

2016 WINEWISE SMALL VIGNERON AWARDS Other Dry Whites

Varieties like most of those below are being pushed hard, publicity-wise, in some quarters. For those looking for something different, there's a lot to choose from. If, as we expect, you're seeking only high quality dry white wine the pickings are much slimmer. The top-rated wines here will make your search easier.

PINOT GRIS

2016 Hahndorf Hill Winery Adelaide Hills Pinot Grigio The fresh-cut pear/apple aromas are appealing, and the palate is long, satisfying and lively, with balanced grip. Exemplary young pinot gris. (\$25.00)

★★★★☆

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

2015 Brangayne of Orange Pinot Grigio This is a "crunchy" pear style with good texture and acidity. A lively dry white with good flavour length and the potential to age. (\$20.00) ★★★★★

<http://brangayne.com/brangayne-wines-catalogue>

2016 Montalto Pennon Hill Pinot Grigio (\$25.00) ★★★

2016 The Little Wine Co Pinot Gris (\$22.00) ★★★

2015 Riposte The Stiletto Pinot Gris (\$20.00) ★★★

2015 Colmar Estate Pinot Gris (\$28.00) ★★★

2016 Risky Business Pinot Grigio (\$25.00) ★★★

2016 Bromley Mosaic Pinot Grigio (\$25.00) ★★★

2016 Ross Hill Pinnacle Series Pinot Gris (\$30.00) ★★★

2014 Slow Wine Co Pinot Gris (\$24.00) ★★★

2015 Polperro Pinot Gris (\$45.00) ★★

2015 Rowlee Wines Pinot Gris (\$28.00) ★★

2014 Nazaaray Pinot Gris (\$30.00) ★★

2014 Iron Pot Bay Vineyard Pinot Gris (\$25.00) ★★

2016 Quarry Hill Wines Two Places Pinot Gris (\$25.00) ★☆

2015 Herbert Mount Gambier Pinot Gris (\$20.00) ★

VERDELHO & VIOGNIER

2016 Two Rivers Wines Hidden Hive Verdelho (\$16.00) ★★★★★

2016 Rusty Mutt Catnip Viognier (\$22.00) ★★★★★

2016 Sittella Swan Valley The Calling Verdelho (\$19.00) ★★★

2014 Craiglee Viognier (\$39.00) ★★

2016 Mandoon Estate Verdelho (\$23.00) ★☆

2015 Giggling Goose Single Vineyard Viognier (\$18.00) ★☆

2015 Sieber Rd Viognier (\$18.00) ★☆

VERMENTINO

2015 Lillypilly Vermentino Vermentino can be fairly light and simple, but this one certainly isn't. The nose offers floral/apple aromatics and the apple character carries through to a nicely textured palate of substance. Fresh acidity completes the picture. (\$16.50) ★★★★★
<http://store.lillypillywines.com.au/all-wines/>

2015 Atze's Corner White Knight Vermentino (\$20.00) ★★★★★

2016 Mudgee Ridge Estate First Ridge Vermentino (\$25.00) ★★★★★

2016 The Little Wine Co Vermentino (\$24.00) ★★★

2015 Willem Kurt Alpine Valleys Vermentino (\$25.00) ★★

2015 The Overflow Estate Sq Root Vermentino ★☆

2015 Parish Hill Vermentino (\$25.00) ★☆

GEWÜRZTRAMINER

2016 Symphony Hill Gewürztraminer There's no doubting the varietal origins of this Granite Belt (Qld.) wine. Rose petal and lychee show obviously on the nose, and the palate is packed with flavour backed by lively acidity. (\$40.00) ★★★★★

2015 Symphony Hill Barrel Fermented Gewürztraminer (\$45.00) ★★★

2015 Topper's Mountain Barrel Ferm. Gewürztraminer (\$35.00) ★★

2014 Iron Pot Bay Vineyard Gewürztraminer (\$25.00) ★★

2014 Slow Wine Co Gewürztraminer (\$24.00) ★☆

FIANO

JUNIPER

MARGARET RIVER



2016 Juniper Small Batch Margaret River Fiano There's some great work with fiano here. The lemon zest aromatics are immediately engaging, and the palate really delivers in terms of flavour, balance and structural phenolics. It's surely one of Australia's best fianos to date. Note that winemaker Mark Messenger made the top two wines. (\$22.50) ★★★★★

2016 Higher Plane Margaret River Fiano (\$25.00) ★★★★★

2016 Gibson Wines Discovery Road Fiano (\$20.00) ★★★★★

2015 Hart & Hunter Dr B's Fiano (\$28.00) ★★★★★

2016 Tellurian Heathcote Fiano (\$27.00) ★★★

2016 Hart & Hunter Dr B's Fiano (\$28.00) ★★☆☆

2015 Jericho Adelaide Hills Fiano (\$25.00) ★★

AND MORE ...

- 2015 Topper's Mountain Bricolage Blanc (\$35.00) ★★★★★
- 2016 Hahndorf Hill Winery White Mischief Grüner Veltliner (\$23.00) ★★★★★
- 2015 La Bise Arneis (\$22.00) ★★★★★
- 2015 MoFro Wines White (Semillon & Chardonnay) (\$15.00) ★★★
- 2015 Hart & Hunter Chenin Blanc (\$35.00) ★★★
- 2016 Hahndorf Hill Winery GRU Grüner Veltliner (\$28.00) ★★☆☆
- 2016 Davis Premium Vineyards Rogue Series Wild In the Wood Field Blend (\$30.00) ★★☆☆
- 2015 McIvor Estate Marsanne Viognier Roussanne (\$30.00) ★★☆☆
- 2015 Twisted River Chardonnay Viognier ★★☆☆
- 2016 Eden Hall Grüner Veltliner (\$30.00) ★★
- 2015 Parish Hill Grillo ★★
- 2015 Catlin Grüner Veltliner (\$30.00) ★☆
- 2015 Meerea Park Indie Marsanne Roussanne (\$30.00) ★

It's a long and winding, pot-holed road for the "Other Dry White" category, but excellent work is being done and some of the achievements have been significant. We were certainly impressed by the ★★★★★ wines, and a few others were on the verge of gold medal quality. Vine age and winemaking experience will undoubtedly impact positively over the coming years.

Sparkling Wine



2012 Sittella Methode Traditionnelle Pinot Noir Chardonnay

Nicely complex, showing breadly autolysis character to back up the vibrant fruit. The mousse is very fine and the palate is long, finishing with lively acidity. (\$29.75) ★★★★★

<https://www.sittella.com.au/purchase-online>

- 2013 Zarephath Sparkling Shiraz (\$30.00) ★★★★★
- 2011 Cannibal Creek Methode Traditionelle (\$32.00) ★★★
- 2012 Woodsoak Wines Sparkling Shiraz (\$39.00) ★★★
- 2012 Capital Wines Black Rod Sparkling Red (\$36.00) ★★☆☆
- 2011 Ross Hill Blanc de Blancs (\$30.00) ★★
- 2015 Stevens Sparkling Merlot ★★
- NV Curly Flat Macedon Sparkling (\$50.00) ★★
- NV Verdun Park Wines Amelia Pinot Noir Chardonnay (\$35.00) ★★
- 2006 Lerida Estate Brut Reserve ★☆
- 2011 Federation Hill Sparkling (\$32.00) ★

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