



WINEWISE

THE CONSUMER'S WINE GUIDE

August 2013



Tumbarumba, New South Wales

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RIESLING

This is the first of many Small Vigneron Awards reports. This year's results sees a remarkable number of wines that are exceptional value.

Note: **G**=Gold medal; **S**= Silver medal; **B**=Bronze medal

Excellent value wines in purple.

Outstanding

2013 Dolan Family Wines Rifleman's Riesling This is an exceptional riesling that shows the classic lime blossom Clare Valley characteristics. The palate is long and fine, with just-right acidity. Don't miss this one. (\$19.50) **G**
info@dolanfamilywines.com.au

Highly Recommended

2013 Koppamurra Clare Valley Riesling Another classy 2013 Clare Valley riesling. Could this vintage challenge 2012? Very much in the lime spectrum, with spicy notes, and a very satisfying, fresh palate. (\$18.00) **G**
sales@koppamurra.com

2013 Shaw Vineyard Estate Riesling Production of riesling in the Canberra District is minute in comparison to Clare, but the region is well and truly making its mark. This riesling is rich and almost ready, showing exotic kaffir lime leaf and cumquat overtones. Great drinking. (\$25.00) **G**
info@shawvineyards.com.au

2012 Abbey Creek Riesling Abbey Creek is situated in the Porongurup region of Western Australia, another small, high quality riesling area. The complexity of this wine was a talking point, one judge suggesting there may have been some solids in the ferment. Solids or not, this is an impressive wine. The nose is perfumed, with interesting secondary notes, and the palate offers length, texture and fresh acidity. (\$25.00) **G**
abbeycreek@iprimus.com.au

2013 Singlefile Porongurup Riesling This is a restrained, delicate, pristine riesling. The nose is floral and the palate is linear, but needs another year or so to build in flavour. (\$25.00) **S**
<http://www.singlefilewines.com/SingleFile>

2012 Harewood Estate Reserve Riesling Another Great Southern (W.A.) wine. It's a very backward, youthful riesling with delicate lemony aromatics. The palate is very racy, driven by acidity at the moment. Give it time. (\$34.00) **S**
<http://www.harewoodestate.com.au/thewines.htm>

2013 Yarrawood Tall Tales Autumn Harvest Riesling As the name implies, it's a riesling from the Yarra Valley. It's very floral, juicy and "crunchy", this is a delicious mouthful of riesling. The sulphur dioxide is a tad obvious, but this won't be a problem as the wine settles down in bottle. (\$22.50) **S**
http://www.yarrawood.com.au/cellar/purchase_online_3.php

Recommended

2013 Pokolbin Estate Riesling From a very special old vines site in the Hunter Valley, and made by star winemaker Andrew Thomas, here we have one of Australia's special and distinctive wines. It's a bright, pure, racy riesling with restrained lemony aromas and faint aniseed notes. It will be an even better wine in 12 months' time. (\$25.00) **S**

2012 Chalkers Crossing Hilltops Riesling The red delicious apple aromas are appealing, and the delicate palate is built on lively clean acidity. (\$18.00) **S**

2013 Koonowla Ringmaster Riesling A very clean, floral, pristine riesling that offers very enjoyable current drinking. It doesn't quite have the intensity of the top wines. (\$15.00) **S**

2013 Silkwood Riesling Very bright and aromatic, but just needs slightly more middle palate. (\$19.00) **S**

All other rieslings tasted – in order of preference

2010 Saddler's Creek Reserve Riesling **B**

2011 Saddler's Creek Reserve Riesling **B**

2012 Bundaleer Stony Place Clare Valley Riesling **B**

2012 Tim Gramp Clare Valley Watervale Riesling **B**

2013 Rockcliffe Single Site Riesling **B**

2013 Robert Stein Reserve Riesling **B**

2010 Patrick of Coonawarra Aged Riesling **B**

2013 Fireblock Watervale Riesling **B**

2013 Brangayne Of Orange Riesling **B**

2012 Wicks Estate Riesling **B**

2012 Fallows Run Lidia Riesling **B**

2012 Winstead Riesling **B**

2013 Ravensworth Riesling **B**

2013 Rockcliffe Third Reef Riesling **B**

2011 Half Moon Wines Riesling **B**

2013 Half Moon Wines Riesling

2013 Kies Family Hill Block Riesling

2011 Fallows Run Lidia Riesling

2011 Yarrh Riesling

2007 Pokolbin Estate Riesling

2013 Sapling Yard Riesling

2013 The Willows Vineyard Riesling

2012 Montara Grampians Riesling

2008 Pauletts Aged Release Riesling

2013 Mount Majura Vineyard Riesling
2013 Koonowla Riesling
2013 McKellar Ridge Riesling
2013 Pauletts Polish Hill River Riesling
2013 Zarephath Riesling
2012 John Gehrig Wines Riesling
2013 Harcourt Valley Vineyards Riesling

Coriole New Releases

2012 Coriole McLaren Vale Sangiovese Coriole has had many years' experience with sangiovese, and it shows. The colour is relatively light in hue, but it is bright, and has depth. This wine actually smells like sangiovese, showing dark cherry and bun spice. The palate is fresh and intense, with fine, lingering, dry tannins. Try it with something Italian, like pasta with duck ragout. (\$25.00)

2013 Coriole McLaren Vale Fiano The nose is very fresh, but still shows tropical fruit fermentation esters. The palate, however, is more like fiano – textural and rich, with controlled phenolics. This wine needs another twelve months in bottle to show what it's all about in varietal terms. (\$25.00)

2013 NSW Small Winemakers Show

NSW Small Winemakers Show celebrated its 22nd year of competition this year. It received 564 entries from 94 small producers that crush a maximum of 500 tonnes annually. It is not open to any winery that is owned or part owned by a large wine producer.

For the 4th year, Chairman of Judges was Mr Andrew Thomas of Thomas Wines in the Hunter Valley. He was delighted with the overall quality of the entries despite the recent challenging vintages across NSW wine regions. "All wines that were awarded gold medals, and then the best of those wines that were awarded trophies, are outstanding wines." Thomas stated. One of the highlights for him was the 2013 whites, particularly the trophy winners. "The two Canberra Rieslings and the Hunter Valley Semillon were stunning white wines. They are great current drinking, but also have a bright future."

The outstanding classes were semillon, shiraz and riesling, but good entries were seen in chardonnay classes, Italian and Spanish varietals, as well as the 2012 cabernet sauvignon, and the 2012 Bordeaux blends.

The Hunter Valley won 9 of the 14 trophies awarded, with the Canberra District winning 2 trophies. Other regions to win trophies were Hilltops and Riverina, with the fruit for the Bimbadgen Regions Cabernet Merlot sourced from Orange. The major trophy winners are:

Best White Wine of Show 2009 Mistletoe Reserve Semillon

Best Red Wine Of Show 2011 Leogate Estate Brokenback Shiraz

Best Boutique White Wine Of Show 2009 Mistletoe Reserve Semillon

Other trophy winners were:

2013 Four Winds Vineyard Riesling (Canberra District)

2013 First Creek Winemakers Reserve Semillon (Hunter Valley)

2012 Ernest Hill Chicken Shed Chardonnay (Hunter Valley)

2011 Leogate Estate Creek Bed Reserve Chardonnay (Hunter Valley)

2013 Eden Road Off Dry Canberra Riesling (Canberra District)

2012 David Hook Wines Barbera (Hunter Valley)

2012 Moppity Vineyards Lock & Key Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Hilltops)

2012 Bimbadgen Regions Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot (Orange)

OUR RATING SCALE

Outstanding Exceptional by any standard – a world-class wine.

Highly Recommended A very fine wine which is a faultless example of the style.

Recommended Has no faults and offers most enjoyable drinking.

Agreeable Lacks intensity or may have minor blemishes, but is still a pleasant drink

Acceptable Decidedly run of the mill, and/or obviously deficient in some way or other

Unacceptable A wine that, in our view, provides no drinking pleasure.

PINOT NOIR

Pinot noir is small maker territory, and this is one of the highlight varieties of the Awards. The number of gold medals testifies to the quality being achieved by dedicated producers.

Tim Knappstein followed up his triumph in the 2013 Winewise Championship with a gold medal for the 2010 Riposte and a trophy for the 2012.

Congratulations to Home Hill and Montalto for three gold medals each with cutting-edge wines.

Note: **G**=Gold medal; **S**= Silver medal; **B**=Bronze medal

Excellent value wines in purple.

Outstanding



2012 Riposte The Sabre Pinot Noir We keep telling you how good the Riposte pinots are, and here's further proof. What's more, the panel – Bryan Currie, Jo Marsh and Nick O'Leary – had never been involved in our past assessments of Riposte.

The colour has depth, but isn't dense, and shows bright purple hues. Dark cherry aromas abound on a very fresh varietal nose and the palate has weight, but isn't heavy. Very fine tannins support the bright varietal flavour. Don't miss it. (\$29.00) **G**
<http://www.timknappstein.com.au/shop/>

Highly Recommended

2012 Montalto Main Ridge Block Pinot Noir A silky, graceful Mornington Peninsula pinot noir which is perfumed and long-flavoured. The tannins are fine and savoury, and the oak is seamlessly integrated. (\$65.00) **G**

2012 Brown Magpie Single Vineyard Pinot Noir This is a beautifully made wine from Victoria's Bellarine Peninsula with a fresh red berry varietal perfume and a silky-textured palate of excellent balance. (\$25.00) **G**
<http://www.brownmagpiewines.com/wines>

2011 Home Hill Estate Pinot Noir As is usually the case with Home Hill pinots, there's no lack of colour and concentration. Nevertheless, there's also no shortage of varietal character. Well-judged stemmy complexity adds to the very appealing dark cherry characteristics. Give it a year or two for even better results. From the Huon Valley, Tasmania. (\$36.00) **G**
<http://www.homehillwines.com.au/>

2010 Winstead Lot 16 Pinot Noir This pinot comes from Bagdad, just north of Hobart. The nose is vibrant, with suggestions of summer pudding, and there's a complex dried herb overtone. The palate is long and satisfying, balanced by fine, savoury tannins. (\$35.00) **G**
winsteadvy@bigpond.com

2010 Riposte The Sabre Adelaide Hills Pinot Noir Following up a medallion in the Winewise Championship with a gold here is no mean feat. The freshness and perfumed varietal character are strong points, and the fine tannins match the dark cherry fruit beautifully. (\$30.00) **G**

2011 Home Hill Kelly's Reserve Pinot Noir The concentration of flavour is impressive, but, combined with the tannins, it's almost confronting. However, the freshness and balance give assurance that cellaring for a few years will definitely be rewarded. (\$50.00) **G**

2012 Montalto Teurong Block Pinot Noir This is an impressive, complex pinot noir showing forest floor characteristics on a vibrant, perfumed nose. The palate also delivers with intensity, length and well balanced oak. (\$65.00) **G**

2012 Montalto Pennon Hill Pinot Noir The bright varietal character is a winner, and the fine tannins and silky texture make this wine a very impressive, elegant early-drinking style. (\$39.00) **G**

2012 Home Hill Kelly's Reserve Pinot Noir A very primary pinot showing hints of rhubarb and blackberry crumble. The palate is long and tight, demanding time. (\$50.00) **G**

2012 Wicks Estate Pinot Noir Tim Knappstein again makes his presence felt with this vibrant, ripe, dark cherry pinot noir. Already a show trophy winner, this delicious 'juicy' wine has a lot of short-term appeal. Sensational value. (\$20.00) **G**
<http://www.wicksestate.com.au/index.cfm?method=storeproducts.showList&productcategoryid=c62da64e-ba7f-f5c1-23f4-a6cd32e74469>

2012 Bromley Harrison Pinot Noir Bromley is based at Drysdale on the Bellarine Peninsula, Victoria. In a very short time, the wines have made a big impression, and this is a great example. It's an enthralling melange of pristine varietal fruit and well-judged whole-bunch complexity. (\$38.00) **G**

Recommended

2012 Freycinet Pinot Noir Has good varietal flavour and structure, but is on the simple side. Will improve with cellaring. (\$65.00) **S**

2012 Clyde Park Pinot Noir A powerful pinot with plenty of structure and flavour. Will gather momentum with more time in bottle. (\$35.00) **S**

2007 Kyneton Ridge Estate Pinot Noir This wine has softened with bottle age and is now in its drinking window. The nose is perfumed and varietal, enhanced by complex beef stock notes. Fairly firm but balanced tannins complete the picture. (\$52.00) **S**

2010 Winstead Lot 7 Pinot Noir The richness of varietal fruit is matched by firm but balanced tannins. No shrinking violet. (\$35.00) **S**

2012 Rockcliffe Third Reef Pinot Noir Attractively spicy – a little like cool climate shiraz. Drinks well, but doesn't have quite the "pinosity" of the top wines. (\$22.00) **S**

All other pinot noirs tasted – in order of preference

2012 Montalto Estate Pinot Noir **B**
2012 Home Hill Estate Pinot Noir **B**
2012 Montalto Merricks Block Pinot Noir **B**
2012 Portsea Estate Birthday Hill Pinot Noir **B**
2012 Yellow Point Bloody Eleventh Pinot Noir **B**
2012 Rockcliffe Single Site Pinot Noir **B**
2012 Sidewood Adelaide Hills Pinot Noir **B**
2012 Jodie Mason Adelaide Hills Pinot Noir **B**
1999 Saddler's Creek Marrowbone Pinot Noir **B**
2010 Brown Magpie Pinot Noir **B**
2010 Bagdad Hills Pinot Noir **B**
2012 Balgownie Black Label Pinot Noir
2012 Seville Estate Pinot Noir
2012 Portsea Estate Pinot Noir
2012 Centennial Woodside Pinot Noir
2012 Cannibal Creek Pinot Noir
2012 Passing Clouds The Fools On The Hill Pinot Noir
2010 Portsea Estate Pinot Noir
2012 Quealy Musk Creek Pinot Noir
2012 Lerida Estate Lake George Cullerin Pinot Noir
2010 Lerida Estate Lake George Josephine Pinot Noir
2012 Huntington Estate Special Reserve Pinot Noir

2012 Abbey Creek Pinot Noir
2011 Portsea Estate Pinot Noir
2008 Quarry Hill Pinot Noir
2012 Seville Estate The Barber Pinot Noir
2012 Quealy Seventeen Rows Pinot Noir
2011 Sidewood Adelaide Hills Pinot Noir
2011 Silkwood Pinot Noir
2009 Quarry Hill Pinot Noir
2011 Brown Magpie Single Vineyard Pinot Noir
2010 Golding Francis John Pinot Noir
2012 Lanes End Pinot Noir
2012 Wolseley Wines Pinot Noir
2012 Bromley Murray Pinot Noir
2012 Harewood Estate D Block Pinot Noir
2012 Deviation Road
2011 Rockcliffe Single Site Pinot Noir
2012 Silkwood Pinot Noir
2012 Leura Park Pinot Noir
2012 Sapling Yard Pinot Noir
2010 John Kosovich Pemberton Pinot Noir
2012 Clyde Park Block B2 Pinot Noir
2012 Lark Hill Biodynamic Pinot Noir
2012 Ross Hill Pinnacle Series Pinot Noir
2011 Mount Monument Pinot Noir

2013 Orange Wine Week dates announced

The 2013 Orange Wine Week begins on the 17th of October and continues through to the 27th of October.

Orange Wine Show Presentation Dinner

Join the winegrowers at this black tie dinner, with dishes presented by hatted chefs, Simonn Hawke from Lolli Redini and Regional Chef of the Year Shaun Arantz from Racine at La Colline.

Date: Thursday 17 October 2013

Venue: Ross Hill Wines, 134 Wallace Lane, Orange \$150 pp

Tickets: Bookings essential www.tasteorange.com.au/wineweek

Orange Wine Show Tasting

This is a special opportunity for wine lovers to taste a wide range of regional wines in one place. Date: Friday 18 October 2013

Venue: Orange Showground Pavilion, Leeds Parade, Orange

Cost: \$50 pp includes Speigelaue wine glass and food

\$45 includes standard tasting glass and food

Bookings essential. www.tasteorange.com.au/wineweek

CHARDONNAY

Chardonnay is always one of the glamour classes of any wine show. Everyone expects bold showings from regions like Margaret River, Yarra Valley and Mornington, but this year the heavyweights were outpointed by an “unknown”.

Note: **G**=Gold medal; **S**= Silver medal; **B**=Bronze medal

Excellent value wines in purple.

Highly Recommended



2012 Crooked Brook Geographe Chardonnay This is a beautifully made chardonnay in which the intense white peach fruit has been enhanced by skilful barrel fermentation. There are hints of lees-derived complexity and the creamy texture of the long, well balanced palate is a major feature. Thoroughly modern chardonnay at an amazingly low price. (\$18.00) **G**
<http://www.crookedbrookwines.com.au/>

2012 Montalto Hawkins Hill Mornington Peninsula Chardonnay Here's a chardonnay that's the real deal. Funky matchstick complexity merges with pristine cool-area fruit, and the long palate is creamy and acid-fresh. (\$55.00) **G**
<http://www.montalto.com.au/store/>

2012 Windows Estate Margaret River Chardonnay A rich but comparatively restrained chardonnay with all the bells and whistles. The nutty and buttery characteristics are in check, and the fruit flows long on a beautifully textured palate. (\$35.00) **G**
<http://www.windowsestate.com.au/PDFs/WindowsEstateOrderFormFeb2013.pdf>

2011 Leura Park Chardonnay This wine could easily be mistaken for a chardonnay from the Côte de Beaune. The nose is complex, with floral and almond meal notes, and the palate is long and satisfying, with a pleasing acid twist. (\$est. \$30.00 - \$40.00) **G**

2012 Leura Park Block 1 Reserve Chardonnay If you're looking for a "take no prisoners" chardonnay that is very complex and creamy, yet balanced and fresh, this one from the Bellarine Peninsula, Vic., will be the wine for you. The cool area grapefruity flavour holds it all together. (\$N/A est. \$45.00 - \$50.00) **G**
Contact the winery for release dates.
lyndsay@leuraparkestate.com.au

2011 Montalto Estate Mornington Peninsula Chardonnay Shows attractive white peach and citrus characteristics. The oak is well integrated on the very satisfying, fresh, well textured palate. (\$39.00) **G**

2011 Hutton Triptych Margaret River Chardonnay This is a beautifully made chardonnay that has lived up to last year's review when we said "This chardonnay is just starting to grow." The oak has integrated beautifully, and the citrus and stone fruit characteristics are strongly regional and varietal. (\$40.00) **G**

2012 Saddler's Creek Reserve Chardonnay Although we'd put it in the ready to drink category, this is no simple chardonnay. There's a whiff of sulphidic complexity (funk) and the palate is rich, tight and long. (\$34.00) **G**

2011 Montalto Hawkins Hill Mornington Peninsula Chardonnay There's a hint of honeysuckle in the complex nose, and good initial flavour. However the middle palate is just a little light. (\$55.00) **S**

2012 Rosily Vineyard Margaret River Chardonnay A rich, ripe style that delivers plenty of fresh varietal flavour at a modest price. The complexity, balance and texture make it well worth trying. (\$23.00) **S** <http://www.rosily.com.au/order/>

2012 Montalto The Eleven Mornington Peninsula Chardonnay An impressive chardonnay which is in the grapefruit zone, and shows plenty of lees-derived complexity. It doesn't have quite the presence of the 2012 Hawkins Hill, but there's plenty to like. (\$55.00) **S**

2011 Montalto The Eleven Mornington Peninsula Chardonnay Drinking well, and is complex and svelte, but showing some development, with hints of butterscotch. (\$55.00) **S**

2012 Montalto Estate Mornington Peninsula Chardonnay Shows some gooseberry as well as grapefruit. Well handled oak provides structure. (\$23.00) **S**

2011 Balgownie Estate Chardonnay A chardonnay with pronounced initial flavour and hints of toasted nuts and butterscotch. Finishes slightly short. (\$45.00) **S**

Recommended

2012 After Hours Margaret River Chardonnay A fresh citrus – stone fruit style that provides enjoyable drinking, but is slightly lacking in mid palate intensity. (\$21.00) **S**

2012 Palmer Reserve Margaret River Chardonnay The freshness and subtle complexity are strong points. However, the oak comes to the fore at the moment. (\$75.00) **S**

2012 Rockcliffe Single Site Chardonnay A quite restrained style with a good texture. It finishes slightly hot. (\$40.00) **S**

2012 Two Rivers Reserve Chardonnay Has good, rich, peachy fruit, but the oak is too prominent. (\$16.00) **S**

2012 Seville Estate Yarra Valley Chardonnay An attractive grapefruity chardonnay with complex funky notes. Fresh acid lifts the finish. (\$33.00) **B**

2012 Cannibal Creek Chardonnay This is a very stylish grapefruit-scented Gippsland wine with appealing complexity and texture. The oak is obvious, however. (\$28.00) **B**

All other chardonnays tasted – in order of preference

2012 Sidewood Mappinga Chardonnay **B**

2012 Carillion ‘The Crystals’ Orange Chardonnay **B**

2012 Montalto Pennon Hill Chardonnay **B**

2011 Palmer Chardonnay **B**

2012 Singlefile Family Reserve Denmark Chardonnay **B**

2011 Leogate Estate Reserve Hunter Valley H10 Block Chardonnay **B**

2012 Saddler's Creek Chardonnay **B**

2012 Sidewood Chardonnay **B**

2011 Sidewood Stable Hill Chardonnay **B**

2012 Wolseley Wines Chardonnay **B**

2012 Freycinet Chardonnay **B**

2011 Seville Estate Reserve Chardonnay **B**

2011 Ridgeview Impressions Chardonnay **B**

2012 Collector Tiger Tiger Chardonnay **B**

2012 Lobethal Road Bacchant Chardonnay **B**

2012 Serafino Chardonnay **B**

2012 Clyde Park Chardonnay **B**

2012 Ernest Hill Chicken Shed Chardonnay **B**

2011 Briar Ridge ‘Briar Hill’ Hunter Valley Chardonnay **B**

2012 Ross Hill Pinnacle Chardonnay **B**

2012 Rockcliffe Third Reef Chardonnay **B**

2011 Heafod Glen Family Reserve Chardonnay **B**

2008 Montgomery's Hill Chardonnay **B**
2013 Lillypilly Chardonnay **B**
2011 Juniper Estate Chardonnay **B**
2012 Portsea Estate Stonecutters Chardonnay
2012 Cooks Lot Chardonnay Lot #168
2012 Warner Glen Estate Chardonnay
2011 Higher Plane Chardonnay
2011 Serafino Chardonnay
2012 Balnaves of Coonawarra Chardonnay
2011 Mistletoe Reserve Chardonnay
2012 Printhe Mountain Range Chardonnay
2011 Brangayne Of Orange Isolde Reserve Chardonnay
2012 Wicks Estate Chardonnay
2012 Sidewood Stable Hill Chardonnay
2012 Grampians Estate Mafeking Gold Chardonnay
2012 Two Rivers Lightning Strike Chardonnay
2011 Leogate Estate Reserve Hunter Valley Creek Bed
Chardonnay
2012 Ravensworth Tumbarumba Chardonnay
2012 Wine By Brad Mantra Muse Chardonnay
2013 Nannup Ridge Chardonnay
2012 Silkwood Chardonnay
2012 Balgownie Estate Chardonnay
2012 Fifth Estate Wines Krugers Block Chardonnay
2011 Sidewood Mappinga Chardonnay
2012 Portsea Estate Chardonnay
2011 Portsea Estate Stonecutters Chardonnay
2012 Warner Vineyard The Rest Chardonnay
2012 Montara Grampians Chardonnay
2012 Huntington Estate Barrel Fermented
2012 Hutton Triptych Margaret River Chardonnay
2012 Credaro Family Estate Chardonnay
2009 Saracen Estates Chardonnay
2012 John Kosovich Pemberton Chardonnay
2011 Fifth Estate Wines Krugers Block Chardonnay
2013 Yarralaw Springs Chardonnay
2010 Wombat Crossing Mallock's Block Chardonnay
2012 Arlewood Estate Chardonnay
2011 Sidewood Chardonnay
2012 Harewood Estate Reserve Chardonnay

2011 Ernest Hill Alexander Chardonnay
 2012 Lerida Estate Lake George Chardonnay
 2011 Chalkers Crossing Tumbarumba Chardonnay
 2012 Printhe Mt Canobolas Collection Chardonnay
 2012 South by Southwest Chardonnay
 2012 Juniper Crossing Chardonnay
 2013 Harcourt Valley Vineyards Chardonnay
 2011 Clarnette & Ludvigsen Grampians Chardonnay
 2012 Robert Stein Reserve Chardonnay
 2012 Paterson's Chardonnay
 2012 Lark Hill Biodynamic Chardonnay
 2012 Half Moon Wines Chardonnay
 2011 Morgan Simpson Two Clowns Chardonnay
 2012 Kyneton Ridge Estate Chardonnay
 2012 Sanguine Estate Chardonnay
 2012 Mount Majura Vineyard Chardonnay

Montalto Wines from the Mornington Peninsula performed with distinction, showing seven wines and earning seven medals, two of them gold.

NORTH-EAST VICTORIA

Adrienne and I took a brief break in north-east Victoria recently, but we couldn't spend time there without visiting some of our friends. Chris Killeen (Stanton & Killeen), Jo Marsh (Boynton's Feathertop) and Nathan Kinzbrunner (Giaconda) all poured excellent wines for us. The best of them were.

2013 Stanton & Killeen Muscat Blanc It's no mean feat to make a vibrant, balanced dry white from brown muscat. The nose is fragrant and varietal, and the palate is dry, with good length and a pleasant grip to the finish. (\$13.50/500 ml) **Recommended**

Stanton & Killeen Classic Muscat This is what the style is all about. The nose is strongly varietal, showing rose petal and golden syrup aromas. The palate is quite stunning – sweet, viscous, fresh and totally satisfying. (\$30.00/500ml) **Outstanding**

2012 Boynton's Feathertop Savagnin Joanne Marsh has quickly made her mark in Victoria's Alpine Valleys, particularly with this wine from her first vintage at Boynton's. It shows a super-fresh lemon sherbet nose, and is long and dry, finishing with uplifting acidity. (\$20.00) **Highly Recommended**

2011 Giaconda Chardonnay This wine is a classic example of why you should dismiss the sweeping generalisations of wine "experts". Many condemned the Victorian wines of 2011, but what about this one? It's a marvellous chardonnay – delightfully funky and impressively fresh. The palate is long, fine and perfectly balanced. Definitely a wine to cellar. (\$130.00) **Outstanding**
<http://www.boccaccio.com.au/buy/giaconda-chardonnay-2011/LQ504771>

Lester Jesberg

TUMBARUMBA

I was more than happy to participate in the annual Tumbarumba benchmarking session conducted by Nick Spencer at Eden Road Wines at Murrumbateman.

With the focus on vintage 2012, the tastings showed just how good Tumbarumba chardonnay is. If you aren't familiar with any of the excellent wines (below) from Tumbarumba, I suggest you correct that shortcoming quickly. All wines tasted "blind".

2012 Eden Road Courabyra Chardonnay Restrained and quincy. Fresh and intense. The palate is intense and flinty, with great length, chalky minerality and lingering acidity. This is a landmark wine from a magnificent vineyard situated at 720 metres altitude. (\$50.00) **Outstanding**

No oak, 100% stainless steel, 100% malolactic, 15 months on lees in tank.

2012 Eden Road Maragle Chardonnay Very impressive white peach and citrus nose with some funkiness nutty oak overtones. Lovely palate – intense and tight, with great mouthfeel, length and acid. From a single vineyard at 420 metres. (\$50.00) **Outstanding**
100% Barrel fermented 30-40% new Taransaud & Saury French oak. 20-30% malolactic.

2012 Eden Road Tumbarumba Chardonnay Shows attractive cashew nut overtones with citrus. Quite textural and fresh, with good acid drive. Varietal and regional. (\$40.00) **Highly Recommended**

Blend of the two vineyards.

2012 Eden Road Long Road Chardonnay Fresh citrus/tropical nose with slight development. Although the palate is quite acid-driven, this wine is ready to drink, but will survive short term cellaring. (\$25.00)

Declassified Tumbarumba. Vast majority aged older oak.

<http://edenroadwines.com.au/collections/all>

2012 Penfolds Bin 311 Chardonnay Lemon colour. Very restrained, with hints of grapefruit. Fruit-driven, with lovely texture, length and acidity. (\$30.00) **Highly Recommended**

<http://www.winestar.com.au/prod186.htm>

2012 Barwang 842 Slightly closed and lemony. Very fresh. Excellent intensity backed by steely acidity. Has texture and some grip. This is a complex chardonnay that will benefit from a year or two in bottle. (Not yet released) **Highly Recommended**

Lester Jesberg

Finally, may we direct you to an interesting article about wine pricing on Huon Hooke's site?

<http://huonhooke.tumblr.com/post/62195694819/the-goldilocks-effect>

2013 WINEWISE SMALL VIGNERON AWARDS Gold Medal Winners

The complete listing of gold medal (>18.4/20.0) winners is provided below. You will receive reviews of all these wines and a lot more.

This year we built our judging panels around the “young guns” of the wine industry, while retaining the considerable experience of Ian McKenzie, doyen of Australian wine show judges, and your editor, who admits to reaching the veteran stage. There were no big egos, prima donnas or empire builders. We will continue with that approach because we’re certain it produces the best results.

Given that quite a few of the wines are available in very limited quantities, many at bargain prices, we feel that it’s important to get this list to you.

Enjoy.



- NV 919 Pale Dry Apera (\$29.00)
- 2012 Abbey Creek Riesling (\$25.00)

- 2013 Andrew Thomas Braemore Semillon (\$28.00)
- 2011 Andrew Thomas Elenay Shiraz (\$45.00)

- 2009 Balthazar of Barossa Shiraz (\$50.00)

- 2013 Briar Ridge 'Fume Blanc' (\$24.00)

- 2012 Brookwood Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (\$25.00)

- 2012 Brown Magpie Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$25.00)

- 2013 Cape Naturaliste Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (\$17.00)

- 2012 Centennial Reserve Arneis (\$25.00)

- 2006 Coolangatta Estate Semillon (\$50.00)

- 2012 Crooked Brook Geographe Chardonnay (\$18.00)

- 2013 De Iuliis Aged Release Semillon (\$35.00)
- 2011 De Iuliis Limited Release Shiraz (\$60.00)

- 2012 DogRock Degraves Road Vineyard Shiraz (\$38.00)



2013 Dolan Family Wines Rifleman's Riesling (\$19.50)

2013 Dowie Doole Chenin Blanc (\$18.00)

2010 Heafod Glen Cabernet Sauvignon (\$35.00)

2013 Heafod Glen Viognier (\$29.00)

2011 Home Hill Estate Pinot Noir (\$36.00)

2012 Home Hill Kelly's Reserve Pinot Noir (\$50.00)

2011 Home Hill Kelly's Reserve Pinot Noir (\$50.00)

2011 Hutton Triptych Margaret River Chardonnay (\$40.00)

2013 Koppamurra Clare Valley Riesling (\$18.00)

2012 Leura Park Block 1 Reserve Chardonnay (\$N/A)

2011 Leura Park Chardonnay (\$N/A)

2012 Leura Park Estate 25 d'Gris Pinot Gris (\$21.00)

2013 Lobethal Road Pinot Gris (\$22.00)

2011 Mandoon Cabernet Merlot (\$25.00)

2012 Mandoon Old Vine Grenache (\$25.00)

2011 Mandoon Reserve Shiraz (\$32.00)

2008 McKellar Ridge Shiraz Viognier (\$38.00)

2011 Mistletoe Reserve Semillon (\$24.00)

2010 Mistletoe Reserve Semillon (\$26.00)

2004 Mistletoe Reserve Semillon (\$35.00)

2011 Mistletoe Reserve Shiraz (\$50.00)

2011 Montalto Estate Chardonnay (\$39.00)

2012 Montalto Hawkins Hill Chardonnay (\$55.00)

2012 Montalto Main Ridge Block Pinot Noir (\$65.00)

2012 Montalto Pennon Hill Pinot Noir (\$39.00)

2012 Montalto Pennon Hill Shiraz (\$30.00)

2012 Montalto Teurong Block Pinot Noir (\$65.00)

2012 Mount Majura Vineyard Shiraz (\$32.00)

2012 Nannup Ridge Shiraz (\$23.00)

2011 Palmer Cabernet Sauvignon (\$27.50)
2010 Palmer Cabernet Sauvignon (\$27.50)
2011 Palmer Malbec (\$27.50)

2010 Patrick of Coonawarra Home Block Cab Sauvignon (\$39.00)

2009 Quarry Hill Shiraz \$(18.00)

2010 Redman Shiraz (\$23.00)

2012 Riposte The Sabre Pinot Noir (\$30.00)
2010 Riposte The Sabre Pinot Noir (\$30.00)

2012 Rosenthal Richings Shiraz (\$28.00)

2013 Rosily Vineyard Semillon Sauvignon Blanc (\$19.00)

2009 Ross Hill Vintage Brut (\$27.00)

2012 Saddler's Creek Reserve Semillon (\$34.00)

2010 Sanguine Estate Heathcote Shiraz (\$39.95)

2012 Serafino BDX Cab Sauvignon Merlot Cab Franc (\$26.00)
2012 Serafino Goose Island Shiraz (\$15.00)
2012 Serafino Shiraz (\$22.00)

2013 Shaw Vineyard Estate Riesling (\$25.00)

2012 She-Oak Hill Estate Shiraz (\$25.00)

2013 Sidewood Sauvignon Blanc (\$N/A)
2013 Sidewood Sauvignon Blanc Cellar Select (\$N/A)
2011 Sidewood Stable Hill Shiraz (\$20.00)

2011 The Rivers Red Classic Shiraz (\$14.00)
2012 The Rivers White Classic Sauvignon Blanc Semillon (\$14.00)

2005 Tintilla Angus Semillon (\$40.00)

2012 Topper's Mountain Gewürztraminer (\$35.00)

2013 Two Rivers Semillon Sauvignon Blanc (\$16.00)

2012 Warner Glen Estate PBF Sauvignon Blanc Semillon (\$25.00)

2012 Wicks Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (\$N/A)
2012 Wicks Estate Pinot Noir (\$20.00)

2012 Windows Estate Chardonnay (\$39.00)

2010 Winstead Lot 16 Pinot Noir (\$35.00)

2010 Word Of Mouth Wines Isobel's Idyll (\$40.00)

2013 Yarrh Rosé (\$18.00)

We congratulate all the gold medal winners, and have great admiration for those who achieved multiple golds.

2013 SMALL VIGNERON AWARDS TROPHIES

BEST RIESLING 2013 Dolan Family Rifleman's Riesling Clare Valley, SA

BEST SEMILLON 2013 Andrew Thomas Braemore Semillon Hunter Valley, NSW

BEST SAUVIGNON BLANC 2013 Sidewood Sauvignon Blanc Adelaide Hills, SA

BEST CHARDONNAY 2012 Crooked Brook Chardonnay Geographe, WA

BEST OTHER WHITE VARIETY 2012 Centennial Reserve Arneis Orange, NSW

BEST BLEND OF SEMILLON & SAUVIGNON BLANC 2012 Warner Glen PBF Sauvignon Blanc Semillon Margaret River, WA

BEST SWEET WHITE Not awarded

BEST ROSÉ 2013 Yarrh Rosé Canberra District, NSW

BEST PINOT NOIR 2012 Riposte Pinot Noir Adelaide Hills, SA

BEST SHIRAZ 2009 Quarry Hill Shiraz Canberra District, NSW

BEST CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2012 Wicks Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Adelaide Hills, SA

BEST OTHER RED VARIETY 2011 Palmer Wines Malbec Margaret River, WA

BEST AUSTRALIAN CLASSIC BLEND Not awarded

BEST BORDEAUX BLEND 2011 Mandoon Estate Cabernet Merlot Margaret River, WA

BEST OTHER RED BLEND Not awarded

BEST SPARKLING 2010 Word of Mouth Isobel's Idyll Orange, NSW

BEST FORTIFIED 919 Pale Dry Apera Riverland, SA

BEST EXHIBITOR Palmer Wines, Margaret River, WA

LEN SORBELLO MEMORIAL TROPHY (Best current vintage or one year old semillon) 2013 Andrew Thomas Braemore Semillon

Artardi and the Rioja Renaissance

Since launching in 1985, Artardi has been at the pinnacle of wine producing in the Rioja. They are revered worldwide, and believe the secret to their success is the respect for their 250 hectares of vineyards in Rioja Alavesa, Navarra and Alicante. All vineyards are either certified organic, or in conversion, and Artardi also follows some biodynamic concepts – especially relating to soil health. However, they are not rabid about it, so you won't find baby-faced winemaker Carlos Lopez meditating naked in the hills above Laguardia.

When discussing the wines of Artardi, Carlos (whose family owns Artardi) talks less about winemaking, and more about vine growing. “We don't know how to produce wine without producing good vines. The most important thing is to produce quality grapes, he states emphatically. It is this obsession that has led them down the path of organics and biodynamic practices.

Carlos believes that the soil and plants form a bond that shouldn't be messed with. “People generally think the soil is dead, and that we put a plant and water on it, and it grows. But soil is complex. There are lots of small creatures and bacteria that interact. They get together with the plants to form a complex chain we should not break. With soil that is alive, we will be able to have a healthy vineyard, and have grapes and wines that are in balance”.

The current release of 2010 reds are testament to the power of respecting nature and the soil, and Carlos feels that if they did not have this philosophy, the 2010 vintage could have been apocalyptic! “The plants and soil are much smarter than us. 2010 was a hot, dry vintage and we lacked water. In another time, when we were not respecting the soil, it would probably have been a disaster. When you let them interact, they know how to cope”. He explained.

Carlos is excited about the 2010 reds. “It's a really good vintage. The wines are more full-bodied and complex, with good structure. When you taste the wines, they are really fresh, well-defined, not overripe, and really drinkable already, which is what we like about them.”

Right now, the Rioja is one of the most exciting wine regions in the world, due to the work of wine producers such as Artardi and Telmo Rodriguez. But don't call them the new Rioja. "We are not the new style of Rioja. We are the renaissance of Rioja." Carlos proclaimed. He then went on to explain. "Before the '70s, there was no machinery in Rioja, and no barrels. This is not what people think about Rioja today" he says with a shake of the head. "If you taste the wines from the 50s and 60s, they are full-bodied and fruity, and that is what we are doing now." At this point he springs back to life. "Back then they worked a small horse on the soil and yields were low. This is what we are doing - producing low yields and concentrated grapes to produce quality wine."

Carlos has high hopes for the future, and feels Rioja Alavesa is a force to be reckoned with. He feels it has the capacity to be the Burgundy of Spain . "I would like to see us differentiated by villages, and to rely more on the terroir. It has more character and its own personality. Why try and do one big thing. Why lose that. I think this needs to be the future for us to survive."

He would dearly love wine consumers to know that there is a difference between Rioja Alavesa, Rioja Alta and Rioja Baja, as well as the wines from his own village of Laguardia. However, he feels there is a battle ahead.

"The problem with Rioja is that the big names are running things. You can buy entry-level wines from Rioja for €1.00. Bordeaux is €5.00" he states with animated hand movements. He feels the three parts of Rioja – Alta, Baja and Alavesa – are quite different from each other, and thinks Baja is pushing Rioja to another type of winemaking, and another type of business, with the big companies making cheaper wines. "They are nice, but not focusing on quality." He commented.

He thinks that part of the problem is that Rioja pushed out their entry-level wines first instead of their top wines, not unlike Australia. He feels that Rioja should have followed Bordeaux's lead. "Bordeaux is always pushing their top quality wines first, so the entry-level wines get a better price. But they are no better than entry level Rioja." Carlos believes the time is now for change. "Rioja needs a revolution to change the image. We have the

quality, the terroir and the climate. We have the place to produce good things, and we can compete with the rest of the world”.



ARTADI
Grandes Viñedos

2010 Artardi Tempranillo Made from the younger vines (up to 20 years old), it displays a deep purple colour, and aromas of blue fruits and curry spices. Blue and red spiced fruit tastes come through on the palate, with subtle savoury edges and moderate tannins and length. This is the entry level wine and it's pretty good, but for the purists, it might be worth trading up to the next level. (\$33.00) ***Recommended***

2010 Vinas de Gain (Rioja) Bright ruby colour with purple tints. Ripe blue and black fruits, with earthy cinnamon and ground ginger spice notes. Good palate weight. Nice juicy black fruits, earthy edge, solid tannins and a tight finish. This needs some time to reveal its full beauty. (\$70.00) ***Highly Recommended***

Pagos Viejos 2010 (Rioja Alavesa) Made from some of the oldest vines at Artardi (50 to 80 years old) it's a very dense but bright purple colour. Perfumed rose florals, blue and black fruits, and curry leaf spices waft out of the glass, whilst the palate shows lovely spiced blue fruit tastes, fine, solid, chalky tannins, and a floral, spicy finish. A tight wine with many years ahead of it.

(\$200.00) ***Outstanding***

Vina El Pison 2010 (Rioja Alavesa) This is the “Rottweiler” wine of Artardi made from old vine fruit from the Rioja Alavesa. Medium to full-bodied in style, it shows a dense purple colour, and beguiling smells of roses, blue and black fruits, exotic spices and appealing meaty savouriness. There’s a tight ball of blue, spiced fruits on the palate, with balanced savoury tannins, and a finish that is tight as a drum. Lovely stuff that is waiting for its time to shine. (\$600.00) ***Highly Recommended***

The following three wines are the single vineyard Laguardia ‘village’ wines with their own personalities.

2010 Valdegines (Rioja Alavesa - Laguardia) Bright purple colour. Medium-bodied in style, with spicy blue fruit scents on the nose. The palate appears suggests subtle use of oak, and it’s quite fruity with a subtle savoury edge. The length is moderate and the tannins are friendly, which makes for a high drinkability factor. Nice wine, but probably the weakest of the bunch. (\$300.00) ***Recommended***

2010 La Poza de Ballesteros (Rioja Alavesa – Laguardia) Bright purple colour, with aromas of exotic earthy spices, dried herbs and vibrant red fruits. The palate is medium to full-bodied, and it’s a much more drying, earthy, savoury style, with some blue fruits flavours, evident, fine, sandpaper-like tannins, and a nice tight finish. (\$300.00) ***Recommended***

2010 El Carretil (Rioja - Laguardia) Bright, medium to full-bodied style. Scents of potpourri, blue and red fruits and curry leaf. The palate shows nice juicy fruits, blue fruit and exotic spice flavours, balanced, fine-grained tannins, and has a very good carry. A lovely wine, and the best of the village offerings. (\$300.00) ***Outstanding***

Deb Pearce

Website: <http://www.artadi.com/en>