



WINEWISE

THE CONSUMER'S WINE GUIDE

September 2014



63 Champagnes Reviewed

Page 2 Voyager Estate v The Rest

Page 4 Winewise Small Vigneron Awards Riesling

Page 7 63 Champagnes

Page 14 Top three from the Mudgee Wine Show

Page 10 Wynns Coonawarra

VOYAGER ESTATE v THE REST

The Voyager Estate "masterclass" has become a keenly-anticipated annual event where the Voyager crew put their wines up against highly regarded competition from Australia and the rest of the world. The tasting is conducted "semi-blind" i.e. all participants are aware of the wines in the line-up, but not the pouring order. None of the Voyagers have been released yet.

Chardonnay

2011 Chablis Forets 1er cru (Domaine Moreau-Naudet) The nose didn't immediately take me to Chablis because it showed plenty of nuts and butter and a touch of botrytis. There's certainly the usual acid, but there was too much burnt butter and rot. (\$76.00) *Acceptable*

2011 Voyager Estate Project 95 Chardonnay Vibrant white peach with a touch of new oak and struck match funk. The long palate is built on a backbone of linear acidity which lingers. *Highly Recommended*

2011 St Aubin En Remilly 1er cru (Hubert Lamy) Very impressive combination of white peach, cashew and oak. The palate is tight and restrained, with a delightfully creamy texture. (\$122.00) *Highly Recommended*

2011 Voyager Estate Chardonnay This is the "château wine", in that it is multi-clonal and made from fruit grown in a number of sites on the estate. The nose suggests a cooler region, showing grapefruit aromas with subtle funky complexity. The palate is restrained and creamy, freshened by acidity. *Outstanding*

2011 Kumeu River Maté's Vineyard Chardonnay There's plenty of richness and complexity, but a green streak runs right through the wine. Nevertheless there's good power and grip, and a touch of barrel-ferment funk. (\$67.00) *Recommended*

2011 Voyager Estate Project Gin Gin Chardonnay Very restrained, with a herbal hint on the nose, and some sulphides complexity. However the tight, creamy, nutty palate really delivers. *Highly Recommended*

2011 Ocean Eight Verve Chardonnay This Mornington Peninsula wine is restrained, pure and intense, with subtle complexity. The palate is perfectly poised and understated - just on the right side of lean. (\$40.00) *Highly Recommended*

2011 Oakridge 864 Funder & Diamond Drive Block Chardonnay For some this wine will be confronting, but the sulphides component and lees characteristics are harnessed to intense white peach fruit which more than copes. A wine of finesse, complexity and texture. (\$75.00) *Outstanding*
https://www.harryandfrankie.com.au/#/products?price_high=372&Countries=3&Types=51&Whites=7

2011 Peay Vineyard Estate Chardonnay Things were obviously tough in 2011 in Sonoma, but why put botrytised fruit through a solids ferment and then malo? Even worse, they've wasted some good new oak on this bizarre chardonnay. (Not available in Australia, but costs about \$60.00 in the USA) *Unacceptable*

Cabernet

2010 Yeringberg This is a blend of cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, merlot and malbec. It offers attractive red fruits, with tobacco and leaf complexity. It's definitely not a fruit bomb. Rather, it's tight and fine - not big, but long. Classic. (\$80.00) **Highly Recommended**

2010 Voyager Estate North Block Cabernet Sauvignon The nose delivers vibrant blackcurrant/tobacco leaf and tilled earth aromas. The palate shows some oak and is a little lacking in finesse. **Recommended**

2010 Te Mata Estate Coleraine Intense yet fine in the Medoc style. This is a classic Coleraine - medium-bodied, Fine, savoury and long. (\$72.00) **Outstanding**

https://www.crackawines.com.au/Te_Mata_Estate/2010_Te_Mata_Estate_Coleraine_Cabernet_Franc_Merlot/Sales

2010 Voyager Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Delightful cassis-like varietal aromas with a cedary complexity. A cabernet in the classic style which is firm but fine, and needs time. **Outstanding**

2010 Voyager Estate Old Block Cabernet Sauvignon Comparatively weak colour. A touch advanced and leathery on the nose. Firm but lacks fresh fruit drive and fineness of tannin. **Agreeable**

2010 Château Lynch Bages Powerful cassis, leaf, tobacco. Solid and tannic, with obvious oak. Seems artificially concentrated and probably is. (\$350.00) **Recommended**

2010 Cullen Diana Madeline Although there are plummy aromas, there's an overriding unripe character that runs through the wine and the palate is too lean. (\$100.00) **Agreeable**

2010 Wynns Messenger Cabernet Sauvignon In comparison with some of the other wines in the tasting, the Messenger seemed big, ripe and robust. However typical Coonawarra acidity underlies intense cabernet fruit and structural tannins, guaranteeing a happy future. (\$70.00) **Highly Recommended**

2010 Far Niente Cabernet Sauvignon This cabernet hails from Oakville in the Napa Valley and offers intense cassis/tobacco aromas with hints of chocolate, leaf and mint. It's a firm, ripe style, but is the fruit fresh enough for cellaring? **Recommended**

The Estate wines from Voyager, as they have in the past, held their own against some strong, and not so strong, opposition. I have no doubt that the Voyager Estate wines continue to rise and have thrown out a strong challenge to some of their idolised neighbours in Margaret River.

Lester Jesberg

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

2014 WINEWISE SMALL VIGNERON AWARDS

BEST OF THE RIESLINGS

While there was a degree of disappointment with the rieslings overall, you can purchase any of the wines below with complete confidence. The trophy came down to a taste-off between the Gilberts and the 2007 Pokolbin Estate. The call was 2-1 in favour of the younger wine, but all three judges agreed it was a toss-up decision, especially given the age difference between the two.

Everyone accepts that the Mount Barker-Porongurops region produces some of Australia's best riesling, but the Hunter? Hopefully this should help the doubters, including Hunter Wine Show judges, come to grips with reality. Pokolbin Estate Riesling holds its own against all-comers. In the end, the sheer purity of varietal character in the Gilberts won out.

Highly Recommended ★★★★★



2014 Gilberts Mt Barker Riesling The delicate aromatics are a key feature of this elegant, long-flavoured riesling. Lively acidity lifts the finish and ensures that cellaring will be rewarded. In fact, you'll need to give this wine at least 3-4 years in bottle to see it at its best. (\$22.00)

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



2007 Pokolbin Estate Riesling If you enjoy rieslings that show the benefits of bottle age, but are in no way “old”, this is the wine for you. It’s strongly varietal, with a hint of toastiness and a long line of acidity. Above all, it’s fresh. (\$28.00)
<http://pokolbinestate.com.au/>

2014 Riposte The Scimitar Riesling Tim Knappstein has a long history with Clare Valley, so it’s no surprise to see a Watervale riesling in the Riposte portfolio. This one ticks all the boxes – citrus blossom aromas with some ferment ester, long core of limey fruit, fresh acid finish. A wine right out of the Clare riesling textbook. (\$20.00)
<http://www.timknappstein.com.au/shop/>

2013 Pokolbin Estate Riesling This vintage may turn out, in time, to be even better than the 2007. It’s restrained and steely, with a whiff of lime blossom. Everything is in place for long term cellaring. (\$25.00)

Recommended ★★★

2013 Abbey Creek Vineyard Porongurup Riesling Very exotic – floral, citrus and lemon rind on both nose and palate. A major component of the wine is a backbone of steely acidity. That and the intensity of flavour suggest that this is a wine to cellar. (\$25.00)



2014 Billy Button The Torment Riesling The nose is fascinating, showing florals and lemon myrtle. Although the palate is a little lean, it’s very fresh and will probably fill out well over the next couple of years. This wine is part of the first releases under the Billy Button label, made by Jo Marsh. (\$25.00)

2014 Mount Majura Vineyard Riesling A rich, limey style of riesling that is packed with varietal flavour backed by uplifting acidity. It may benefit from bottle age, but it's already a delicious drink. (\$27.00)

2014 Koppamurra Watervale Riesling This wine certainly has the classic lime of Clare, and packs plenty of flavour although there is some early development. Enjoy it in the short time. (\$19.50)

2014 Clarnette & Ludvigsen Riesling Quite complex nose, showing lime, tropical fruit and citrus peel, probably suggesting some botrytis influence. There's low-level sweetness, but it's well balanced by acidity. Enjoyable drinking now. (\$20.00)

We can't help but marvel at the versatility of one of the world's great wine grapes. The nine wines span the complete width of Australia, and represent seven different growing regions in three states and a territory. Es lebe riesling.

Speaking of riesling.....

I tasted a few beauties recently.

The **2013 Keller Riesling Trocken** is a little gem from one of Germany's great winemakers. It's from the unfairly neglected Rheinhessen region, and is a vibrant lime – stone fruit style with a faint sweetness which is taken care of by linear acidity. (\$42.00)

Highly Recommended

Available from Prince Wine Store, Melbourne

It's a crying shame that the only Australian riesling anyone seems to care about is Grosset Polish Hill. The Polish Hill has earned its reputation and price, but there are others at the same quality level, one of which is **Jacob's Creek Steingarten**. I served the **2005 vintage** at the 2014 Small Vignerons Awards judges' and stewards' dinner, and it held its own against the 2005 Trimbach Cuvée Frédéric Emile Riesling, one of the world's best (see below). At nine years of age, it's as fresh and youthful as some rieslings less than half its age. It epitomises the elegant Eden Valley style, being perfumed and now faintly toasty, with the classic regional acidity playing a key role. It will still be drinking well in ten years' time. (\$35.00) ***Outstanding***

<https://www.cellarit.com.au/53412/orlando-jacob's-creek-steingarten-riesling-2005.aspx>

2005 Trimbach Cuvée Frédéric Emile Riesling We served five bottles of this at the SVA dinner, and, as usual with cork-sealed wine, the quality varied. On this occasion it was ***Outstanding*** at best, ***Recommended*** at worst, so we were lucky. It's a marvellous example of Alsace riesling, quite backward, and devoid of the oxidation, VA and rot that plague many of the "famous" ones. I'll be kind and rate it ***Outstanding*** based on 2/5 bottles. (\$90.00)

<http://www.winestar.com.au/c/whites/riesling/1502?az=T&rf=az>

Lester Jesberg

63 CHAMPAGNES

These notes are the result of a busy but enjoyable few hours at “Taste Champagne”, hosted by Tyson Stelzer in Sydney on 1 September. I didn’t have time to taste everything on offer, but 63 should give you a clear picture of the champagne market.

I feel that sparkling wine presents the biggest challenge to the taster, and even after 35 years’ experience and many trips to Champagne, I find it the toughest category to understand.

The fact that this tasting was not “blind” made it even tougher. Champagne attracts the highest percentage of label drinkers, and I tried very hard not to be one.

The department stores are already reminding us that Christmas isn’t far away. Before then there’s the Melbourne Cup, and any other reason you can think of to drink champagne.

Excellent value wines in purple.

Outstanding ★★★★★



2004 Taittinger Comtes de Champagne Fresh and complex, with bakery aromas and a faint whiff of vanilla. So fine and creamy! Bliss! (\$280.00)

<http://www.winestar.com.au/p/taittinger-comtes-de-champagne-blanc-2004/4775>



2004 Pol Roger Brut Vintage Classic toasty autolysis aromas. Gorgeous dry, creamy palate. Complex and racy. A complete champagne. (\$100.00)

<http://www.nicks.com.au/2004-pol-roger-vintage-champagne>

2000 Billecart-Salmon Nicolas Francois Billecart Splendid rich brioche aromas together with faint aldehyde. Beautiful mature champagne drinking perfectly. (\$170.00)

<http://www.winestar.com.au/p/billecart-salmon-nicolas-francois-2000/2762>

2004 Pol Roger Blanc de Blancs Very rich nose for a blanc de blancs but it's vividly fresh. Wonderfully fine, long, creamy and dry. (\$140.00)

Highly Recommended ★★★★★

2004 Dom Perignon (Moët et Chandon) Very fine in all respects. Breadiness, length, finesse and appropriate dryness. A very classy, long, delicate apéritif. (\$210.00)

NV Lallier Grand Cru Blanc de Blancs An attractive complex chardonnay nose with a touch of toast. This is a good example of a steely blanc de blancs with body and texture. (\$97.00)



2004 Veuve Clicquot-Ponsardin Vintage Classic Veuve toasty/musky nose. A big rich champagne with excellent creaminess, finesse and acidity. (\$80.00)

<http://www.boccaccio.com.au/buy/veuve-clicquot-vintage-2004/LQ508229>



NV Larmandier-Bernier Longitude Blanc de Blancs Vertus 1er Fascinating. Attractive apple-like nose supported by autolysis breadiness and a hint of oak. Creamy and dry. Pure. (\$80.00)
<http://canterburywines.net/Categories/Champagne.htm>

2006 Piper-Heidsieck Vintage Brut Rich, complex, toasty and creamy. A full-flavoured champagne with a clean acid finish. (\$110.00)

2004 Pol Roger Vintage Rosé Obvious musky rosé nose that is quite complex, showing brioche aromas. The palate is rich, creamy and dry. (\$135.00)

2005 Henriot Brut Millésime Fresh bakery nose of great freshness. Stylish, long, creamy. A first class champagne. (\$85.00)

NV Pol Roger Brut Very fresh. Rich pinot noir characteristics show through. Powerful, creamy, balanced. (\$60.00)
https://www.danmurphys.com.au/product/DM_24165/pol-roger-brut&CA_6C15C=1069297459

NV Taittinger Brut Réserve Good fresh lift to a slightly bready nose. Intense, dry, creamy palate. Top-notch NV. (\$60.00)
<http://www.winestar.com.au/c/sparkling/12?az=T&rf=cnaz>

2006 Mumm Brut Millésime Complex and slightly developed. Admirable freshness. Plenty of flavour and mousse. Dry finish. (\$85.49)

NV Mumm de Cramant Blanc de Blancs Shows very positive development, with hints of buttered toast. Quite rich for an apéritif though. Long, creamy, dry. (\$150.00)

NV Taittinger Prestige Rosé Pink/orange. Powerful pinot. Dry and packed with flavour that is far from simple. (\$110.00)

NV Barons de Rothschild Brut Fresh and bready. A very satisfying, intense, nicely-textured champagne with just-right dosage. (\$85.00)

NV Pol Roger Réserve Attractive nose with hints of brioche. The palate is long, clean and dry. Another excellent non-vintage champagne. (\$70.00)

NV Billecart-Salmon Brut Réserve The nicely perfumed nose is slightly musky, with hints of toast and aldehyde. Then we come to a very attractive, dry, creamy palate with plenty of flavour. (\$60.00)

NV Veuve Clicquot-Ponsardin Rosé Delicate pink. Good fresh pinot noir aroma and flavour, but it's secondary rather than red-fruity. Pleasing grip and acidity. (\$80.00)

2004 Perrier Jouët Belle Epoque Rosé A very appealing rosé which is complex – not a simple red fruits style. It's just a tad too sweet. (\$250.00)

2004 Bruno Paillard Blanc de Blancs Fresh and complex, showing some oak. Impressively long-flavoured, dry and creamy. (\$149.00)

NV Billecart-Salmon Sous Bois Brut Rich and complex, with a touch of aldehyde. Fascinating. Intense, complex, creamy, dry. (\$130.00)

NV Dosnon & Lepage Rosé Light orange-pink colour. Anything but primary. Very interesting and drinkable. Slightly high dosage but still good. Real rosé. (\$85.00)

NV Piper Heidsieck Cuvée Brut Comes from a good aged base and has a fresh nose and palate. Pleasantly and surprisingly dry. Remarkable value. (\$40.00)
<http://www.winestar.com.au/p/piper-heidsieck-cuvee-brut/1481>

NV Henri Giraud Esprit de Giraud Blanc de Blancs Fresh and toasty, with some aged base material showing. Lovely mousse. Intense palate. (\$100.00)

NV Henriot Brut Souverain Very attractive, with a hint of brioche. Fresh as a daisy. Comparatively dry. Has a lot to offer. (\$79.00)

NV Henriot Brut Rosé Fresh. Nicely secondary and complex with an obvious pinot noir component. Almost bone dry. Clean lingering acid. (\$90.00)

Recommended ★★★

2000 Pol Roger Cuvée Sir Winston Churchill Holding up fairly well. There is some aldehyde along with breadiness, but the palate is starting to dry out. (\$248.00)

2006 Moët et Chandon Grand Vintage Fresh, bready. A little simple and soft. Plenty of flavour but needs more spine. It may be vintage, but this style is for the masses, although the price is not. (\$99.00)

NV Krug Grande Cuvée Very complex nutty aldehyde and maybe even some brett. Quite firm, dry and uncompromising, but it has too much artifact and not enough flavour of the grape for me. (\$230.00)

NV Agrapart Terroirs Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Totally new ball game here. Very restrained chardonnay with a hint of aldehyde. Nice palate but comparatively one-dimensional, even though it is long, delicate and dry. Chardonnay and aldehyde don't mix ideally here. (\$80.00)

NV Taittinger Nocturne Rich fruit with a hint of toast. Packed with flavour. Starts slightly sweet. Finishes dry. Well made in a particular style that is not quite demi-sec. (\$75.00)

2006 Taittinger Brut Millésime A little forward. Plenty of impact on the nose, but it's mostly fruit development. Flavoursome but a little broad. (\$120.00)

2007 Agrapart Mineral Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Extra More aldehyde - a bit too much for restrained chardonnay. Creamy, but there's a hint of amontillado character. (\$175.00)

NV Ruinart Blanc de Blancs Lovely doughy apple aromas. Very fine mousse. Good acidity, but the dosage is too high, bringing sweetness to the fore. (\$98.00)

NV Mumm Cordon Rouge Simple citrus/apple bouquet. Flavoursome but plain, with obvious dosage. (\$45.00)

NV Mumm Brut Rosé Delicate pink. Fresh red fruits/strawberry nose. Simple. (\$70.00)

NV Laherte Frères Blanc de Blancs Attractive apple plus a waft of toast. Very pure blanc de blancs. Uncompromising dryness and dominant acid. (\$95.00)

NV Larmandier-Bernier Latitude Tradition Vertus 1er cru Brut Good fresh fruit with a touch of baked bread. Crisp and clean. Finishes slightly hard. (\$75.00)

NV Lallier Grande Réserve Grand Cru Brut There's a hint of brown apple aroma, but the palate is better, offering a good mousse and lively acidity. (\$70.00)

NV Barons de Rothschild Rosé Very pale pink. Subdued nose showing some breadiness. Crisp and dry but a bit light. (\$140.00)

NV Billecart-Salmon Blanc de Blancs Very chardonnay - uncomplicated ripe apple. Clean and creamy. (\$120.00)

NV Billecart-Salmon Brut Rosé Very pale pink. Meunier fragrance and a fresh, slightly light, slightly sweet palate which finishes with good acidity. (\$105.00)

NV Bruno Paillard Première Cuvée Brut Seems to show some cashew lees character. The palate is almost bone-dry, but doesn't quite have the weight required in the middle. (\$60.00)

NV Dosnon & Lepage Blancs de Noir Big but refined and perfumed. Slightly sweet, demanding a bit more acid cut. (\$77.00)

2004 Lanson Gold Label Vintage Brut Mature but comparatively one-dimensional. Still fresh, but it's too simple and acidic. (\$80.00)

NV Henri Giraud Hommage a François Hemart Grand Cru Powerful, rich and toasty. Imposing but hard on the finish. (\$90.00)

NV Henri Giraud Code Noir Grand Cru Rich but developed. Hint of golden syrup. Creamy, just lacks that certain something. (\$150.00)

NV Henriot Blanc de Blancs Brut Fresh and apple-like. Dry and racy, but simple. (\$87.00)

NV Laurent-Perrier Brut Restrained, fresh, touch of autolysis. Lively. Good simple drinking. (\$56.00)

NV Laurent-Perrier Cuvée Rosé Pale orange-pink. Fresh, with musky pinot overtones. Straightforward. (\$100.00)

Agreeable ★★

NV Laurent-Perrier Ultra Brut Fresh, fruit-driven with just a hint of complexity. The palate is too dry, lean and acidic. (\$120.00)

NV Perrier-Jouët Grand Brut The nose doesn't offer much, and the palate is fresh but light. (\$67.00)

NV Perrier-Jouët Blason Rosé Mid pink. Simple red fruits nose. Fresh but one-dimensional. (\$95.00)

NV Egly-Ouriet Brut Tradition Grand Cru Plenty of developed complexity including aldehyde. Richly flavoured, with a hard finish. (\$100.00)

NV Larmandier-Bernier Rosé de Saignée 1er cru Brut Bright pink. Very strawberry. Young and simple. (\$120.00)

NV Lanson Black Label Brut Restrained but simple, with a hard acid finish. (\$42.00)

NV Lanson Brut Rosé Pale orange-pink. Very simple. (\$57.00)

NV Barons de Rothschild Blanc de Blancs Developed but still has a little appeal. A bit too full and sweet. (\$140.00)

NV Cattier Fresh, with some toasted cashew. Crisp and clean but on the green side. (\$40.00)

Acceptable ★

NV Henri Giraud Esprit de Giraud Brut A bit too oxidised and aldehydic. (\$70.00)

NV Laherte Frères Ultratradition Brut Some brown apple oxidation. The palate is a somewhat simple and lean. (\$79.00)

Conclusions

It seems to be in vogue to sing the praises of small maker and single vineyard champagnes. Beware what you read or hear, because few of them stack up well against the grande marque wines. Methinks vested interests are at work promoting them through journalists who are probably bored and looking for something different to write. Or is it that champagne is relatively immune from criticism? See “Best Of” below if you wish to put a toe in the water.

There are also too many obviously sweet wines, sacrificing balance and quality to pander to the mindless masses.

As with all forms of wine, you don't have to spend top dollar to enjoy excellent champagne. It's very easy to have an extremely pleasant champagne experience by spending between \$50.00 and \$100.00.

Best Of

Prestige 2004 Taittinger Comtes de Champagne

Vintage 2004 Pol Roger Brut Vintage

Non-Vintage NV Pol Roger Brut

Blanc de Blancs 2004 Pol Roger Blanc de Blancs

Rosé 2004 Pol Roger Vintage Rosé

Small Producer A draw between Lallier and Lamandier-Bernier, although the latter is genuinely small, producing only 110,000 bottles annually compared to the former's 350,000. It's interesting to compare the two in style.

Needless to say, Pol Roger is the best large producer in my opinion.

Lester Jesberg

Ratings

We're changing our rating scale from Outstanding – Unacceptable to ★★★★★ - zero stars. We will not follow the herd to the ridiculous 100 point scale. The marvellous non-critical commentators who rate wine after wine in the mid-nineties and thus become the favourites of the industry, could never repeat their exact scores in a second (blind) tasting. Naïve punters, and I use the word advisedly, actually believe in those ratings which are often given while the “critic” is gazing at the label. Scores out of 100 are, at best, very elastic. Here's how we see it.

Outstanding	★★★★★	97-100
Highly Recommended	★★★★★	93-96
Recommended	★★★	89-92
Agreeable	★★	85-88
Acceptable	★	81-84
Unacceptable	No stars	<81

A Few Good Ones From Mudgee

Last week I chaired the judging panel at the Mudgee Wine Show. Given that the other two judges were Samantha Connew (Stargazer Wine) and Tim Knappstein (Riposte), my job wasn't an arduous one. Sam, Tim and I agreed that the following wines were worthy of your attention.

2014 Robert Stein Reserve Riesling We unanimously voted this riesling top wine of show. It's not just an excellent regional wine, it can hold its own in the best company. It's a powerful limey riesling which delivers a juicy mouthful of flavour backed by well-balanced acidity. Although quite delicious now, it will improve over the next 2-4 years. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

2009 Bunnamagoo Wines Semillon A very attractive semillon showing lemon meringue aromas. The palate is particularly satisfying, and is perfectly balanced by fresh acidity. This is very much a regional style, quite different from that of the Hunter Valley. (Not on sale) ★★★★★

2013 Blacklea Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon This is a classy example of the variety, showing the classic blackcurrant characteristics backed by fine, firm tannins and well managed oak. Give it 4-5 years to show itself. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

2012 Quilty Running Stitch Cabernet Sauvignon A rich, ripe cabernet that is very fresh, showing clear-cut varietal character. The palate is intense and the tannins are firm but fine. (\$35.00) ★★★★★ <http://www.quiltywines.com.au/?i=4&buy-wines>

And Some More From Elsewhere

While we were in Mudgee, Samantha Connew produced a bottle of her latest riesling. We liked it.

2014 Stargazer Derwent Valley Riesling I haven't been as impressed with a young Australian riesling for a long time. It's delicate yet powerful and long, in the manner of classic Mosels. The varietal perfume has an ethereal quality, and low-level residual sugar balances the acidity perfectly, giving the wine a dry finish. It's special. Don't miss it. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

http://stargazerwine.com.au/wp-content/themes/stargazerwine/pdfs/stargazer_wine_order_form.pdf

Two pinots from Yarraloch came my way very recently.

2012 Yarraloch Single Vineyard Pinot Noir The nose shows complex undergrowth characteristics, and the palate is silky, with pleasingly fine tannins. There's been a trade-off between vibrancy and complexity here, so if you're looking for pristine, bright varietal fruit this one may not be for you. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

2012 Yarraloch Single Vineyard Stephanie's Dream Pinot Noir There's more of everything in this one, including some whole-bunch influence. The palate offers fruit sweetness and flavour of considerable depth, backed by fine tannins. (\$50.00) ★★★★★

Lester Jesberg