



WINEWISE

THE CONSUMER'S WINE GUIDE

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St Peters – The Mysterious Vineyard

The Seppelt St Peters vineyard in Great Western, Victoria – just outside Ararat - has been turning out iconic shiraz since 1964. It is also something of a mystery. It is not known exactly when this 8-hectare vineyard was planted, and there is conjecture as to where the cuttings originated. But read on, as we look into what contributes to this magical patch of dirt that turns out one of the world's greatest shirazes.

The Great Western climate could be described as continental rather than cool. The mean January temperature is 21.8°C, and it does have a strong cool, possibly maritime, influence.

The soils are a mixture of sandy or clay loams, called Great Western and Stawell, with quartz traces and Ferruginous concretions. The latter is a general term associated with clay and sandy loams that are iron-rich, possibly in the form of bauxite present in the ancient river bed on which the vineyard. There is also a salinity patch that can make its presence felt in drier years, and according to winemaker, Adam Carnaby, it can produce salty grapes, which are culled before they hit the wine press.

The clone is, natural, called St Peters. It is thought to have originated from the Bussy collection, however, there is some conjecture over this (see 'The Clonal Mystery'). Seppelt believes it's related to the Bests clone due to its highly aromatic profile, and there is strong evidence to suggest that the St Peters clone does not exist anywhere else in Australia. This has prompted Seppelt to propagate and replant the clone to other vineyards, such as the Bass vineyard (planted in the late 1990s).

Unfortunately, the original vines Joseph Best, planted in 1864, no longer exist. The earliest vines in the current St Peters vineyard were established in about 1910, but most of the vines were planted in the 1950s. Further plantings took place in the top part of the St Peters vineyard during the 1990s. However, all vines have been propagated from existing stock, believed to stem from the Joseph Best originals.

The exciting thing about this is that if the St Peters clone is from the original Busby collection, this means that it was sourced from pre-phylloxera European vines. Furthermore, it is thought that this clone no longer exists in France, which makes the St Peters shiraz a truly unique wine on a global scale.

At this point, we have to give special mention to the Imperial vineyard that contributes fruit to the Seppelt St Peters shiraz. It too was established in 1910; however most of the vines in the current vineyard were established in 1969 from Sunraysia stock. It is planted with the 1654 clone, the most favoured clone in Australia.

So, when you next pour a glass of St Peters shiraz, give a thought to the mystery and intrigue that surrounds this very special vineyard. Our vineyard not only has a fantastic story, but could well be one of a kind.

The Clonal Mystery

The first part of this St Peters puzzle is the name. The Seppelt St Peters vineyard was not the first to be called so in Great Western. That honor goes to the first vineyard ever planted in Great Western in 1863 by a French trio – Anne Marie Blampied, her brother Emile, and Jean Pierre Trouette – a winemaker who became Anne Marie's husband. The Blampied Trouette St Peters vineyard started with a half-acre of vines that originated from the Busby collection. It was then expanded a year later, and by 1867 it covered four-acres containing 50,000 vines. It is thought that some of the vines were shiraz, then known as Syracuse or Hermitage.

In 1866, Joseph Best (brother of Henry Best who started the original Best's Wines) established vineyards in Great Western on the site that is today the Seppelt winery. Now, here is where the conjecture of the vine origins begins. There is confusion as to whether the cuttings originated from the Busby Collection, or from Swiss material. It is known that approximately half the cuttings were procured from the Blampied Tourette vineyard – which is thought to be from the Busby Collection. However, the procurement of the other half is not definitively known.

The only clue is that they came from approximately 200-miles away. From the known established vineyards within this range, this means the likely candidates are the De Castella vineyards in the Yarra Valley, sites in Rutherglen (that also have connections to the De Castellans), vineyards in Dookie – that happened to be managed by Hubert De Castella in the late-1800s, vineyards in Albury owned by Sigismund Wekey, and Murray Valley area where 640-acres was established by Irish wine merchant, James Fallon.

The name De Castella cropped up a lot whilst researching the vine origins, as you would expect. Paul De Castella did import vines between 1854-1855, but it is thought he only brought in cabernet sauvignon vines, mainly from Chateau Lafitte, to plant in the Yarra Valley. However, the De Castellans were Swiss, and they originally lived near the village of Chamoson in the upper Rhone Valley where shiraz grew. The De Castella's vineyard reach went far and wide, and Joseph Best is thought to have known the family.

Therefore, it is possible to put forward the theory that the most likely candidate for the origin of the remainder of the vines was via the De Castellans due to their massive involvement in vineyards at the time. It could well be that the vine cuttings are a mixture of both Busby and Swiss from the two most prominent names in early Australian wine history.

Chardonnay

Tasting date: 11/07/2013

Classy chardonnays keep rolling in. We have no doubt that there are many world-class chardonnays being produced in Australia, and we urge you to try them. The top four here certainly qualify.

Best value wines shown in **purple**.

Highly Recommended

2012 Oakridge Barkala Ridge Vineyard Yarra Valley

Chardonnay Intense and varietal with a positive whiff of lees-derived sulphidic funk. The palate is intense, long and structured, with positive grip and lively acidity. (\$36.00)

2011 Heggies Eden Valley Chardonnay There's plenty to this chardonnay – stone fruit, toasted hazelnuts and citrus included – and the palate is powerful yet fine, with a creamy texture. (\$29.95)



2012 Oakridge Over The Shoulder Yarra Valley Chardonnay

Here's an impressive chardonnay that is vibrant but comparatively closed. The nose offers complexity and white peach, together with toasted and candied nuts. The palate is linear and beautifully balanced. (\$23.00)

2010 Hill-Smith Estate Eden Valley Chardonnay This is a very intense, rich chardonnay that is still fresh and attractively complex. The palate is creamy, with a pleasing firmness. (\$23.95)

Recommended

2011 Cullen Kevin John Margaret River Chardonnay This is a big, forward, buttery style showing some oak. It's certainly complex, but the comparatively advanced aromas and flavours mean we don't recommend cellaring. (\$100.00)

2012 Cherubino Margaret River Chardonnay Very fresh and varietal, with a touch of nutty complexity and candied orange rind. The palate is quite full flavoured. Short term. (\$49.00)

Agreeable

2012 Brookland Valley Unison Margaret River Chardonnay Delightfully fresh and complex on the nose, with a touch of funk complementing the white peach aromas. However, the palate is a letdown, tapering off on the finish. (\$19.00)

2009 Prancing Horse Mornington Peninsula Chardonnay A rich, full-flavoured chardonnay with plenty of ripe peach and vanilla. Ready now. (\$55.00)

2012 Ad Hoc Hen & Chicken Chardonnay A rich, peachy, simple chardonnay with equally simple oak. (\$21.00)

Acceptable

2012 Plantagenet Omrah Great Southern Chardonnay Very restrained, showing some white peach, but also gooseberry. The finish is hard. (\$18.00)

2011 Nautilus Marlborough Chardonnay Shows obvious development but is richly flavoured. It's very much on the edge. (\$30.00)



Pinot Noir

Tasting date: 11/07/2013

Oakridge was dominant in this small group – with two distinctly different styles. As expected, the 864 is a complex, layered wine. It doesn't show the overt stemminess we've noted in the past, and is a better wine for it. However, it's the Oakridge "Bourgogne rouge", the Over The Shoulder, that delivers the value for money. We doubt if there's a better pinot noir in the low twenty dollar range, and strongly suggest you add it to your current drinking stocks.

Highly Recommended

2012 Oakridge 864 Block 4 Guerin Vineyard Yarra Valley Pinot Noir Quite light colour. The nose is complex, showing some charred beef which adds considerable complexity to the red fruits. The palate is firm, but persistent and satisfying, and will soften over the next few years. (\$75.00)

2012 Oakridge Over The Shoulder Yarra Valley Pinot Noir This is a delightfully fragrant pinot noir, with almost subliminal complexity. It may not be big, but the palate is long, fine and very satisfying. (\$23.00)

Recommended

2010 Nautilus Marlborough Pinot Noir Rich, ripe and varietal, with sappy overtones. This is a pinot of good freshness, intensity and balance, although the finish is firm. (\$37.00)

2012 Ad Hoc Cruel Mistress Great Southern Pinot Noir The fragrant, subtly complex nose is captivating, and the palate is supple and silky. Very enjoyable drinking but will improve. (\$25.00)

Agreeable

2012 Plantagenet Omrah Great Southern Pinot Noir Quite complex on the nose, with forest floor characteristics, but a little light. The palate offers fruit that doesn't quite cope with the structure. (\$18.00)

2012 O'Leary Walker Adelaide Hills Pinot Noir There's no subtlety here, but the nose shows plenty of freshness and summer pudding fruit. On the palate, the fruit doesn't disappoint, but the tannins are far too firm. (\$22.00)

Acceptable

2010 Prancing Horse Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir Very pale colour and decidedly herbal, developed nose. Thin and unsatisfying. (\$65.00)

2012 Shiraz

Tasting date: 11/07/2013

After sweeping the chardonnays, Oakridge takes on a small, but select, field and triumphs again.

Outstanding



2012 Oakridge Whitsend & Oakridge Vineyards Yarra Valley Shiraz A vibrant style of shiraz that is impressively fresh, peppery and perfumed. The palate is very well balanced, but slightly firm now. Age 3-5 years for great results. (\$36.00)

Highly Recommended

2012 Cherubino Laissez Faire Porongurup Syrah Vivid colour. The nose is splendid, showing spiciness, floral perfume and a hint of roast beef. An utterly delicious, supple shiraz. (\$49.00)

2012 Clonakilla Shiraz Viognier This is a fragrant, complex wine that could pass for a Côte Rôtie. The palate is long and vibrant, with very fine tannins, but the stemmy overtones are a little too obvious right now. Cellar at least five years. (Not yet released)

Recommended

2012 Elderton Greenock One Shiraz A very attractive young Barossa shiraz with vibrant dark berry and chocolate characteristics. The freshness and balance of this wine are admirable. (\$30.00)

2012 Ad Hoc Middle of Everywhere Shiraz The colour is light and lacks vibrancy, but the nose is perfumed, with a herbal edge. The palate is on the light side, but shows attractive northern Rhône characteristics. (\$21.00)

Agreeable

2012 Taylors Jaraman Clare Valley & McLaren Vale Shiraz Dominant oak rides over the top of fresh, spicy fruit. On the palate the fruit comes into its own, but the finish is still too firm. (\$30.00)

Older Shiraz

Tasting date: 11/07/2013

Outstanding



2011 Cherubino Frankland River Shiraz The nose is captivatingly spicy and perfumed, and the palate is medium-bodied, ultra-varietal and utterly delicious. (\$65.00)

Highly Recommended

2011 The Yard Acacia Vineyard Frankland River Shiraz Classic blackberry and spice aromas waft from the glass. This is a beautifully made, perfectly balanced shiraz with a firm, balanced finish. It needs 3-5 years in bottle. (\$35.00)

2009 Blue Pyrenees Reserve Shiraz This is a very impressive red berry/black pepper medium-bodied style. The finish is long, fresh and lively, although the acidity is a little high. (\$35.00)

2011 The Yard Riversdale Vineyard Frankland River Shiraz The blackberry aromas merge with those of toasty oak. The palate is firm, but packed with vibrant fruit. Cellar. (\$35.00)

2010 Mount Langhi Ghiran Cliff Edge Shiraz Quite complex, suggesting some whole bunch in the ferment. Freshness is the key here, and the red berry fruit carries all before it. (\$25.00)

Agreeable

2011 Plantagenet Omrah Great Southern Shiraz The nose suggests cool origins with its spiciness and subtlety, and the palate is very well balanced, if a little light in the middle. Pleasant drinking. (\$18.00)

Acceptable

2010 Dead Letter Office Shiraz This is a big, dense blackberry style of shiraz that is quite firm and needs time to soften. (\$25.00)

2011 Coriole Redstone "S" Shiraz Quite a solid wine with overtones of raisin. (\$18.00)

2010 Deen De Bortoli Vat 8 Shiraz A plain dark berry style with some development. The palate is lean, showing signs of fading. (\$10.00)

2010 Hungerford Hill Tumbarumba Shiraz The nose is interesting, showing dark berry with hints of grilled beef. However the palate is fairly lean and acid. (\$40.00)

2009 Berton Vineyard Bonsai High Eden Shiraz Comparatively advanced and leathery. The palate is ripe, but hard and unyielding. (\$40.00)

Full marks to Larry Cherubino for putting one of Australia's best shiraz regions, Frankland River, into the spotlight.



2011 Cabernet

Tasting date: 26/07/2013

It's east versus west here, and the latter has a huge advantage courtesy of Mother Nature. This tasting brought into focus the subject of colour in young red wines. In the case of cabernet, strong colour and bright hue are critical. Don't believe anyone who says otherwise.

Outstanding



2011 Cherubino Frankland River Cabernet Sauvignon From the deep, bright colour, to the vibrant, opulent nose, this wine introduces itself with aplomb. And it follows through with a brilliant palate – long, intense, firm, fine and complex. There are multi-layered flavours including blackcurrant, tobacco leaf and dark cherry. Perfect oak and tannin handling produce a delightful savoury dryness. A seamless wine that will live for decades. (\$110.00)

2011 Cullen Diana Madeline (Cabernet sauvignon, merlot, malbec, cabernet franc, petit verdot) Aromas of dark fruits, cassis and dried leaves intermingle on the nose. Flavourwise, it's very much cabernet in layers, and the tannins are firm and fine in the classic Médoc manner. Cellar with confidence. (\$100.00)

Highly Recommended

2011 Hay Shed Hill Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon

There's an impressive meld of fruit and complexity in the bouquet, and the palate is tight, long and flavour-packed, without being too big or over-ripe. Powerful blackcurrant fruit matches up well with the firm, savoury tannins. (\$28.00)

2011 Singlefile Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot

The dark berry aroma seems to lean merlot's way, but there's also attractive hints of cassis. The palate is very firm, and time is required to soften the tannins, but the fruit intensity is good. (\$37.00)

Recommended

2011 The Yard Riversdale Vineyard Frankland River

Cabernet Sauvignon Decidedly ripe cabernet characteristics come through on a rich, fresh nose. Here we have a rewarding, mouthfilling wine with fresh, satisfying blackcurrant and dark berry flavours. Keep 2-4 years. (\$35.00)

2011 Cape Mentelle Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon

The colour lacks depth, but the nose offers obvious blackcurrant and leaf cabernet sauvignon character. The palate is firm and fine, but could use just a little more weight to match the tannins. (\$90.00)

Agreeable

2011 Balnaves of Coonawarra Cabernet Merlot A wine that's showing some development. There's enough fruit for current drinking, but the tannins are firm. (\$24.00)

2011 Balnaves of Coonawarra The Blend (Cabernet, merlot, cabernet franc) Fresh, appealing cassis and leaf aromas feature in a vibrant bouquet. Although the tannins are firm, the fruit carries the astringency fairly well. Cellaring may benefit. (\$19.00)

2011 Cape Mentelle Wilyabrup (Cabernet sauvignon, merlot, cabernet franc) The colour is a little light, but bright, and the nose shows classic leafy aromas. The palate offers fresh red fruits with a hint of blackcurrant, but is quite dry and comparatively one-dimensional. (\$49.00)

2011 Brookland Valley Unison Margaret River Cabernet

Sauvignon The colour is bright but light, but the nose has impact, showing clear-cut cabernet sauvignon character and vanillin oak. However, the palate, although fresh, is slightly hollow and leafy. (\$19.00)

Acceptable

2011 Coriole McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon Although this wine shows ripe fruit characteristics, it's still dull and plain. (\$30.00)

2011 Bussell of Margaret River Cabernet Merlot Quite dull and advanced in all respects, but there's no lack of flavour and tannin. Short term. (\$22.00)

2011 Oakridge Vineyard Yarra Valley Cabernet Sauvignon The light, advanced colour virtually says it all. A feeble bouquet and lean, firm palate offer little joy. (\$36.00)

2011 Rockart Estate Heritage Release Cabernet Sauvignon Light, advanced colour. Lean palate. (\$13.90)

2011 De Bortoli Gulf Station Cabernet Sauvignon Light colour. Plain, light wine. (\$20.00)

2011 Rochford Isabella's Vineyard Yarra Valley Cabernet Sauvignon The very weak, advanced colour is an unhappy portent, and the palate is lean and developed. (\$38.00)

2011 Plantagenet Omrah Great Southern Cabernet Merlot Weak, developed colour. Dull, developed wine. (\$18.00)

2011 Maxwell Little Demon McLaren Vale Cabernet Merlot The colour is advanced, and there's a slightly volatile edge to the dull nose which is confirmed on the palate. (\$15.00)

"Go west" could be your motto for 2011 reds, but, as usual, it's not as simple as that. Last week Lester sat down with Chester Osborne in Sydney to taste a range of his Rare Earth shiraz from the 2011 vintage.

d'Arenberg

It's dangerous to generalise. This statement applies to comments on wine vintages whether they be Bordeaux, Burgundy, Coonawarra, the Hunter Valley – or whatever. Vintage 2011 in South Australia and Victoria received plenty of bad press – long before the first wine was bottled. This unquestionably skews the perceptions of the impressionable. There were plenty of light, thin wines (see above) but that's not the whole story.

Of 13 small batch "Amazing Site" wines shown by Chester, these were my favourites.

2011 d'Arenberg The Vociferate Dipsomaniac Shiraz
Excellent colour. Lovely cherry aromas with faintly toasty hints. Comparatively sturdy, but balanced, showing intense dark cherry fruit with hints of dark chocolate. (\$99.00) *Highly Recommended*

2011 d'Arenberg The Eight Iron Shiraz Bright deep colour. Very fresh dark cherry/mulberry nose. Rich, supple palate. It has length and balance without being too big. Impressive. (\$99.00) *Highly Recommended*

Recent Tastings

None of these wines were tasted “blind”, but the reviewers enjoyed them – some more than others. We’d prefer to review all wines “blind”, but weight of numbers and lack of time mean we have no other option.

Best value wines shown in **Purple**.

The 2012 Grey Sands The Mattock (Merlot, malbec, cabernet franc) is a well made wine showing the freshness of youth and plenty of mulberry fruitiness and aroma. It suffers slightly from a problem that afflicts many of its fellow Tasmanian reds – it’s a little too acidic on the finish. However, pick the right food (like pasta with a good spezzatino) and this wine will come into its own. (\$30.00) **Recommended**

2012 Elderton Western Ridge Barossa Valley Grenache Carignan There’s a lot to like about this wine – freshness and regional identity being high on the list. This could easily have been a simple “fruit bomb”, but it’s far more interesting than that. There’s a complex, almost southern Rhône touch to the wine, which is dry and savoury, with intensity and length. However, acidity plays a major part on the finish, suggesting that a little too much was added. (\$55.00) **Recommended**

2012 Elderton Greenock two Barossa Valley Grenache Shiraz Mourvèdre The plushness of this wine is very appealing, and again, the confection side of grenache has been avoided. It’s very much a “drink me” wine, with fine tannins, a clean acid finish and generous, but not over-the-top flavour. Perfect with pizza and Greek, Turkish or Lebanese kebab dishes. (\$30.00) **Highly Recommended**

2012 Clonakilla Hilltops Shiraz The sheer vibrancy of this wine takes it a long way. It revels in its blackberry and raspberry characteristics and is already very drinkable. I’m not suggesting it’s just a quaffer, but its freshness and simplicity make it ideal for early drinking. (\$32.00) **Recommended**

2010 A1 Muedre Alicante Tinto Joven (Telmo Rodriguez) Sometimes it’s a true pleasure to absorb the varietal character of a red grape without oak, stems or any other form of interference. This wine delivers that pleasure. It’s 100% monastrell (mourvèdre) as the quaint name suggests, and the rustic tannins of the grape are well handled, providing structure without being allowed to dominate. The dark fruits of mourvèdre are there in profusion, and although simple, this wine achieves all of its aims. It would be an ideal partner for steak, Bearnaise sauce and chips. (\$19.00) **Recommended**

<http://rathdownecellars.com.au/>

2011 Domaine Tour Saint Michel Côtes-du-Rhône This red, from a very good Châteauneuf-du-Pape producer, delivers the goods. It's very drinkable, in the medium-light red sense, with a decidedly, dry savoury character matched with very enjoyable fruitiness. An ideal wine with the classic southern France lamb dishes. (\$21.00)

Highly Recommended

http://www.grandmillesime.com.au/product_info.php/products_id/8474#.UfuUkb1--Uk

2011 Château Beauchene Grande Réserve Côtes-du-Rhône

The pleasant roundness of the palate is probably due to the grenache component of this very drinkable red. I'd prefer to see slightly more dryness, but this wine is very easy to swallow.

(\$20.00) ***Recommended***

http://www.grandmillesime.com.au/advanced_search_result.php?keywords=&search_in_description=1&country=292&p_type=1&price=0&producer=417&vintage=2011

2013 Clonakilla Viognier Nouveau Winemaker Tim Kirk has made this attractive early-drinking style his own. It's a precocious little number which is almost riesling-like in its rose petal and apricot nectar aromatics. There's a firmness to the palate which needs a little more creaminess of texture for balance, but it will team beautifully with Thai dishes that aren't blazing hot. (\$27.00)

Recommended

2012 Blue Pyrenees Viognier There's no question about the freshness and varietal character of this wine. The obvious apricot aroma and balanced acidity are strong positives, but some texture and complexity are needed to add excitement. (\$18.00)

Recommended

2013 Clonakilla Canberra District Riesling There are a few hidden gems among Australian wines, and this is one of them. Clonakilla has been quite rightly acclaimed for its Shiraz Viognier, but in my view the Riesling is almost as great an achievement. The latest vintage is one of Australia's best. It's intense and beautifully aromatic, reflecting citrus and stone fruit, and the palate delivers great length and acid freshness. Cellar 3-5 years. (\$32.00)

Outstanding

2013 Seppelt Drumborg Vineyard Riesling Drumborg is one of Australia's best sites for riesling, and this vintage reaffirms that fact. Citrus aromas translate to a stunning lemony palate with a minerally dryness accentuated by clean, refreshing acidity. Cellar 3-5 years. (\$40.00) ***Outstanding***

Lester Jesberg

SHAW + SMITH

Canberra was on the itinerary for the annual road trip of Michael Hill-Smith and Martin Shaw announcing the release of the Shaw and Smith Sauvignon Blanc. Here's my view of it and the other wines poured.



2013 Shaw + Smith Sauvignon Blanc Long regarded as one of Australia's best sauvignons, the 2013 Shaw and Smith will do nothing to dent that reputation. From a drier, warmer year than the recent past, but with plenty of cool nights to slow fruit ripening and build flavour, this wine shows little sign of grassy/gooseberry herbaceous characters. Rather, the nose offers ripe grapefruit with hints of musk and kiwi fruit. The palate is tight, fresh and clean, with racy acid and a long, dry finish. Ripe, bright, fresh and zippy. Drink over the next 12 months with light, summery seafood dishes. (\$25.00) ***Highly Recommended***

2012 Shaw + Smith M3 Chardonnay Martin and Michael both believe the 2012 vintage to be the best in the 24-year history of Shaw and Smith. Blessed by perfect weather conditions, the grapes in their Adelaide Hills vineyards ripened beautifully, with pristine flavours and little or no disease. The 2012 version of the M3 Chardonnay, from the company's Woodside vineyard, is another great example of "new-age" Australian chardonnay, but without the hard, lean characters of some who have gone too far in deliberately making chardonnays which have more to do with riesling. The nose is fully-ripe white peach, with hints of citrus (think mandarin or cumquat). All this is complemented by a touch of creaminess from the partial malolactic fermentation. The oak is showing a bit at this young age, but I'm confident the fruit will soon swallow that up and reveal a wine of great balance. Long and finely structured with wonderful intensity, this beauty screams for more time in the cellar – 2 to 3 years at least. (\$42.00) ***Outstanding***

2012 Shaw + Smith Pinot Noir The bright red colour of this wine invites the taster to plunge in straight away. The red cherries carry on to the nose and generous palate. Plenty of sweet red fruits at play, supported by silky, almost imperceptible tannins. The finish is long and satisfying. This is a warm and softer style of pinot – less than 20% whole bunches, in contrast to the current fashion of using much higher percentages of whole bunches in the ferment to produce dry, firm, savoury - but often green-edged - wines. Don't be fooled, however: there is enough structure underneath that sweet and enticing fruit to see this wine cellar for five years or so. (\$45.00) **Highly Recommended**

2012 Shaw + Smith Shiraz Here is a glorious Aussie Shiraz to make even the most tired palate sit up and take notice. Deep, rich crimson red in the glass. The nose shows ripe (but not over-ripe) black fruits, dried oregano, a hint of licorice, and a whiff of cedary/sandalwood oak. The medium-bodied palate is silky, rich and long, the dark fruits swarming onto the tongue whilst channelled by a firm line of powdery tannins, and finishing with prodigious length. Although approachable now, this wine will cellar for many years. A complete package and surely one of the best of its line. **Outstanding** (Not yet released, but expected to be around \$45.00)

Lex Howard

Finally, for completeness, just in case anyone missed our email alert.

WINEWISE ALERT

2012 Oakridge Guerin, Oakridge & Syme Fumare This barrel-fermented blend of sauvignon blanc, semillon and pinot gris further demonstrates what a master craftsman winemaker David Bicknell is. Don't expect obvious vegetal sauvignon blanc characteristics; this wine is about subtlety, fineness and texture. The palate is long and acid-fresh, tending to lemon and grapefruit flavours. I'd like to try it with grilled or fried King George whiting. (\$32.00) **Outstanding**

2009 Tapanappa Whalebone Vineyard Merlot Cabernet Franc Brian Croser, CEO and winemaker for Tapanappa, has been a much-respected friend of Winewise since our very early days. His great contribution to Australian wine via Petaluma and other avenues is part of our history, but he may well be doing his best work as a "small" winemaker at Tapanappa in Wrattenbully. Has he become more of an adventurous, free spirit? Maybe Brian will get back to me on that. The wine? Well, it's very, very good indeed. The plummy of perfectly ripe merlot shows through, but there's much more to this red than just fruit. It has the tobacco leaf notes, length and savouriness we encounter in fine Bordeaux wines. It's European "dry" rather than Australian "sweet", and it is a great cellaring proposition, even though it's under cork. (\$75.00) **Outstanding**

Lester Jesberg

THE 2013 WINEWISE CHAMPIONSHIP

We wanted to bring you an earlier and fuller report of the Winewise Championship, but given tastings, overseas travel and the coming Small Vigneron Awards, we ran out of time. Our report published earlier in year covers several of the major classes and can be read on

<http://www.winewise.net.au>. For the classes we didn't cover earlier in the year, here's how the wines rated. Many of them remain available, so you'll still be able to grab some bargains.

Note: All the wines with prices against them are available at the time of sending this bulletin.

We tasted the wines in groups no larger than seven and ranked them in order of preference, awarding nine to the best, six, four, three, two, one down to zero for the last. The grouping was left to the stewards and was based on grape variety, vintage and origin. In the case of large numbers of entries, there was be a number of heats and a final. Forget scoring out of 20 or 100. It simply wasn't necessary. Best value wines in **purple**

SEMILLON - GROUP 1

Highly Recommended

2012 Tyrrell's Belford Semillon

2012 Tyrrell's HVD Semillon

2012 The Willows Vineyard Semillon (\$16.00)

<http://www.thewillowsvineyard.com.au/ordernow.php>

Recommended

2012 Tyrrell's Brookdale Semillon (\$15.00)

SEMILLON - GROUP 2

Highly Recommended

2011 Tintilla Estate Angus Semillon

2011 Tyrrell's Stevens Semillon

2011 First Creek Wines Winemakers Reserve Semillon (\$40.00)

2011 Mistletoe Reserve Semillon (\$25.00)

2011 The Willows Vineyard Barossa Valley Semillon

Recommended

2011 McWilliams Lovedale Semillon

SEMILLON - GROUP 3

Outstanding

2009 Meerea Park Alexander Munro Semillon

Highly Recommended

2009 Tyrrell's Belford Semillon
2009 Coolangatta Estate Semillon
2009 Tyrrell's Vat 1 Semillon
2009 Gartelmann Benjamin Semillon

Recommended

2010 Juniper Estate Semillon (\$24.00)

SEMILLON - GROUP 4

Outstanding

2007 McLeish Estate Semillon (\$65.00)
<http://www.mcleishhunterwines.com.au>

2008 Peter Lehmann Margaret Semillon (\$32.00)
<http://www.peterlehmannwines.com/our-wines/masters/margaret-semillon>

Highly Recommended

2007 Tyrrell's Belford Semillon (\$33.00)
<http://www.tyrrells.com.au/wines/2007-belford-single-vineyard-semillon>

2007 Peter Lehmann Margaret Semillon (\$32.00)

SEMILLON - GROUP 5

Outstanding

2006 Meerea Park Terracotta Semillon

Highly Recommended

2004 Tintilla Estate Reserve Semillon
2006 Brokenwood Maxwell Vineyard Semillon (\$34.00)
2006 The Willows Vineyard Barossa Valley Semillon
2006 Tyrrell's Vat 1 Semillon (\$49.00)

Recommended

2006 Peter Lehmann Margaret Semillon (\$27.00)
2005 Coolangatta Estate Semillon

SEMILLON - FINAL

2006 Meerea Park Terracotta Semillon
2007 McLeish Estate Semillon
2009 Meerea Park Alexander Munro Semillon
2012 Tyrrell's Belford Semillon
2011 Tintilla Estate Angus Semillon

SWEET WHITE - GROUP 1

Outstanding

2011 Heggies Vineyard Botrytis Riesling (\$22.95/375 ml)
<http://www.discountwines.com/>

Highly Recommended

2011 Centennial Finale Late Autumn (\$25.00/375 ml)
2012 Barwang Granite Track Riesling (\$25.60)
2012 Centennial Reserve Riesling 924 (\$25.00)
2012 Josef Chromy SGR Riesling (\$26.00)

SWEET WHITE - GROUP 2

Outstanding

2011 Riposte Reserve Noble Traminer

Highly Recommended

2010 Pertaringa Autumn Harvest Riesling (\$18.00/375 ml)
2011 Lillypilly Noble Blend (\$22.50/375 ml)
2010 Geoff Hardy Hand Crafted Noble Intent Botrytis
(\$25.00/375 ml)
2009 Pressing Matters R69 Riesling (\$29.00/375 ml)

SWEET WHITE - GROUP 3

Outstanding

2011 Elderton Barossa Botrytis Semillon
2008 Lillypilly Noble Blend (\$24.50/375 ml)

Highly Recommended

2010 d'Arenberg The Noble Prankster Chardonnay Semillon
(\$20.00/375 ml)
2010 Westend 3 Bridges Botrytis Semillon (\$20.00/375 ml)
2006 Lillypilly Noble Harvest

Recommended

2008 Vinifera Easter Semillon (\$28.00)

SWEET WHITE - FINAL

2011 Heggies Vineyard Botrytis Riesling
2011 Riposte Reserve Noble Traminer
2011 Elderton Barossa Botrytis Semillon



CABERNET SAUVIGNON - GROUP 1

Highly Recommended

2011 Rosemount Single Vineyard Series Q Block Cabernet Sauvignon (\$49.95)

2010 Saltram Mamre Brook Cabernet Sauvignon (Not Yet Available)

2010 Rosemount Limited Release McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon (\$20.00)

<https://www.kemenys.com/go.jsp#>

Recommended

2011 Rosemount District Cabernet Sauvignon (\$22.00)

2011 Firetail Cabernet Sauvignon

2010 Eldredge 'RL' Cabernet Sauvignon

Agreeable

2011 Blue Pyrenees Leydens Vale Cabernet Sauvignon (\$12.00)

CABERNET SAUVIGNON - GROUP 2

Highly Recommended

2010 Wolf Blass Gold Label Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon (\$20.00)

http://www.winesattemplestowe.com.au/product_info.php?cPath=61_71&products_id=278

2010 Seville Estate Old Vine Morgan's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (\$60.00)

2010 Watershed Awakening Cabernet Sauvignon (\$70.00)

2010 Bird In Hand Nest Egg Cabernet Sauvignon (\$99.00)

2010 Harcourt Valley Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (\$60.00)

CABERNET SAUVIGNON - GROUP 3

Outstanding

2010 Brands Laira One Seven One Cabernet Sauvignon (Not Yet Available)

Highly Recommended

2010 Pepper Tree 'Calcare' Reserve Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon (\$42.00)

2010 Xanadu Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon (\$30.00)

Recommended

2010 Laurance of Margaret River Icon Cabernet Sauvignon (\$40.00)
2010 Jacob's Creek St Hugo Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon (Not Yet Available)
2010 Paynes Rise Cabernet Sauvignon (\$30.00)

CABERNET SAUVIGNON - GROUP 4

Highly Recommended

2010 Ringbolt Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.95)
http://www.mycellars.com.au/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=814&utm_source=wine searcher&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=August

2010 Evans and Tate Redbrook Cabernet Sauvignon

Recommended

2010 Mandoon Research Station Cabernet Sauvignon (\$40.50)
2010 Woody Nook Gallaghers Choice Cab Sauvignon (\$45.00)
2010 Seville Estate Old Vine Reserve Cab Sauvignon (\$60.00)

CABERNET SAUVIGNON - GROUP 5

Highly Recommended

2009 Brand's Coonawarra Blockers Cab Sauvignon (\$21.00)
<http://www.boccaccio.com.au/buy/brands-blockers-coonawarra-cabernet-sauvignon-2009/LQ04337>

2007 Xanadu Cabernet Sauvignon
2009 Juniper Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (\$40.00)
2009 Xanadu Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon
2009 Pepper Tree 'Calcare' Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

Recommended

2009 Jacob's Creek St Hugo Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon (\$37.00)

CABERNET SAUVIGNON - GROUP 6

Highly Recommended

2009 Brands Laira One Seven One Cab Sauvignon (\$55.00)
2009 Winburndale Fontana Cabernet Sauvignon (\$30.00)
<http://www.winburndalewines.com.au>

2009 Saracen Estates Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve (\$56.00)
2009 Ross Hill Pinnacle Cabernet Sauvignon (\$38.00)

CABERNET SAUVIGNON - GROUP 7

Highly Recommended

2009 Kimbarra Great Western Cabernet Sauvignon (\$27.00)
<http://www.kimbarrawines.com.au/>

2009 Wynns Glengyle Coonawarra Cab Sauvignon (\$62.00)

Recommended

2009 Xanadu Cabernet Sauvignon (\$35.00)
2009 Greg Cooley Rehbein & Ryan Clare Valley Reserve
Cabernet Sauvignon

CABERNET SAUVIGNON - FINAL

2010 Brands Laira One Seven One Cabernet Sauvignon
2009 Brand's Laira Coonawarra Blockers Cabernet Sauvignon
2009 Brands Laira One Seven One Cabernet Sauvignon
2010 Ringbolt Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon
2011 Rosemount Single Vineyard Series Q Block Cabernet
Sauvignon
2010 Wolf Blass Gold Label Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon
2009 Kimbarra Great Western Cabernet Sauvignon

This was a magnificent effort by the McWilliams winemaking team. They've returned the Brands name to where it belongs in the Coonawarra hierarchy. Coonawarra and Margaret River filled the first four placings, reaffirming where the best Cabernet Sauvignon in Australia is grown.

TEMPRANILLO

Highly Recommended

2011 Centennial Vineyards Reserve Tempranillo (\$30.00)
http://www.centennial.net.au/cellar_door/our_wines.php

2012 Moonrise Estate Tempranillo (\$36.00)

Recommended

2011 Capital Wines Ambassador Tempranillo
2011 Dalfarras Tempranillo (\$14.80)
<http://www.tahbilk.com.au/>

OTHER RED BLENDS

Highly Recommended

2010 Wynns Cabernet Shiraz Merlot (\$15.00)
<http://www.graysonline.com/retail/wynncsm11/wine/wynns-cabernet-blends-2010?spr=true&partner=winesearch>

Recommended

2008 d'Arenberg The Sticks & Stones Tempranillo Blend
(\$32.00)

CLASSIC AUSTRALIAN BLEND

Highly Recommended

2010 Wynns V&A Lane Cabernet Shiraz (\$45.00)
2006 Yalumba The Reserve Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon
Shiraz (Not Yet Released)
2010 Yalumba The Signature Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz (Not
Yet Released)

Recommended

2010 Yalumba FDR1A Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz (\$35.00)

BORDEAUX BLEND – GROUP 1

Highly Recommended

2011 Rosemount Estate Traditional
2010 Brands Laira Coonawarra August Tide
2011 Knotting Hill Cabernet Merlot

Recommended

2009 Smith & Hooper Wrattenbully Cabernet Merlot (\$16.00)

BORDEAUX BLENDS – GROUP 2

Highly Recommended

2010 Mandoon Cabernet Merlot
2009 Voyager Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot

Recommended

2010 South By Southwest Cabernet Merlot (\$17.85)
2011 West Cape Howe Cabernet Merlot (\$15.00)
2010 Singlefile Margaret River Cabernet Merlot (\$36.00)
2011 Evans & Tate Margaret R Classic Cab Merlot (\$13.00)

BORDEAUX BLENDS - FINAL

2010 Mandoon Cabernet Merlot
2011 Rosemount Estate Traditional

ITALIAN RED VARIETALS – GROUP 1

Highly Recommended

2009 Glenwillow Wines d'Yandoit Nebbiolo (\$24.95)
2009 Dal Zotto Nebbiolo
2008 Protero Nebbiolo

ITALIAN RED VARIETALS – GROUP 2

Highly Recommended

2011 Ciriame Estate Montepulciano
2009 Foster e Rocco Riserva Sangiovese (\$50.00)
2010 Pikes Wines Luccio Sangiovese

Recommended

2011 Tenafeate Creek Wines One Tree Hill Basket Press
Sangiovese (\$20.00)
2008 Freeman Vineyards Secco Rondinello Corvina (\$34.95)
2012 Ciriame Estate Montepulciano

ITALIAN RED VARIETALS – GROUP 3

Highly Recommended

2010 Geoff Hardy Hand Crafted Lagrein (\$28.00)
https://www.crackawines.com.au/Geoff_Hardy/2010_Hand_Crafted_by_Geoff_Hardy_Lagrein/Sales

2012 Ciriame Estate Lagrein
2011 Di Lusso Estate Barbera

Recommended

2010 Westend Estate Calabria Nero d'Avola
2012 Bassham Lagrein

BORDEAUX BLENDS - FINAL

2010 Geoff Hardy Hand Crafted Lagrein
2009 Glenwillow Wines d'Yandoit Nebbiolo
2011 Ciriame Estate Montepulciano

FORTIFIED - GROUP 1

Highly Recommended

2006 Winter Creek Fortified Shiraz (\$25.00/375 ml)

Recommended

2006 Morris Vintage Fortified

2010 Stanton and Killeen Vintage Fortified

FORTIFIED - GROUP 2

Outstanding

Saltram Mr Pickwick Rare Tawny (\$52.50)

http://danmurphys.com.au/product/DM_91995/saltram-mr-pickwick-s-particular-tawny&CA_6C15C=1069295908

Recommended

Yalumba Antique Tawny

FORTIFIED - GROUP 3

Outstanding

Morris Cellar Reserve Grand Liqueur Muscat (\$50.00/500 ml)

<http://www.morriswines.com.au/orderform.php>

Morris Old Premium Rare Liqueur Muscat (\$75.00/500 ml)

FORTIFIED - GROUP 4

Outstanding

NV Morris Cellar Reserve Grand Liqueur Tokay

NV Morris Rare Liqueur Tokay

FORTIFIED - FINAL

NV Morris Rare Liqueur Muscat

NV Morris Cellar Reserve Grand Liqueur Tokay

NV Saltram Mr Pickwick Rare Tawny

2006 Winter Creek Fortified Shiraz

