



WINEWISE

THE CONSUMER'S WINE GUIDE

OCTOBER 2014



SVA Trophies

CONTENTS

Page 2	Penfolds Premiums
Page 6	2013 Canberra Shiraz Panel Tasting
Page 8	Coldstream Hills & Oakridge
Page 9	Other Panel Tastings
Page 10	Sparkling Wine
Page 12	National Cool Climate Wine Show
Page 12	Winewise Small Vigneron Awards – Chardonnay
Page 17	Handpicked Wines
Page 18	Winewise Small Vigneron Awards - Shiraz

THE PENFOLDS COLLECTION

The release of the best of the Penfolds wines always attracts the attention of wine enthusiasts and the media alike. I attended the pre-release function in Melbourne on 23 September where all the wines were poured for tasting, and my comments follow. The official release date is 16 October.

2014 Penfolds Bin 51 Eden Valley Riesling A very rich, limey riesling with a mouth-filling delivery of flavour. It's very big in a riesling sense, and would have benefited from a "less is more" approach. (\$40.00) ★★★

2013 Penfolds Bin A Adelaide Hills Chardonnay The nose is a real attention-grabber - powerful white peach and toasted hazelnuts, with a hint of butter. It's backed up by an equally impressive palate which is delightfully creamy and perfectly poised. This wine could be put away for a couple of years, but I advise you to enjoy it now. (\$100.00) ★★★★★



2012 Penfolds Yattarna Chardonnay Compared to the Bin A this is an exercise in restraint. Grapefruit aromas intertwine with funky notes together with hints of cashew, and the palate is taut yet creamy, in perfect balance, finishing with lively, but not intrusive acidity. (\$150.00) ★★★★★

2012 Penfolds Bin 28 Kalimna Shiraz Very reflective of rich, ripe fruit, this shiraz is plummy and blackberry-like, just lacking the vibrant high notes. There's no shortage of flavour and the mouth-coating tannins are very much in the house style. I'd be very guarded when it comes to cellaring. (\$40.00) ★★★

2012 Penfolds Bin 150 Marananga Shiraz A powerful shiraz, very much high up on the ripeness scale. The nose is very plummy - almost pruny - and isn't as vibrant as it could be. The palate is very much big Barossa, with the Penfolds cocoa overtone and slightly furry tannins. (\$80.00) ★★★

2012 Penfolds Bin 407 Cabernet Sauvignon This is a strongly varietal red which reflects ripe, but not over-ripe grapes. The powerful blackcurrant aroma carries with it a hint of leafiness, and the palate is fresh and satisfying, with well managed skin tannin and oak. (\$80.00) ★★★

2012 Penfolds Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz A very stylish wine offering freshness, complexity and intensity. The nose is more towards the blackberry of shiraz than the blackcurrant of cabernet, and a whiff of new oak adds interest. The palate offers marvellous flavour, typical of the best 389s, supported by just-right acidity and oak. (\$80.00) ★★★★★



2012 Penfolds Bin 707 Cabernet Sauvignon This is a very potent cabernet. By that I mean that it has enormous power and varietal character, and is very fresh. What's more, it's not dominated by oak, although oak most certainly plays its part. It's very much in the blackcurrant zone, and it reflects some of the cooler regions that are part of the blend. This is a classy cabernet that is certainly not as oaky as some of its predecessors. (\$350.00) ★★★★★ *Sourced from Coonawarra, Padthaway, Barossa, Wrattenbully, Adelaide Hills*

2013 Penfolds Cellar Reserve Durif The deep purple colour is very typical of this variety. Although the plums and blueberries of durif are present, this is very much a Penfolds red. The tannins are typical of the house of Penfold, and linger after the huge fruit impact. If you like one kilogram rib-eye on the bone and massive reds, this could be for you. (\$50.00) ★★★
A single vineyard Barossa. All French oak 30% of which is new.

2012 Penfolds Cellar Reserve Coonawarra Cabernet Barossa Valley Shiraz Although the nose is rich and intense, the Coonawarra cabernet comes to the fore. When you taste this wine it's easy to understand why this sort of blend holds an exalted place in Australian wine history. Two opposites definitely attract here, delivering a complex, fascinating wine of great drinkability and cellaring potential. (To be released later) ★★★★★
60% Cabernet sauvignon 100% New American oak

2011 Penfolds St Henri Shiraz I paused to do a little time-tunneling while inhaling the aromas of this St Henri. Hints of leather and earth took me back to a more peaceful era when life was much more simple. The palate is almost medium-bodied in comparison to the other reds, and that makes this vintage very easy to drink, although the finish is a little short. (\$95.00) ★★★

2012 Penfolds Magill Shiraz The nose suggested to me that some whole bunches could have been used in the ferment. Surely not. Penfolds is a traditional company. A quick chat with Peter Gago confirmed I was off the mark, but he agreed that there were fascinating herbal notes that derived from basket-pressing. Coffee bean nuances also add to the web of complexity and the finish of the dark berry palate has a pleasing acid lift. (\$130.00) ★★★★★

2012 Penfolds RWT Barossa Shiraz Long-term Winewise readers know that I have a very soft spot for this wine. Again I'm very impressed. The richness of the Barossa is clearly evident, but there's also an uplifting freshness that is a major quality factor. The French oak chosen by the winemaking team syncs beautifully with the fruit. For all that, the fruit ripeness is the dominant feature, and the comparative elegance of some of the previous vintages is not here. (\$175.00) ★★★★★

2008 Penfolds Grange The very ripe, intense blackberry fruit is matched by prominent oak has both minty and coffee bean elements to it. Overall, this is a wine packed with ripe flavour. The tannins are supportive, but in no way harsh. If you're looking for a Grange to drink in its youth without feeling guilty, here it is. (\$625.00) ★★★

2009 Penfolds Grange The expression of varietal fruit is different to that of the 2008. The aromas don't stray as far into the ripeness zone, and the oak has more of a wood-toast character. The palate is close-knit, with fine tannins, and fruit that reflects grapes picked in their absolute prime. Although the tannins are indeed fine, they are firm, and cellaring for ten years or so is required to see this wine in its best form. (\$785.00) ★★★★★





2010 Penfolds Grange Here the fruit almost powers over the oak. There's a brightness to it that is due to more than the advantage of comparative youth. This is a multi-layered powerhouse of a wine, yet it's not over the top in any way. Certainly it reflects ripe, warm area fruit, but there's an underlying elegance that sets it apart. This is one of the great Granges, and it will be for decades. (\$785.00) ★★★★★
Sourced from Barossa, Clare, Adelaide Hills, McLaren Vale, Magill

Penfolds Great Grandfather Rare Tawny Beautiful classic tawny khaki colour. A superb example of a classic Australian style. It's very complex, packed with rancio character, but, at the same time, beautifully freshened. The palate is sweet, but dryness of age, acid and spirit keep it in check. (\$350.00) ★★★★★

Penfolds 50 Year Old Rare Tawny Similar colour to the Great Grandfather. A marvellous aged fortified. It has all the nutty rancio, potpourri and molasses aromas of great old Aussie "ports" yet, like the Great Grandfather, has been perfectly freshened. It appears richer and sweeter than the Great Grandfather, with a little more wood-acid cut, but I don't suggest it's any better. (\$3,550 – yes that's correct – for release in December) ★★★★★

Penfolds fans rejoice! The latest Grange wears the label proudly, and there are some gems in the supporting cast. The Bin 389 upholds a very proud tradition, but it is the Bin 707 that is jaw-droppingly good – and different. It seems the “woody monster” style is no longer what the winemaking team want for 707. It still spends 14 months in new American oak, so surely the cooperage choice must now be of supreme quality, without the harshness and strong vanilla characteristics. Congratulations to the Penfolds crew for taking a big step forward.

Several of these wines are usually put on for tasting by the major wine merchants. Don't miss a chance to try them.

Lester Jesberg

CANBERRA DISTRICT SHIRAZ

The 2013s from the Canberra District looked so good in the Small Vignerons Awards that we thought we'd retaste some of the SVA wines in the company of a few "heavy hitters" that weren't entered.

The panel members were excited – and rightly so. Please bear in mind that this was a blind tasting with no adjustment to results.



Nick O'Leary

2013 Nick O'Leary Shiraz This wine was awarded the Stodard Trophy for best young red of the Royal Queensland Wine Show and then backed it up with the Best Red of Show trophy. We congratulate all concerned. The intense dark cherry aromas are enhanced by those of violets, and the palate is an object lesson in richness, fineness and balance. (\$30.00)

<http://www.nickolearywines.com.au/buy-wine/>

COLLECTOR

WINES

2013 Collector Reserve Shiraz The vibrant red berry aromas are greatly enhanced by just-right whole-bunch complexity. The palate is rich, supple and long, with fine, persistent tannins. A marvellous cellaring style. To be released around April 2015. You will be advised if you're on the mailing list. Price \$59-\$60.

<http://www.collectorwines.com.au/order.htm>

2013 Clonakilla Shiraz Viognier The delicate red berry aromas carry a stems influence, and also an unmistakable viognier perfume. The palate is very impressive – fine, long and satisfying. (\$90.00)

<http://www.clonakilla.com.au/index.php/order/>



2013 Nick O'Leary Bolaro Shiraz Violets and apricots in profusion, together with cherries and stems. All fresh and in harmony. Very fine tannins, pristine fruit and seamless oak integration. (\$55.00)

2013 Collector Marked Tree Shiraz Light bright colour. Very complex and perfumed. Powerful but still medium-bodied. Firm. Tannins tight and wound up. Very impressive. To be released 04/15 for \$26.95.

2013 Lark Hill Shiraz Viognier Plenty of bright red berry/cherry with a nice waft of viognier perfume and fresh sage. The sweet fruit carries long on a very stylish palate. (\$30.00)

2013 Eden Road Canberra Shiraz A vibrant dark cherry/spice shiraz with complexing whole-bunch elements. It's very youthful, but very well balanced, with the structure for cellaring. (\$60.00)

2013 Lerida Estate Shiraz Vibrant violets and red berries. A fine, seamless wine that is coiled up and yet to really show itself. (\$26.50)

<http://www.leridaestate.com.au/categories/Reds/>



2013 Ravensworth Shiraz Viognier A bit wild, free and herbal. Still very perfumed. Ripe red berry flavour finishes long on a firm palate. (\$32.00)

2013 Gallagher Shiraz Plums and spice. Fresh and perfumed. Rich and fully ripe. Rewarding drinking in the short term. (\$36.00)

2013 Mount Majura Shiraz Dense, intense and reduced, with charcuterie overtones. A big wine in this context with a decidedly firm finish – which worried one panelist. (\$32.00)

Tim Knappstein, Jo Marsh and Dean O'Reilly judged the Canberra District class in the Small Vignerons Awards. Lester Jesberg, Lex Howard and David Yeates assessed these, which included some newcomers which performed very well indeed.

WINWISE HALF-DOZEN

All did very well in the 2014 Small Vignerons Awards

2014 Riposte The Scimitar Riesling (Clare)
2013 Twisted River Viognier (Central Ranges, NSW)
2014 Longview Queenie Pinot Grigio (Adelaide Hills)
2012 Sieber Road Ernest Shiraz (Barossa)
2013 Meerea Park Shiraz (Hunter Valley & Hilltops)
2011 Smidge Wines Houdini Shiraz Mourvèdre (Barossa)

\$125.00 plus freight

NSW/ACT \$11.00 per carton

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QLD to Mackay \$19.00 QLD north of Mackay \$22.00

NT \$30.00

WA \$27.00

TAS \$15.00

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Shepparton Vic 3630 Telephone: 03 5821 2051**

Fax: 03 5831 5173

Payment by cheque or credit card

COLDSTREAM HILLS & OAKRIDGE

On the same day as the panel tasted the Canberra shiraz, its members were also poured the following wines by our stewards.

Chardonnay



2013 Oakridge Local Vineyard Series Guerin Chardonnay A powerful funky white peach style. It's all in the mouth - superb texture, intensity, length. Seamless. A gem. (\$36.00)

2013 Coldstream Hills Reserve Chardonnay Very attractive white peach aroma with subtle lees influence. The oak shows but is a good fit. Very creamy within a perfect structure, and backed up by clean acidity. (\$60.00)

2012 Oakridge 864 Single Block Funder & Diamond Vineyard Chardonnay Intense white peach/quince with lees complexity and beguiling funkiness. Slightly toasty oak finishes off a pristine and textured palate in which the fruit speaks. (\$75.00)

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

Pinot Noir



2013 Coldstream Hills Reserve Pinot Noir Knockout nose. Could be from a Burgundy location like Morey-St-Denis. It shows perfumed dark cherry and classy oak. The palate has structure, power, finesse and length. Cellar. (\$75.00)

2013 Oakridge Guerin Vineyard Yarra Valley Pinot Noir Vibrant cherry aromas with a slightly herbal input. It's a fine, firm pinot that's already good to drink. An elegant, edgy wine. (\$36.00)

2013 Oakridge 864 Block 4 Guerin Vineyard Pinot Noir A fragrant, sappy, perfumed pinot which is rich but not heavy. It's a wine of power and structure. Cellar. (\$85.00)



2013 Oakridge Lusatia Park Vineyard Pinot Noir Sour morello cherry and bramble. Rich fruit with slightly edgy, nervy hint of volatility. Good structure. (\$36.00)

THE PANEL ALSO TASTED



SEPPELT

FOUNDED 1851



2012 Seppelt St Peters Grampians Shiraz This is a magnificent example of one of Australia's finest red wines. The nose shows rose petal and whole-bunch elements, and the palate is sublime, offering the finest tannins and seemingly endless varietal flavour. (\$70.00) It's a relative bargain.



2012 Chapel Hill The Vicar McLaren Vale Shiraz Here we have an intense shiraz packed with ripe, fresh blackberry flavour. There are hints of "bacon bones" oak which is well integrated. (\$80.00)



2012 Wirra Wirra RSW McLaren Vale Shiraz A very intense blackberry style of shiraz with hints of mint. The finish is firm, but the acidity is a tad too obvious. (\$65.00)

And some more....

2014 Seppelt Drumborg Riesling In one of the great visionary acts in Australian wine history, the Seppelt Drumborg vineyard was planted 50 years ago. This riesling celebrates that significant anniversary in style. It's one of Australia's very best – fragrant, long, dry and racy, with all the attributes that make riesling great. (\$40.00) ★★★★★

2011 Hentley Farm Clos Otto Shiraz (Cork) This is a very impressive Barossa red that is surprisingly elegant and perfumed. What's more it's very fresh, showing both red and dark berry characteristics, and relies on fruit, rather than artifact, to get its message across. It drinks so well, I'd regard it as a short, rather than long-term proposition. (\$131.25) ★★★★★

Lester Jesberg

SPARKLING WINE

The panel tasted a small range of bubblyies. While there were some well-made wines, it's fair to say that a decided lack of excitement prevailed.



2010 Chandon Vintage Blanc de Blancs A vibrant wine showing obvious chardonnay aromas plus subtle autolysis complexity. The palate is attractively creamy, but the dosage is slightly too high. (\$25.00)

2010 Chandon Vintage Brut Fresh, complex and attractive, with a bready touch. Creamy and tight. Plenty of flavour. Good acidity. (\$25.00)



2011 Wicks Estate Adelaide Hills Chardonnay Pinot Noir A fresh style, with a faint touch of bready complexity. Not quite as good on palate - more simple and slightly broad, with dosage sweetness. (\$25.00)



NV Rococo Yarra Valley Premium Cuvée (De Bortoli) Musky pinot aromas. A bit plain, with fairly sweet entry. (\$22.00)

NV Chandon Brut Developed, with barely enough freshness. Obvious dosage sweetness. Broad. For the masses. (\$23.00)



2011 Taltarni Blanc de Blancs Rich white peach. Fresh, with slight development, but fairly simple. A little firm with high acid. Austere. (\$20.00)

2010 Taltarni Chardonnay Pinot Noir Pinot Meunier Brut Far too developed in all respects. (\$26.00)

2009 Grey-Smith Pidgeon Coonawarra Sparkling Chardonnay Not 100% bright in colour. Complex and nutty, but faintly tropical. (\$35.00)

Correction. In our bulletin covering the Small Vigneron Awards shiraz class we omitted a very important wine. The **2012 Sons of Eden Zephyrus Shiraz** scored top gold in the Barossa class, and is a wine you shouldn't miss if you're a fan of the richly flavoured style. It pulls together all the positives of Barossa shiraz in a fresh, concentrated red enhanced by gently-handled oak. This is a wine to enjoy from now until about 2020. (\$32.00) ★★★★★

RECENTLY TASTED

★★★★



2014 Bleasdale Adelaide Hills Pinot Gris Quite simply, there aren't many better at this price. It's very, very fresh, offering nashi pear aromatics and a creamy texture with just a light grip. Lively acidity balances the rewarding varietal flavour. (\$15.00)

<http://www.winelistaustralia.com/wines.php?pid=3137&page=0&wine=Grigio%20Gris>

2014 Bleasdale Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc Simplicity itself. Pick the grapes at exactly the right time and preserve all the typical grassy, lantana, passionfruit characteristics in a wine bursting with freshness. (\$16.00)

<http://www.wineboxwarehouse.com.au/White-Wine/Sauvignon-Blanc/Bleasdale-Adelaide-Hills-Sauvignon-Blanc-2014>

2013 Karrawatta Adelaide Hills A Block Sauvignon Blanc

An entirely different style to the one above. It shows barrel ferment complexity, and is very much a structural/textural wine. For all that, it certainly doesn't lack varietal character, and will benefit from another year in bottle. (\$25.00)

2011 Brangayne of Orange Isolde Chardonnay This richly-flavoured chardonnay is probably near its peak, and is drinking beautifully, showing attractive nuts and butter complexity. (\$30.00)

★★★

2014 Angullong Fossil Hill Vermentino Shows fresh stone fruit aromas, but is relatively simple, with a slightly firm finish. (\$22.00)

2014 Terre à Terre Down To Earth Wrattenbully Sauvignon Blanc This wine from Tapanappa was partially barrel fermented, and it shows by way of a textural lees influence. There is also some fresh, grassy varietal flavour. (\$24.00)



2014 Leaping Lizard Western Australia Sauvignon Blanc

Plenty of thiol (pungent sweaty) aroma here. The fruit intensity isn't up to the job. (\$15.00)

2009 Grant Burge Meshach Barossa Valley Shiraz Reviewing single bottles of wine sealed with cork can be risky, but, as there was no cork taint or extreme oxidation present, we present this summary, because buyers take similar risks when they purchase wines under cork.

First, the colour is already showing obvious signs of maturity – not good for a wine made for cellaring. The nose is also advanced and lacking vibrancy while the palate, although offering “sweet” fruit also shows signs of raisin. Disappointing. (\$130.00)



2012 Bethany Old Vine Grenache A very tired, developed wine indeed. (\$22.00)

NATIONAL COOL CLIMATE WINE SHOW

I recently had the pleasure of chairing one of the panels at the National Cool Climate Wine Show which was conducted in Bathurst. My favourite wines were:

2014 Ferngrove Cossack Riesling Delicate and steely, with a subtle fragrance. Dry, persistent and balanced. (\$23.00) ★★★★★

2013 McWilliams 842 Tumbarumba Chardonnay Tight and classy. Best-quality French oak matching to subdued but intense fruit and lees nuttiness and texture. Needs time. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

2014 Singlefile Semillon Sauvignon Blanc A text book version of what is now a classic Western Australian style. It's super-fresh, flavour-packed and dry, offering concentrated gooseberry and passionfruit flavour. (\$25.00) ★★★★★

2013 Twisted River Shiraz Viognier This is a very engaging Central Ranges (NSW) wine with enticing perfume and spiciness. The palate is long, fine and medium-bodied. Very impressive. ★★★★★

2013 Montalto Main Ridge Block Pinot Noir Very fragrant, with secondary notes. The palate is long, fine and beautifully balanced. (\$65.00) ★★★★★

Lester Jesberg

2014 WINEWISE SMALL VIGNERON AWARDS

BEST OF CHARDONNAY

We've sung the praises of Australian chardonnay frequently of late, and this select group justifies our tune. The diversity of styles is as impressive as the overall quality. It's simply a matter of taking your pick.



2013 Eden Road Maragle Tumbarumba Chardonnay We've made it clear in the past that Tumbarumba chardonnay is one of Australia's hidden gems. Here two judges outside the Winewise circle joined the editor in placing this wine first, confirming our enthusiasm. This wine is skilfully crafted, bringing together lees-derived funkiness and nutty character with intense cool-area varietal fruit. The palate is long, creamy and acid-fresh, delivering marvellous mouthfeel. (\$50.00)

<http://edenroadwines.com.au/collections/small-batch>



2013 Dawson & James Chardonnay The winemaking duo responsible for this wine have been around for a while, but the label hasn't. In just a few years Dawson & James wines have graced these pages often. This time their chardonnay almost claimed the coveted Peter Crisp plate. This vintage is intense and beautifully textured, finishing with classic Tasmanian acidity. The oak is classy, and a little prominent, but everything is right for cellaring. (Not yet released)

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



2012 A. Rodda Willow Lake Vineyard Yarra Valley Chardonnay A richly flavoured chardonnay which ticks all the boxes – funk, oak, intensity, balance, freshness. The very satisfying palate is creamy and long. (\$39.00)
<http://www.princewinestore.com.au/Product/tabid/60/413004/A.Rodda-Yarra-Valley-Willow-Lake-Chardonnay-2012>

Note: *In our list of gold medal winners, this wine was shown as Smiths Vineyard Beechworth due to a transcription error. Sincere apologies.*

2013 Cannibal Creek Chardonnay A bright, well made Gippsland chardonnay in which astute oak handling reinforces the intense cool-area fruit which shows white peach and grapefruit characteristics. The palate certainly delivers in terms of texture and length. (\$28.00)
<http://www.cannibalcreek.com.au/shop/>

2012 Seville Estate Reserve Chardonnay This is a creamy, elegant chardonnay with well handled oak and a touch of funk. The palate is tight and long, typifying cutting-edge Australian cool climate chardonnay. (\$70.00)



2011 Cannibal Creek Chardonnay A second gold medal for this under-rated Gippsland producer. It's very fresh, offering intense but restrained varietal flavour and a good line of acidity which harmonises perfectly with palate texture and oak. (\$28.00)

2013 McLeish Estate Hunter Valley Chardonnay An impressive young chardonnay which shows toasted nuts and lemon curd characteristics. The palate is fresh, long and nicely textured. (\$20.00)
<http://mcleishhunterwines.com.au/>

2012 Juniper Estate Margaret River Chardonnay This rich, ready to go chardonnay offers mouthfilling flavour backed up by a creamy texture, honeyed nuts complexity and freshening acidity. Quite delicious, really. (\$38.00)

2013 Saddler's Creek Reserve Hunter Valley Chardonnay Shows attractive stone and citrus fruit characteristics. There's an appealing chalky feel to the palate and oak shows through a little on the finish. Give it another 12 months. (\$36.00)

2013 Juniper Crossing Margaret River Chardonnay Although the oak is a little prominent, lemony/grapefruit characteristics show clearly, and there's good depth of fruit backed up by a dry, flinty finish. (\$20.00)



2012 Paringa Estate Mornington Peninsula Chardonnay

The complexity and texture of this chardonnay work very well with the fresh, intense white peach fruit. The classy French oak shows through, but the varietal flavour holds its own. (\$35.00)

2012 Eden Road Tumbarumba Chardonnay Plenty of flavour here with some lees-reduction complexity. Creamy texture. Good drinking. (\$40.00)

2011 Ridgeview Impressions Hunter Valley Chardonnay A very appealing fruit-driven chardonnay with lemony overtones and fresh acidity. It's drinking very well now. (\$30.00)

2012 Hutton Triptych Margaret River Chardonnay The oak shows a tad too much over the rich varietal fruit, but there's plenty of flavour to be enjoyed. (\$40.00)

2013 Ravensworth Tumbarumba Chardonnay The nose is quite complex, showing funky notes and slightly herbal overtones. It's a very fresh wine, lively and interesting, but it just needs a little more intensity. (\$30.00)

2013 Lobethal Road Bacchant Chardonnay A tightly structured white with an attractive hint of lees complexity. It may develop extra richness over the next twelve months. (\$45.00)

2012 Balgownie Estate Bendigo Chardonnay A toasty style with good fruit and balance. Drinking now. (\$45.00)

2012 Higher Plane Margaret River Chardonnay Quite restrained, showing nutty overtones. Good drinking, although the finish is slightly short. (\$35.00)

2012 Warner Glen Estate Margaret River The Pic Reserve Chardonnay Melon-like fruit with some lees-derived funkiness. Needs a little more intensity. (\$45.00)



2011 Dawson & James Chardonnay

2013 Seville Estate Chardonnay

2013 A. Rodda Smiths Vineyard Beechworth Chardonnay

2013 Mayford Chardonnay

2012 Mistletoe Reserve Chardonnay

2013 Courabyra Chardonnay

2013 Hedberg Hill Chardonnay

2011 Squitchy Lane Chardonnay

2013 Ross Hill Pinnacle Chardonnay

2013 Sidewood Chardonnay

2013 Hanging Rock Jim Jim Chardonnay

2012 Cannibal Creek Chardonnay

2013 A. Rodda Willow Lake Vineyard Yarra Valley Chardonnay

2012 Paringa Estate The Paringa Chardonnay

2012 Mount Avoca Growers Blend Chardonnay

2013 Mistletoe Chardonnay
2013 Ridgeview Impressions Chardonnay
2013 Collector Tiger Tiger Chardonnay
2012 Collector Tiger Tiger Chardonnay
2013 After Hours Chardonnay
2013 South by Southwest Chardonnay
2011 Jane Brook Estate Shovelgate Margaret River Chardonnay
2009 Saracen Estates Chardonnay



2012 Mount Avoca Moates Lane Chardonnay
2013 Crooked Brook Chardonnay
2012 Leogate Estate Vicki's Choice Hunter Valley Chardonnay
2013 Seville Estate The Barber Chardonnay
2013 Two Rivers Reserve Chardonnay
2011 Balgownie Estate Chardonnay
2009 Wandin Valley Estate Reserve Chardonnay
2013 Portsea Estate Chardonnay
2012 Sidewood Mappinga Chardonnay
2013 Lerida Estate Lake George Chardonnay
2013 Brangayne of Orange Chardonnay
2011 Heafod Glen Family Reserve Chardonnay
2013 Twisted River Chardonnay Viognier
2013 Mount Avoca Chardonnay
2012 Credaro Family Estate Chardonnay
2013 Lillypilly Chardonnay
2013 Sew & Sew Adelaide Hills Chardonnay
2013 Montara Grampians Chardonnay
2013 Robert Stein Reserve Chardonnay
2010 Saracen Estates Reserve Chardonnay
2013 Fifth Estate Wines Krugers Block Chardonnay
2012 Portsea Estate Stonecutters Single Vineyard Chardonnay
2013 Chalkers Crossing Tumbarumba Chardonnay
2013 Ross Hill Max & Maya Chardonnay
2013 Chalkers Crossing Hilltops CC2 Chardonnay
2011 Fifth Estate Wines Krugers Block Chardonnay
2011 Morgan Simpson Two Clowns Chardonnay
2013 Heslop Wines Chardonnay

No stars

2013 Mount Majura Vineyard Chardonnay

The Hunter Valley is excelling itself with chardonnay (just try the latest Tyrrell's releases as well as the three in this group) but the cutting edge wines are coming from cooler southern regions. Tumbarumba, Beechworth, Yarra Valley and Gippsland featured strongly here.

HANDPICKED COLLECTION PINOT NOIRS

The Handpicked Collection is an ambitious wine business driven by entrepreneur William Dong. About twelve months ago, high-profile winemaker and consultant Gary Baldwin was appointed chief winemaker of the Handpicked wine making-negotiant business. For the full story, please go to <http://handpickedwines.com.au/>

The Wines

2013 Tasmania Pinot Noir This is definitely the pick of the bunch. It's fragrant, complex, intense and fresh, with a caress of new French oak. The palate is a study in suppleness and finesse. (\$48.00) ★★★★★

2013 Capella Vineyard Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir Fresh and complex, showing dark cherry with whole bunch characteristics. The tannins are fine, but this wine is a collection of impressive components that are not yet integrated. Give it about two years. (\$75.00) ★★★★★

2013 Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir A fresh, fragrant dark cherry pinot noir with a hint of undergrowth to the nose. It's finely structured and fruit-driven, with commendable intensity. (\$48.00) ★★★★★

2013 Yarra Valley Pinot Noir The less vibrant colour and herbal complexity suggest a significant percentage of whole bunches in the fermentation. This leads to a fine, savoury palate which is easy to like. (\$48.00) ★★★★★

2012 Central Otago Pinot Noir This is a big, ripe pinot, although it doesn't approach the shiraz-like features of some of its brethren. However, it lacks the finesse and structure of the wines reviewed before it. (\$48.00) ★★★

Lester Jesberg

Here are two web sites we suggest you look at. They address topics close to our heart – the myth of terroir and the downside of not tasting blind.

https://www.glug.com.au/index_regional.php?sec=regional_studies

<http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/butchers-tongue-illusion>

2014 WINEWISE SMALL VIGNERON AWARDS

BEST OF THE SHIRAZ

As usual the shiraz class was one of the stars. We're sure you'll find a lot to like here, depending on your style preferences, and, as usual, we'll do our best to describe the wines to you.

Highly Recommended ★★★★★



2013 Credaro Beach Head Margaret River Shiraz This is a very seductive young shiraz that is packed with fresh blackberry aroma and flavour. There's a hint of dried herbs, and the palate is long, with very polished tannins. (\$25.00)
<http://www.credarowines.com.au/>

COLLECTOR WINES

2013 Collector Marked Tree Shiraz A vibrant red which shows some stems complexity which sits perfectly with the red and dark berry fruit. There are hints of spices, violets and dark chocolate in this very attractive shiraz. To be released 04/15 for \$26.95. Get on the mailing list.
<http://www.collectorwines.com.au/about.htm>



2013 Thomas Wines Sweetwater Hunter Valley Shiraz The spicy dark fruits aromas make a compelling varietal argument, and the intensity and structure strongly suggest that cellaring is essential. We have not yet seen the best of this first-class Hunter Valley shiraz. (\$35.00)



Sanguine
ESTATE

2013 Sanguine Estate Progeny Shiraz Given the record of this label in Winewise tastings, it has to be one of the best value wines in the country. This vintage is tightly-packed and the dark berry varietal fruit is expressed vividly. The firm structure is part of a balanced palate, but you'll see the best of this wine in 3-5 years. (\$24.95)

<http://sanguinewines.com.au/cart/>



mandoon
estate

2013 Mandoon Old Vine Shiraz A rich, ripe, perfumed blackberry style with a well-managed oak influence. Although it's a wine of substance, it's fresh, balanced and enjoyable now with robust red meat dishes, but the best days lie ahead for this one. (\$25.00)

<https://www.mandoonestate.com.au/>

2012 Sieber Road Ernest Shiraz This is a full-flavoured shiraz which is packed with typical ripe blackberry flavour in keeping with the Barossa style. It's a very plush, but well balanced red that certainly delivers the goods. (\$22.00)

<http://sieberwines.com/>

2012 Hugh Hamilton The Rascal Shiraz Another with an abundance of fresh flavour. This time it's dark berries and plums with a whiff of dark chocolate. The palate offers excellent length, and acid freshens the finish, but it may be a little too obvious for some. (\$29.50)

2013 Eden Road Canberra Syrah A very classy red with spicy and whole bunch elements which complement the vibrant red berry aromas and flavours. This is a genuine medium-bodied wine with a touch of flair that sets it apart. (\$60.00)

2012 Hahndorf Hill Single Vineyard Shiraz A bright, lively shiraz which is all about dark berries, red cherries and spice. The tannins are fine and savoury, and the palate finishes with great persistence. (\$35.00)

2013 Thomas Wines Kiss Hunter Valley Shiraz This is a wine with a huge future. The oak is prominent at the moment, but the dark cherries and spice characteristics are captivating, and the tannins demonstrate precision handling. (\$60.00)

2011 De Iuliis Limited Release Shiraz Here's another Hunter shiraz that exemplifies the quality being achieved there. It shows off its oak right now, but the medium-bodied fruit is exceptional, and it's matched to polished tannins which provide the ideal structure for cellaring. (\$70.00)

2013 Mount Majura Vineyard Shiraz Plenty of rich, spicy dark cherry here with some "bunchy" notes. Excellent palate intensity backed up by appropriately firm tannins. Cellar for a few years. (\$32.00)

2012 Sanguine Estate Progeny Shiraz How good is this? Both the 2013 and 2012 make the cut. The 2012 is a generously-flavoured, spicy shiraz with a hint of violets perfume. Savoury tannins balance a long palate. (\$24.95)

2012 Montara Grampians Shiraz An impressive shiraz that is packed with sweet varietal fruit. Spicy aromas and supple tannins combine to complete an impressive package. (\$25.00)
<http://www.montarawines.com.au/>

2012 Credaro Family Estate Shiraz This is a rich, potent shiraz with a bright colour which sends strong signals about the freshness of the wine. Hints of dark chocolate enhance the aroma and flavour, and firm, fine tannins demand cellaring. (\$45.00)

2011 Mandoon Reserve Shiraz A big, dark purple wine with very rich fruit and a layer of "sweet" oak. Spicy elements add to the complexity. Cellar for best results. (\$33.00)

2012 Braydun Hill Single Vineyard Premium McLaren Vale Shiraz Plenty of bang for your buck here. Deep bright purple colour, multilayered fresh blackberries, and a good lick of oak. A powerful cellaring style. (Not yet released)
<http://www.braydunhill.com.au/>

2013 Garners Heritage Shiraz A very rich Strathbogie Ranges shiraz with a hint of central Victorian gum leaf. You may or may not like the eucalypt, but there's no doubting the strong core of blackberry varietal fruit, and fine, balanced tannins. (\$25.00)
<http://www.garnerswine.com.au/Our-Wine.html>

2013 Ravensworth Murrumbateman Shiraz Viognier Here we have plenty of blackberry, spice and violets with complex whole bunch notes. The palate is long, fine and savoury. Very likeable indeed. (\$32.00)

2013 Lerida Estate Canberra District Shiraz An attractive spicy, perfumed shiraz with hints of black pepper. Very fine tannins complement an impressively long palate. (\$26.50)
<http://www.leridaestate.com.au/products/2013-Shiraz.html>

Recommended ★★★

2013 De Iuliis Limited Release Shiraz (\$80.00)
2013 DogRock Pyrenees Shiraz (Not yet released)
2013 Crooked Brook Shiraz (\$12.00)
2012 Sons of Eden Remus Eden Valley Shiraz (\$70.00)
2012 Sons of Eden Romulus Barossa Valley Shiraz (\$70.00)
2009 Balthazar of Barossa Shiraz (\$49.00)
2012 Dowie Doole Shiraz (\$25.00)
2010 Flints of Coonawarra Rostrevor Coonawarra Shiraz (\$20.00)
2012 Koppamurra Joanna Wrattontully Shiraz (\$35.00)
2012 Honey Moon Vineyard Shiraz (\$85.00)
2012 Flints of Coonawarra Rostrevor Coonawarra Shiraz (Not yet released)
2012 Lobethal Road Bacchant Shiraz (\$45.00)
2013 Sidewood Shiraz (\$25.00)
2013 Leogate Estate Brokenback Shiraz (\$40.00)
2013 Leogate Estate The Basin Shiraz (\$115.00)
2012 Shaw Vineyard Estate Shiraz (\$25.00)
2012 Sandhurst Ridge Shiraz (\$30.00)
2012 Juniper Crossing Shiraz (\$20.00)
2012 Mandoon Estate Reserve Shiraz (\$33.00)
2013 Mandoon Estate Reserve Shiraz (\$33.00)
2012 Balgownie Black Label Shiraz (\$25.00)
2012 Rojomama Red Art Shiraz (\$30.00)
2008 Rojomama Raj's Pick (\$57.00)
2013 Leogate Estate Western Slopes Shiraz (\$115.00)
2012 Paringa Estate The Paringa Shiraz (\$80.00)

Agreeable ★★

2012 Terra Felix Yarra Valley Shiraz
2012 Lerida Estate Lake George Shiraz Viognier
2013 Gallagher Shiraz
2012 Mayford L.G. Shiraz
2012 Clarnette & Ludvigsen Grampians Shiraz
2012 Windance Estate Shiraz
2013 Pinelli Estate Reserve Shiraz
2012 Hugh Hamilton Jekyll & Hyde Shiraz Viognier
2013 Briar Ridge Dairy Hill Hunter Valley Shiraz
2010 Windance Estate Reserve Shiraz
2011 Knotting Hill Vineyard Shiraz
2012 Balthazar of Barossa Shiraz
2012 Longview Yakka Shiraz
2013 Briar Ridge Stockhausen Signature Release Hunter Valley Shiraz
2011 Thomas Wines Sweetwater Shiraz
2012 Chalkers Crossing Hilltops Shiraz
2010 Sanguine Estate Shiraz
2012 Burge Family Winemakers Draycott Shiraz
2010 Dolan Family Winemakers Barossa Shiraz
2012 Terra Felix The Lucky Country Langhorne Creek Shiraz
2013 Arakoon Sellicks Beach Shiraz

2010 Morgan Simpson Basket Press Shiraz
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2010 Longview The Piece Shiraz
2012 Sidewood Mappinga Shiraz
2012 Redman Shiraz
2013 Tallavera Grove Fenestella Hunter Valley Shiraz
2013 De Iuliis Shiraz
2013 Gundog Estate Hunter's Shiraz
2013 De Iuliis Steven Vineyard Shiraz
2013 De Iuliis LDR Vineyard Shiraz Touriga
2013 Mistletoe Hunter Shiraz
2011 Thomas Wines Elenay Shiraz
2011 Ridgeview Impressions Shiraz
2013 Sapling Yard Shiraz
2013 Fallows Run Shiraz
2013 Shaw Vineyard Estate Winemakers Selection Shiraz
2012 Ross Hill Pinnacle Shiraz
2013 Centennial Shiraz
2010 Hanging Rock Heathcote Shiraz
2012 Sanguine Estate Dorsa Shiraz
2013 DogRock Degraves Road Vineyard Shiraz
2013 After Hours Shiraz
2012 Bellevue Estate Shiraz
2013 Pokolbin Estate Reserve Shiraz
2009 Mistletoe Reserve Shiraz
2012 Smidge Wines Adamo Barossa Valley Shiraz
2005 Meerea Park Alexander Munro Shiraz Aged Release
2012 Bundaleer Hornsdale Mist Shiraz
2010 Balthazar of Barossa Shiraz
2012 Glenwillow Bendigo Shiraz
2011 Fifth Estate Wines Shiraz
2012 TeAro Estate Charred Door Shiraz

Acceptable ★

2011 Mistletoe Reserve Shiraz
2013 Grove Estate The Cellar Block Shiraz Viognier
2013 Eden Road Wines The Load Road Shiraz
2012 Mount Avoca Old Vine Shiraz
2011 Balthazar of Barossa Shiraz
2013 Eden Road Syrah Hilltops
2010 Quarry Hill Shiraz
2009 Meerea Park Hell Hole Shiraz Cellar Release
2012 Collector Marked Tree Red Shiraz
2012 Sanguine Estate Inception Shiraz
2011 Glenwillow Bendigo Shiraz
2012 Mount Avoca Malakoff Shiraz
2012 Heafod Glen Shiraz
2012 Fifth Estate Wines Shiraz
2009 Patrick of Coonawarra Estate Shiraz
2011 Huntington Estate Special Reserve Shiraz
2013 Robert Stein Reserve Shiraz

2013 Harcourt Valley Vineyard Heathcote Shiraz
2010 Mount Avoca Shiraz
2010 Fifth Estate Wines Shiraz
2013 Two Rivers Reserve Shiraz
2013 Lobethal Road Shiraz
2009 Fifth Estate Wines Shiraz
2011 Sew & Sew Adelaide Hills Syrah
2013 Wandin Valley Estate Shiraz
2011 Pokolbin Estate Reserve Shiraz
2010 Freeman Altura Vineyard Shiraz
2012 Whiskey Gully Wines Black Rod Shiraz
2013 Centennial Reserve Shiraz
2013 Centennial Reserve Shiraz Viognier
2010 Paringa Estate The Paringa Shiraz
2012 Turners Crossing Shiraz Viognier
2009 Mount Avoca Reserve Shiraz
2010 Grampians Estate Ballarat Grammar Centenary St Ethels Shiraz
2011 Juniper Estate Shiraz
2012 Stable Hill Shiraz
2012 Saracen Estates Shiraz
2013 Tintilla Estate Reserve Shiraz
2013 Gundog Estate Marksman's Shiraz
2012 Seville Estate Old Vine Reserve Shiraz
2012 Sieber Road Special Release Shiraz
2013 Yarrh Shiraz
2008 Zarephath Shiraz
2011 Gilberts Mt Barker Reserve Shiraz
2012 Sabella of McLaren Vale Shiraz
2012 Bowen Estate Coonawarra Shiraz
2013 Thomas Wines Elenay Shiraz
2013 Ridgeview Impressions Shiraz
2012 Ross Hill Benny & Taylor Shiraz
2011 Garners Heritage Wine
2012 Collector Folded Blue Shiraz
2012 Mount Avoca Moates Lane Shiraz
2011 Meerea Park Hell Hole Shiraz
2010 Oak Valley Estate The Gun Old Block Shiraz
2010 Koonara Angel's Peak Shiraz
2012 Twisted River Shiraz Viognier
2011 Meerea Park Terracotta Syrah
2012 Huntington Estate Basket Dried Shiraz
2012 Brangayne of Orange Shiraz
2012 Seville Estate Shiraz
2013 Meerea Park Shiraz

Unacceptable

2012 Albert River Wines Shiraz
2013 McKellar Ridge Shiraz Viognier
2012 Mount Avoca Shiraz
2011 Cape Naturaliste Torpedo Rocks Shiraz