

2016 WINEWISE SMALL VIGNERON AWARDS Semillon

Sheer weight of numbers means that the Hunter Valley controls this class. Right? Wrong! Coolangatta Estate's wines may be made at Tyrrell's, but their souls reside in a Shoalhaven Coast vineyard which is a tribute to the dedication of its owner and custodian Greg Bishop.

There are, of course, several high-quality Hunter semillons reviewed below, but this year the trophy goes south.



2015 Coolangatta Estate Semillon There's no question about freshness or varietal character here. Aromas of lemon blossom and freshly-cut grass open the door to a long, lively palate with classic semillon acidity. It's a pleasure to drink now, but will acquire more richness over the next five years. (\$25.00) ★★★★★
<http://www.coolangattaestate.com.au/>

2007 Thomas Wines Cellar Reserve Braemore Hunter Valley Semillon An attractively lemony semillon with a touch of toasty maturity. The palate is long and elegant, still showing very impressive freshness. ★★★★★
<https://www.thomaswines.com.au/>

2013 Thomas Wines Cellar Reserve Braemore Hunter Valley Semillon Very lively and citrus-like with great clarity and purity. It's just entering the slightly toasty zone and is beginning to drink very well indeed. ★★★★★

2009 Tintilla Estate Angus Hunter Valley Semillon There's some buttered toast mature character, but the key quality factors of this wine are strong, vibrant varietal flavour backed up by linear acidity. It's drinking beautifully now, but will continue to evolve positively. (\$40.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.tintilla.com.au/>

2016 Gundog Estate The Chase Hunter Valley Semillon This young semillon is full of life. It's delicate, clean and crisp, with lemony overtones and an excellent line of acidity. (\$30.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.gundogestate.com.au/>

2016 Briar Ridge Dairy Hill Single Vineyard Hunter Valley Semillon A pure lemon-lime style with faintly herbal overtones. The finish is long and crisply acidic. (\$35.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.briarridge.com.au/>

2014 Two Rivers Wines Stones Throw Hunter Valley Semillon There's plenty of fresh lemony aroma and flavour in this upper Hunter semillon. The Two Rivers semillons are under-rated, and usually do well in the Small Vignerons Awards. Here's another one. It's very well balanced, with an excellent acid lift. (\$30.00) ★★★★★☆
<http://www.tworivers.com.au/>

2009 Thomas Wines Cellar Reserve Braemore Semillon ★★★★★

2009 Coolangatta Estate Semillon (\$40.00) ★★★★★

2006 Meerea Park Alexander Munro Semillon (\$75.00) ★★★★★

2016 Tintilla Estate Angus Semillon (\$30.00) ★★★★★

2016 De Iuliis Single Vineyard Semillon (\$25.00) ★★★★★

2016 Thomas Wines Murphy's Semillon (\$26.00) ★★★★★

2015 Tintilla Estate Angus Semillon (\$30.00) ★★★★★

2016 Briar Ridge Stockhausen Signature Series Hunter Valley Semillon (\$28.00) ★★★★★

2016 Hart & Hunter Remparts Semillon (\$30.00) ★★★★★☆

2015 Hart & Hunter Oakey Creek Semillon (\$30.00) ★★★★★☆

2006 Coolangatta Estate Semillon (\$70.00) ★★★★★☆

2011 Meerea Park Alexander Munro Semillon (\$45.00) ★★★★★☆

2011 Burge Family Winemakers Olive Hill Semillon (\$28.00) ★★★★★☆

2006 Thomas Wines Cellar Reserve Braemore Semillon ★★★★★☆

2014 Gundog Estate Somerset Vineyard Semillon (\$50.00) ★★★★★☆

2016 Two Rivers Wines Stones Throw Semillon (\$20.00) ★★★★★

2014 Tintilla Estate Angus Semillon (\$30.00) ★★★★★

2014 Wombat Crossing Vineyard The Creek Single Vineyard Semillon (\$25.00) ★★★★★

2015 Two Rivers Wines Stones Throw Semillon (\$40.00) ★★★★★

2014 Gundog Estate Sunshine Vineyard Semillon (\$50.00) ★★★★★

- 2016 De Iuliis Semillon (\$20.00) ★★★
- 2016 Thomas Wines Synergy Semillon (\$20.00) ★★★
- 2016 Coolangatta Estate Semillon (\$25.00) ★★★
- 2009 Coolangatta Estate Wollstonecraft Semillon (\$40.00) ★★★
- 2005 Meerea Park Alexander Munro Semillon (\$75.00) ★★★
- 2016 Gundog Estate Hunter's Semillon (\$30.00) ★★★
- 2015 Ridgeview Reserve Generations Semillon (\$25.00) ★★★
- 2013 Mistletoe Reserve Semillon (\$28.00) ★★★
- 2013 Two Rivers Wines Stones Throw Semillon (\$40.00) ★★★
- 2016 Thomas Wines Braemore Semillon (\$30.00) ★★★
- 2015 Pokolbin Estate Phil Swannell Semillon (\$25.00)★★
- 2010 Thomas Wines Cellar Reserve Braemore Semillon (\$55.00)★★
- 2016 Thomas Wines Cellar Reserve Braemore Semillon★★
- 2015 Gundog Estate The Chase Semillon (\$30.00)★★
- 2015 Cape Naturaliste Torpedo Rocks Semillon (\$ 30.00)★★
- 2011 Two Rivers Stones Throw Semillon (\$50.00)★★
- 2010 Mistletoe Reserve Semillon (\$30.00)★★
- 2014 Ernest Hill Cyril Semillon (\$25.00)★★
- 2013 Hart & Hunter Oakey Creek Semillon (\$40.00)★★
- 2015 Thomas Wines Cellar Reserve Braemore Semillon★★
- 2015 Mistletoe Reserve Semillon (\$25.00)★★
- 2015 Huntington Estate Special Reserve Semillon (\$30.00)★★
- 2016 Huntington Estate Special Reserve Semillon (\$30.00)★★
- 2014 Molly Morgan Semillon (\$22.00)★★
- 2014 Genesis Vineyard Semillon (\$18.00)★★

As usual, the semillon class was deep and strong. The fact that a young wine took out not only the Len Sorbello Memorial Trophy for best 2015 or 2016 semillon, but outdid all comers, is testimony to the efforts of Greg Bishop at Coolangatta Estate. It takes a classy young semillon to come out on top of excellent older wines in a trophy taste-off.

If you're not a Winewise subscriber, please join us (Only \$ 35 per year) <http://winewise.net.au/>