

Panel Tasting 2 – November 2015

Sauvignon Blanc & blends



2015 Wirra Wirra Hiding Champion Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc Very fresh, with restrained, grassy varietal aromatics. Quite linear and dry, with impressive intensity and lively acidity. (\$24.00) ★★★★★
<http://wirrawirra.com/products/wine/hiding-champion-sauvignon-blanc-2015/>

2015 Hay Shed Hill Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc Semillon Subdued nose with herbal notes and a hint of barrel ferment nuttiness. Good textural palate of freshness and intensity. (\$22.00) ★★★★★

2015 Stella Bella Margaret River Semillon Sauvignon Blanc Passionfruit and guava with sweaty thiol notes. It's packed with flavour and is balanced, with textural interest. (\$24.00) ★★★★★

2015 Land of Giants Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc A little forward, but showing plenty of passionfruit and gooseberry. Although it's a touch sweet, it's packed with fresh, ready to enjoy flavour. (\$17.00) ★★★★★
https://www.1stchoice.com.au/White%20Wine/land-of-giants-sauvignon-blanc-750ml_2525130

2015 Stella Bella Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc This is a powerful sauvignon blanc with slightly sweaty passionfruit and gooseberry characteristics. A sizeable, provocative dry white. (\$24.00) ★★★★★

2015 Printhe Mountain Range Orange Sauvignon Blanc Forward and passionfruit-like, with plenty of flavour. Definitely drink now. (\$20.00) ★★★☆

2015 Oxford Landing Estates Sauvignon Blanc Peachy and broad, without a lot of sauvignon blanc character. Fruity and clean. (\$9.00) ★★★

2015 Skuttlebutt Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc Semillon Shows a little gooseberry aroma but is comparatively dull. Full flavoured but plain and firm. (\$18.00) ★★★

2015 Deviation Road Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc A bit dull, showing tinned pineapple aroma and flavour. (\$24.00) ★★★

2015 Stoneleigh Wild Valley Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc Pungent passionfruit and lantana blossom. A little too sweet and forward. (\$22.00) ★★

2015 Down to Earth Wrattonbully Sauvignon Blanc Dull, slightly stripped nose. Plain, with some phenolic firmness. (\$26.00) ★★

During the holiday period, some friends who like sauvignon blanc will probably pay you a visit. Pour them something decent. The Wirra Wirra or the Land of Giants will do nicely.

Shiraz



2014 Sandpiper (Thorn-Clarke) Barossa Shiraz Very vibrant and youthful – revelling in dark cherries and violets. The palate is “juicy”, with fine tannins. One of the bargains of the year. (\$15.00) ★★★★★
<http://www.jimscellars.com.au/>

2011 Huntington Estate Mudgee Shiraz Ripe but fresh, showing blackberry, dark chocolate and oak. This wine has flavour and length, together with plenty of grip. A few years in the cellar are required. (\$25.00) ★★★☆

2014 Eden Trail Eden Valley Shiraz An intense, restrained dark berry style with prominent, but nicely integrated oak. A good red that needs some time to soften. (\$28.00) ★★★☆

2013 Morambro Creek Padthaway Shiraz This is a vibrant blackberry style of shiraz showing some oak-derived toasted nuts aroma. Savoury tannins feature on a long, firm palate. (\$34.95) ★★★☆

2012 Richmond Grove McLaren Vale Shiraz Fresh, rich and a little oaky. A lively full bodied style with well balanced tannins. (\$23.00) ★★★☆

2013 Elderton Greenock One Barossa Valley Shiraz This red makes an impact, displaying vibrant dark and red berries with a touch of mint. The palate is slightly too firm now, and needs to soften. (\$34.00) ★★★

2013 Elderton Barossa Shiraz Intense, ripe blackberry with slightly leathery notes. There's substantial flavour initially, but the palate finishes shortish and firm. ★★★

2013 Elderton Neil Ashmead Grand Tourer Barossa Valley Shiraz There's plenty of reductive funky character, but no shortage of ripe fruit either. A quirky wine. (\$70.00) ★★★

2013 Charles Melton The Father In Law Shiraz Plain and ripe, showing some slightly jammy notes. Firm, but basically short-term. (\$22.00) ★★★☆

2013 Printhie MCC Orange Shiraz A chunky shiraz, with ripe fruit which is a little dull, and tannins that lack fineness. (\$35.00) ★★★☆

2012 Orange Mountain 1397 Shiraz Viognier Light colour. Quite green and herbal. Stemmy without enough fruit weight. (\$42.00) ★★★☆

2012 Emperors Mud Limestone Coast Shiraz Lightish colour. The nose is forward and confection-like, and the palate offers "sweet" fruit without intensity. (\$15.00)★★

While few of the wines created any excitement, we were delighted with the value for money offered by the Sandpiper Shiraz. Not only is it the ideal summer barbecue red, it has the quality and balance to reward 2-3 years in the cellar.

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