



WINEWISE

THE CONSUMER'S WINE GUIDE

FEBRUARY 2015



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TASTINGS

09 February, 2015

2014 Wirra Wirra The Lost Watch Adelaide Hills Riesling

There's richness and ripeness to be enjoyed here, but for all the limey flavour the wine is a little forward, with a hint of phenolic grip. Drink this one now. (\$22.00) ★★★

2014 Frankland Estate Isolation Ridge Vineyard Riesling

Aromas of freshly scored lime rind and pith. The palate is dry indeed, with the slight bitterness of citrus pith coming through. It's acid-fresh, but is there enough fruit to carry the phenolics? (\$35.00) ★★★

2014 Frankland Estate Netley Road Vineyard Riesling

An intense, limey riesling with some obvious palate grip. The flavour impresses, but the finish is slightly hard. (\$30.00) ★★★

2014 Frankland Estate Poison Hill Vineyard Riesling

The pick of the Frankland Estates this year. The limey aromatics, freshness and richness of flavour, and dry, structured palate come up trumps. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

2014 Grant Burge Thorn Eden Valley Riesling

Another fine 2014 white from Grant Burge in the last vintage before the sale to Accolade. It's a very tidy Eden Valley, packed with varietal flavour backed by classic regional acidity. (\$24.75) ★★★★★

2014 Mr. Mick Clare Valley Riesling

There's no shortage of Clare Valley lime in this one. It's a forward, faintly sweet, drink-now style. Go for it! (\$17.00) ★★★



2013 Four Winds Tom's Block Shiraz

The Canberra district continues to kick goals with shiraz. This one is vibrant, perfumed and spicy, enhanced by a caress of oak. The palate is long and the tannins are fine. Impressive stuff. (\$45.00) ★★★★★

2010 Morambro Creek Padthaway Shiraz This is a fresh dark berry style with enough flavour and fine, persistent tannins. It's beginning to drink well, but has a future. (\$31.95) ★★★

2009 Yalumba Steeple Vineyard Barossa Shiraz Although the nose presents attractive blackberry/licorice characteristics, the palate lacks weight, although the tannins are fine. (\$68.00) ★★★

2013 Smallwater Estate Geographe Shiraz Youthful but very drinkable – packed with mulberry flavour supported by supple tannins. Drink now/keep up to five years. (\$35.00) ★★★★★

2011 Lowe Mudgee Blue Shiraz Cabernet A step away from the normal Mudgee style, this blend stands out for its fine, savoury tannins which back up the layers of flavour. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

2013 St Johns Road Workhorse Barossa Valley Shiraz Cabernet The initial impact of this wine, with its blackberry richness is impressive, but the flavour tapers off somewhat. (\$22.00) ★★★

2012 The Bryson Barrel Select Padthaway The intensity and freshness of this wine capture the attention, as does the well judged oak handling. This is definitely a cellaring style, and is Morambro Creek's flagship wine. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

2015 WINEWISE CHAMPIONSHIP Entries are pouring in for the Championship, and will almost certainly go well past the 400 mark. All wines entered will be reviewed for Winewise subscribers in a landmark feature.



MEDALLION WINNERS 2015

Best sparkling wine 2008 Josef Chromy Vintage Sparkling Tamar Valley, Tas.

Best 2013 or 2014 riesling 2013 Richmond Grove Limited Release Watervale Riesling Clare Valley, S.A.

Best pre 2013 riesling 2010 Paulett's Aged Release Polish Hill River Riesling Clare Valley, S.A.

- **Best riesling awarded to 2013 Richmond Grove Limited Release Watervale Riesling**

Best 2013 or 2014 semillon 2013 Two Rivers Stone's Throw Semillon Hunter Valley, N.S.W.

Best pre 2013 semillon 2005 Tyrrell's Vat 1 Semillon Hunter Valley, N.S.W.

- **Best semillon awarded to 2005 Tyrrell's Vat 1 Semillon**

Best 2012 or 2013 chardonnay 2013 Singlefile Denmark Reserve Chardonnay Great Southern, W.A.

Best pre 2012 chardonnay 2009 Oakridge 864 Chardonnay -Van der Meulen Vineyard Yarra Valley, Vic.

- **Best chardonnay awarded to 2013 Singlefile Denmark Reserve Chardonnay**

Best sauvignon blanc or blend 2014 Deep Woods Estate Ivory Semillon Sauvignon Blanc Margaret River, W.A.

Best other white varietal or blend 2011 Tahbilk Marsanne Goulburn Valley, Vic.

Best sweet white 2011 Lillypilly Noble Blend Riverina, N.S.W.

Best 2013 pinot noir 2013 Montalto Main Ridge Block
Pinot Noir Mornington Peninsula, Vic.

Best 2012 pinot noir 2012 Home Hill Estate Pinot
Noir Huon Valley, Tas.

- **Best pinot noir awarded to 2012 Home Hill Estate Pinot Noir**

Best 2013 shiraz 2013 Sanguine Estate Progeny Shiraz
Heathcote, Vic.

Best 2012 shiraz 2012 Rosemount Estate Little Berry
Shiraz McLaren Vale, S.A.

Best pre 2012 shiraz 2011 Ridgeview Impressions
Shiraz Hunter Valley, N.S.W.

- **Best shiraz awarded to 2012 Rosemount Estate Little Berry Shiraz**

Best 2012 or 2013 cabernet sauvignon 2012 Blue
Pyrenees Richardson Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon
Pyrenees, Vic.

Best pre 2012 cabernet sauvignon 2010 Mandoon
Estate Research Station Cabernet Sauvignon Margaret
River, W.A.

- **Best cabernet sauvignon awarded to 2012 Blue Pyrenees Richardson Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon**

Best other red varietal 2012 Stanton & Killeen
Tempranillo Rutherglen, Vic.

Best cabernet sauvignon blend 2013 Bleasdale Frank
Potts Langhorne Creek, S.A.

Best other red blend 2013 Next Crop Teroldego Malbec
Langhorne Creek, S.A.

Reviews of all wines tasted, by category, will begin to roll out this week, commencing with riesling. We will conclude our coverage of the 2015 Championship with a report which will include reviews of all 437 wines tasted together with observations on regions and grape varieties, delivering a thorough overview of the Australian wine scene.

Also coming this week – the new Te Mata Estate releases.

TE MATA ESTATE New Releases

By Lester Jesberg

Long term Winewise supporters will know the high regard in which we've always held Te Mata Estate. The Hawkes Bay-based producer sits comfortably among New Zealand's elite, and it was with great pleasure that I accepted an invitation to taste Te Mata's latest with technical director Peter Cowley.

It didn't take long to encounter the most exciting wine of the tasting.



As good as some of the reds are, the **2013 Cape Crest Sauvignon Blanc** proved to be irresistible. Many Australian, New Zealand and Bordeaux winemakers barrel ferment sauvignon blanc – without success. The resulting wines are either too herbaceous or are over-burdened with artefact, but this one shines. Fresh, ripe, slightly grassy sauvignon blanc aroma and flavour is seamlessly integrated with subtle oak and lees influences. The palate is very satisfying and textural. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

<http://www.wineboxwarehouse.com.au/White-Wine/Sauvignon-Blanc/Te-Mata-Cape-Crest-Barrel-Fermented-Sauvignon-Blanc-2013>

The **2013 Elston Chardonnay** shows its 100% malolactic fermentation in the form of a creamy texture rather than overt butteriness. Intense white peach varietal character is supported by nutty lees characteristics and subtle oak. This wine is no simple chardonnay but, at the same time, it's very much fruit-driven. (\$40.00) ★★★★★



On the red front, the introductory wine was the **2014 Gamay Noir**. It's made with 60% whole bunch and is obviously influenced by the wines of Beaujolais. In fact it wouldn't look out of place in a line-up of good Beaujolais crus. It's very floral and deliciously cherry-like without even a hint of stemminess. (\$22.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.crackawines.com.au/product/2014-te-mata-estate-vineyard-gamay-noir>

The vibrant nose of the **2013 Bullnose Syrah** exudes violets, spice, red berries and a dash of new oak. The palate is opulent, long and savoury. A delicious medium-bodied shiraz. (\$52.00) ★★★★★

Next up came the “Bordeaux” blends, the first of which was the **2013 Awatea Cabernets Merlot**. It's an impressive young red showing blackcurrant, red berry and tobacco aromas. The palate is long, and the fine structural tannins reflect the great attention to detail of the Te Mata team. (\$45.00) ★★★★★

Finally there's the **2013 Coleraine**. Te Mata Estate Coleraine is one of the southern hemisphere's finest cabernets, and the latest release enhances that reputation. Although it clearly needs to be cellared, the blackcurrant/tobacco/cedar nose and intense firm palate simply dripped with class. This wine will begin to show what it's all about in five years, and be magnificent in ten. (\$90.00) ★★★★★
<http://www.unitedcellars.com.au/products/te-mata-estate-coleraine-2013>

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