

2017 Voyager Estate Masterclass

As always, the Voyager Estate Masterclass provided a fascinating two hours of tasting. Lester Jesberg & Lex Howard combine their notes here. The wines were tasted “blind” but the line-up was known to the attendees.

CHARDONNAY

2015 Seville Estate Reserve Chardonnay Fresh, restrained white peach nose. The palate is tight, finishing long and acid-fresh. A delicious cool-climate chardonnay with a long future ahead of it. (\$70.00) ★★★★★

2014 Meursault Charmes 1er Cru (Henri Germain) Stone fruit nose with buttery nuances. The palate has nice texture and flavour and finishes well, but is showing signs of development. Drink soon. (\$190.00) ★★★★★

2015 Voyager Estate Broadvale Block 6 Chardonnay Ripe grapefruit and white peach aromas with a funky hint. Quite strong flavour, with creamy barrel ferment texture. (\$55.00) ★★★★★☆

2015 Voyager Estate Broadvale Block 5 Chardonnay Very fresh nose with hazelnut/nougat overtone. Stone fruit and ripe grapefruit on the palate. Refreshing and completely satisfying. Utterly delicious. (\$55.00) ★★★★★

2015 Sorrenberg Chardonnay Deep yellow colour. Big, forward, buttery nose with a hint of volatile acidity. Palate follows suit. Complex, but somewhat fat. Flabby finish. (\$70.00) ★★★☆

2015 Penfolds Reserve Bin 15A Chardonnay Great colour. Fresh citrus nose, with stony/gravelly/funky elements. Young palate, with flavours jumping from the glass. On the palate, great phenolics handling – lovely texture. White peach, crunchy apple and citrus. (\$100.00) ★★★★★

2015 Sacred Hill Riflemans Chardonnay (Hawkes Bay) Deep yellow. Forward and coarse. Hints of butterscotch and tinned pineapple on the palate. Disappointing. (\$70.00) ★★★☆

2014 Flowers Camp Meeting Ridge Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast) Slightly advanced colour and nose. Lots of yellow peach and nectarine on the palate. Oaky too – and not fresh enough. Clean and satisfying, but a little too forward. Drink now. (\$150.00) ★★★☆

2015 Voyager Estate Chardonnay Great colour. Lots of stone fruit, nuts and lees complexity on the nose. Creamy, mouth-coating palate with yellow peach supported by good oak. Quite luscious and balanced, with building complexity. Restraint with length. (\$45.00) ★★★★★☆

CABERNETS

2013 Château Léoville Las Cases Pure cassis on the nose. Rich, almost jube, but there's a lean edge to the fruit too. Quite firm on the finish. Good for the vintage. (\$400.00) ★★★★★

2013 Yeringberg Blackcurrant nose, with violets, rose petals and, seemingly, a whiff of *brettanomyces*. Palate disappoints, being hollow and short. (\$90.00) ★★★

2013 Voyager Estate North Block U12 Cabernet Sauvignon Nose shows ripe cassis fruit and dusty oak. Rich but not jammy – plenty of life. Fine, firm tannins support a shedful of fruit. Flavours explode, and last. A wonderful cabernet which could cellar 40 years. (\$90.00) ★★★★★

2013 Voyager Estate Old Block V9 Cabernet Sauvignon Classy oak on the nose, along with savoury herbs like thyme. Fruit is ripe, fresh and abundant, and there's plenty of varietal flavour plus firm, fine, lingering tannins. (\$90.00) ★★★★★

2013 Voyager Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Ripe cherries and blackcurrants on the nose – fresh and lively. Palate has plenty of sweet varietal fruit, oak, and a touch of dried herbs. Long finish. Delicious now, but should develop more complexity over the next ten years and become even better. (\$70.00) ★★★★★

2013 Vasse Felix Tom Cullity Cabernet Sauvignon Malbec Light colour. Distinct leaf on the nose. Tight palate. Very firm and savoury, with surprisingly chewy tannins. Fruit is shy at the moment. Needs time to open up, but the skin tannins and oak are prominent. (\$160.00) ★★★

2013 Corison (Napa Valley) Sweet cassis, leaf and oak. Very ripe fruit on a firm palate. Seems hollow - oak has not yet integrated. Finishes a touch short. (\$150.00) ★★★★★

2013 Sassicaia (Bolgheri, Italy) Pale tawny edge to colour. Nose redolent of autumn leaves. Palate tastes advanced and unbalanced. Fruit and tannin have not become friends. Short puckering finish. (\$270.00) ★★★

2013 Spottswoode Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley) True inky purple – impenetrable. There's no missing this wine. The nose is super-rich, but fresh. The palate delivers everything in spades – massive fruit intensity, new oak, mouth-coating tannins and a long, long finish. For all that, balance is good and it doesn't seem heavy. Will reward patience. (\$260.00) ★★★★★

We thank Voyager Estate for the tasting opportunity. Making the international comparisons is always a fascinating exercise, and there's no doubt that all the Voyager Estate wines more than held their own.

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