tannins. (\$42.00) ★★★★★



2014 Terre à Terre Crayères Vineyard Wrattonbully Shiraz There's a French connection here in more ways than one. It wouldn't be difficult to mistake this wine for one from the northern Rhône. The dark berry characteristics are enhanced by pronounced black pepper overtones. A delicious medium-bodied style with fine tannins. (\$39.00) ★★★★★☆
<https://terreaterre.com.au/product/2014-terre-terre-crayeres-vineyard-shiraz/>

2014 West Cape Howe Book Ends Mount Barker Cabernet Sauvignon The nose is attractively varietal, showing obvious blackcurrant aromas augmented by a hint of leaf. Firm varietal tannins match the fruit on the palate. (\$28.00) ★★★★★☆

2014 Thorn Clarke William Randell Eden Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Quite minty and leafy. The tannins outweigh the fruit. (\$60.00) ★★★☆

Lester Jesberg

Note: We quoted a Dan Murphy's price of \$27.90 for the 2015 Helm Premium Riesling in our riesling bulletin. Ken Helm assured me that Dan Murphy's has never stocked the wine. The ex-winery price is \$48.00.

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