

2017 WINEWISE CHAMPIONSHIP

Some will see the triumph of the Windowrie Family Reserve Pinot Noir (below) as a surprise, but they wouldn't have considered this sequence of events. On 20 June, 2016 Lester wrote of the Windowrie, "This could be the best pinot noir I've yet tasted from the Orange region."

Four months later, the 2015 Windowrie Estate Family Reserve Pinot Noir was awarded the trophy for best pinot noir at the Orange Regional Wine Show, followed a few days later by the gong for Champion Pinot Noir at the National Cool Climate Wine Show. In the latter it outdid the likes of Home Hill, Montalto and Pipers Brook. Quite an achievement for the Canowindra (NSW)-based wine producer.

Pinot Noir



Medallion Winner

2015 Windowrie Estate Family Reserve Pinot Noir Red berry and dark cherry aromas drive the very appealing nose which shows just a touch of oak. The palate is supple and generous, but not too big. A delicious red that definitely shows "pinosity". (\$180.00 for 6 bottles)

★★★★☆

<http://www.windowrie.com.au/2015-windowrie-family-reserve-pinot-noir-6pk/>

2015 Coldstream Hills Deer Farm Vineyard Yarra Valley Pinot Noir

Fresh and fragrant, offering subtle herbal complexity and very well handled oak. The palate is a silky, opulent delight, with the structure for cellaring. (\$50.00) ★★★★★

https://www.danmurphys.com.au/product/DM_586860/coldstream-hills-deer-farm-pinot-noir



Medallion Winner 2014 Hanging Rock Jim Jim Pinot

Noir Fresh rich cherry fruit features on both nose and palate of this Macedon Ranges wine. It's already delivering both flavour and suppleness, making it a very enjoyable drink. (\$50.00) ★★★★★

<http://www.hangingrock.com.au/buy-wine/red-wine/2014-jim-jim-pinot-noir>

2015 Clyde Park Vineyard D Block Pinot Noir The nose shows delicate red fruits plus a positive influence of stems. The fine, firm structure of the palate provides the ideal framework for the long, satisfying varietal flavour. (\$65.00) ★★★★★

<http://www.princewinestore.com.au/shop/index.php/category-list/liquor/red-wine/clyde-park-d-block-pinot-noir-2015-872794.html>

2015 Home Hill Kelly's Reserve Pinot Noir The intense raspberry perfume leads to an impressive, rich palate which is balanced by firm, fine tannins. This wine has all the qualities required for further cellaring. (\$75.00) ★★★★★

<http://www.homehillwines.com.au/store#!/2015-Kelly%E2%80%99s-Reserve-Pinot-Noir/p/69872175/category=12248323>

2015 Paringa Estate Robinson Single Vineyard Pinot Noir The fresh, perfumed cherry nose is very enticing and the supple palate reflects perfectly ripe fruit. We expect this wine to age beautifully. (Not yet available) ★★★★★

2014 Home Hill Kelly's Reserve Pinot Noir Very much in the dark cherry spectrum. The palate is absolutely flooded with flavour backed up by a touch of oak. An impressive pinot noir. (Not available) ★★★★★

2015 Paringa Estate Pinot Noir Very fresh, with aromas heading towards framboise. This wine has both power and structure. It will definitely benefit from time in the cellar. (\$72.00) ★★★★★

<http://www.randalls.net.au/store/paringa-estate-pinot-noir-2015-p-27075.html>

2014 Bream Creek Reserve Pinot Noir Comparatively deep colour. This southern Tasmanian pinot is packed with rich summer pudding aroma and flavour. Not rushing its release is a wise move. (Not available) ★★★★★

2015 De Bortoli Estate Grown Yarra Valley Pinot Noir A lively red fruits style with hints of forest floor. It over-delivers in depth and structure for the price. (\$25.00) ★★★★★

<http://shop.debortoli.com.au/red-wines/yarra-valley-estate-grown-pinot-noir-2015.html>

2014 Paringa Estate Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir Very fresh cherry/summer pudding aromas and flavours together with a pleasing suppleness. ★★★★★

2015 Santolin Willowlake Vineyard Yarra Valley Pinot Noir Fresh red berries with a herbal influence. Good length. Fine tannins. ★★★★★

2014 PHI Yarra Valley Pinot Noir A little forward, showing some stems aroma, but the palate delivers freshness and complexity. ★★★★★

2014 Dawson James Pinot Noir Showing some mature characteristics, but offers good weight of fruit with background complexity. ★★★★★

2015 Clyde Park College F Pinot Noir Perfumed cherry/raspberry nose with slightly spicy oak. An enjoyable mouthful. ★★★★★

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2015 Hanging Rock Jim Jim Pinot Noir Fresh ripe strawberry/cherry aromas and flavours. Supple, with good fruit. ★★★★★

2015 Cannibal Creek Pinot Noir Vibrant perfumed red fruits. A fresh and flavoursome Gippsland pinot with fine, smooth tannins. ★★★★★

2015 Barwon Ridge Pinot Noir Vibrant cherry/raspberry aromas. A pleasant drink but a bit simple. Fairly firm finish. ★★★★★

2015 Relbia Estate Pinot Noir (Josef Chromy) Lively red berry characteristics. Fresh but straightforward. ★★★★★

2014 Warramunda Estate Yarra Valley Pinot Noir Showing some development. Dried herb overtones. Drinking ok now. ★★★★★

2014 Lerida Estate Josephine Pinot Noir A perfumed and complex Canberra District wine with a long palate with a fairly firm finish. ★★★★★

2010 Freycinet Pinot Noir It's quite mature, with forest floor overtones, but this east coast Tasmanian pinot is still drinking well. ★★★★★

2015 Lerida Estate Lake George Pinot Noir Shows some strawberry aromatics and the palate offers adequate fruit within a fairly firm structure. ★★★

2014 Bream Creek Pinot Noir Quite a substantial pinot with a firm finish. There are layers of raspberry/strawberry flavour, but the palate needs time to soften. ★★★

2015 Clyde Park Block B2 Pinot Noir The colour shows some maturity and the nose is complex, but comparatively advanced. There's no lack of flavour. ★★★

2015 Sidewood 777 Adelaide Hills Pinot Noir Light colour. Quite a lot of whole bunch/stem character – a little too much for the weight of fruit. ★★★

2015 Shaw + Smith Adelaide Hills Pinot Noir Bright but weak colour. Fragrant light nose. Fresh, but simply lacks intensity. ★★★★★

2015 Greenstone Estate Series Yarra Valley Pinot Noir Has strawberry characteristics but is too advanced on both nose and palate. ★★★★★

Although there's admirable quality to be found at the top end of the results, the pinot noir category has quite a long tail this year.



Cabernet Sauvignon



Medallion Winner

2014 Kimbolton Rifleman Langhorne Creek Cabernet Sauvignon

Langhorne Creek is one of Australia's best cabernet sauvignon regions, and this wine from Kimbolton demonstrates why. It's a vibrant dry red with a fine, firm tannin structure and abundant cassis aroma and flavour. It will cellar well. (\$50.00) ★★★★★

<https://kimboltonwines.com.au/product/the-rifleman-cabernet-sauvignon/>

2015 Wolf Blass Gold Label Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon

Here's a cabernet that expresses its regionality very well. The fresh blackcurrant aromas carry hints of leaf and mint, and the palate is long, elegant and firm. Brilliant value. (\$120.00 for 6 bottles) ★★★★★

http://shop.wolfblass.com.au/GoldLabelCoonawarraCabSauv?_ga=1.225997978.1271481177.1493199949



Medallion Winner 2013 De Bortoli Melba Reserve Yarra

Valley Cabernet Sauvignon It's two medallions in a row for this classy cabernet. The attractive blackcurrant aromas are enhanced by suggestions of cedar and tobacco, and the palate is long, firm and fine. It's the complete package. (\$38.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.nicks.com.au/2013-de-bortoli-melba-reserve-cabernet-sauvignon>

2015 Smallwater Estate Rob's Block Cabernet Sauvignon Our Small Vigneron Awards winner from Geographe (WA) backed up very well here. It's a powerful cabernet, packed with cassis flavour which persists on a long finish. It has the structure for cellaring (Not yet released) ★★★★★

2015 La Boheme The Missing Act Yarra Valley Cabernet and Friend (87% Cabernet sauvignon, 13% sangiovese) What an impressive wine this is – especially for the price. It reflects its large cabernet component very clearly, and is long, fine and firm. (\$20.00) ★★★★★
<http://shop.debortoli.com.au/red-wines/la-boheme-the-missing-act-cabernet-2015.html>

2014 Watershed Awakening Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon A ripe, powerful cassis style with a firm, balanced palate. ★★★★★

2014 Sittella Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Blackcurrant and leaf are allied with positive oak. It has good fruit weight and savoury tannins. ★★★★★

2013 Stonefields Block 22 Wrattenbully Cabernet Sauvignon A big, rich, fresh cabernet packed with blackcurrant goodness. ★★★★★

2013 Pepper Tree Block 21A Wrattenbully Cabernet Sauvignon Fresh and concentrated. Long and firm. Needs time. ★★★★★

2012 Glenlofty Pyrenees Cabernet Sauvignon A rich, ripe cassis style with classic cabernet structure. It has years to go. ★★★★★

2012 Juniper Estate Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon An elegant mature cabernet with classic fine tannins. ★★★★★

2015 Mandoon Estate Research Station Cabernet Sauvignon Attractive, fresh blackcurrant and leaf. A little oaky. ★★★★★

2014 Lindemans St George Cabernet Sauvignon Varietal and regional, but quite taut and closed. It will benefit from several years in bottle. ★★★★★

2015 Moppity Vineyards Lock & Key Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon A very fresh blackcurrant/leaf style with excellent fruit and tannins. ★★★★★

2014 After Hours Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon This cabernet offers complex varietal and tobacco leaf characteristics. The tannins are firm but fine. ★★★★★

2014 Stella Bella Serie Luminosa Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon A complex red fruits/leaf cabernet which is firm and dry. ★★★★★

2013 Pepper Tree Elderslee Road Wrattenbully Cabernet Sauvignon Blackcurrant plus mint. A powerful cabernet which is fairly astringent right now. ★★★★★

2013 St Hugo Private Collection Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon
Fresh, rich and ripe. A big mouthful of cabernet which shows some oak.
★★★★

2012 St Hugo Private Collection Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon
Concentrated and varietal but a little too oaky. ★★★★★

2014 Blass Noir Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon A substantial
cassis-scented cabernet which is fairly solid, but balanced. ★★★★★

**2014 Juniper Estate Single Vineyard Margaret River Cabernet
Sauvignon** Bright, varietal and backward. Has good fruit, but the oak
sticks out a little. Needs time. ★★★★★

2013 Ringbolt Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Shows clear-cut
varietal and regional character. It has good length of flavour, but is just a
little firm and austere. ★★★★★

2015 Shingleback Aficionado McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon
Rich and ripe, showing plenty of cassis. An impressive short-term
cabernet sauvignon. ★★★★★

2013 St Hugo Vitus Purum Cabernet Sauvignon Rich, ripe, and
showing some oak. It certainly doesn't lack varietal flavour. ★★★★★

2013 Blue Pyrenees Estate Richardson Cabernet Sauvignon Very
much at the ripe end of blackcurrant. A big, rich cabernet with its share
of oak. ★★★★★

2013 Lindemans St George Cabernet Sauvignon Blackcurrant with a
touch of leaf and dried herbs. Long, fine, firm. ★★★★★

2012 St Hugo Vitus Purum Cabernet Sauvignon A big dark berry,
oaky cabernet with puckering tannins. ★★★★★

2013 Annie's Lane The Locals Polish Hill Cabernet Sauvignon
Ripe Ribena varietal characteristics. Richly flavoured. ★★★★★

2014 Sittella Margaret River Berns Reserve Very ripe blackcurrant
characteristics together with prominent oak. ★★★★★

2014 Malone Cabernet Sauvignon A rich, ripe cassis style with mocha
oak. ★★★★★

2015 Four Sisters Cabernet Sauvignon Has vibrant primary varietal
characteristics, but is just a little on the lean side. ★★★★★

**2015 Bleasdale Mulberry Tree Langhorne Creek Cabernet
Sauvignon** Shows initial blackcurrant richness, but fades slightly on the
finish. ★★★★★

2014 Ross Hill Pinnacle Series Cabernet Sauvignon The fresh red
fruits aromas and flavours are appealing, but the palate needs more
weight. ★★★★★

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2014 De Bortoli Estate Grown Yarra Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

Fresh, varietal and accessible, but a little light. ★★★☆

2014 Risky Business Cabernet Sauvignon Offers ripe varietal flavour, but the tannins are a little coarse and chewy. ★★★☆

2014 Hay Shed Hill Cabernet Sauvignon A big, flavour-packed cabernet that lacks finesse. ★★★

2015 Brothers At War I'm Always Right Eden Valley Cabernet Rich and ripe, but quite oaky. ★★★

2015 Crabtree Watervale Cabernet Sauvignon Ribena varietal character with a hint of celery leaf. Good fruit with oak showing through. ★★★

2013 Wynns Harold Cabernet Sauvignon Certainly shows varietal character but tapers off on the finish. ★★★

2013 Yalumba The Cigar Cabernet Sauvignon Rich, ripe blackcurrant. Quite solid. ★★★

2013 Bremerton Coulthard Cabernet Shows fresh, ripe varietal character, but is fairly simple. ★★★

2014 Balgownie Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Varietal but comparatively advanced. ★★★

2013 Yalumba The Menzies Cabernet Sauvignon Offers blackcurrant varietal aroma and flavour with prominent herbal notes. ★★★

2011 Glenlofty Cabernet Sauvignon Ripe and slightly jammy, with a firm finish. Doesn't lack flavour. ★★★

2015 Mad Bastard Cabernet Quite ripe and comparatively forward, with chewy tannins. ★★★

2014 Queens Pinch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Slightly light colour. Weak mid palate. ★★★☆

2010 Shingleback D Block Reserve McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon Corked

Cabernet sauvignon may not be as popular as it once was, but this group of wines is strong. The “classic” wines of Coonawarra and Margaret River were trumped by an upstart from Langhorne Creek, and the Yarra Valley, courtesy of De Bortoli, made its presence felt.

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