January 18, 2018

Ten 2017 Rosés

It's mid-summer, and cold and fresh are the keywords when it comes to wine. White is usually the first port of call, but what about pink? Much of it is simply cash flow wine – something colourful and pretty without much flavour. However, some producers actually put some thought and effort into rosé, and come up with wines that are not just refreshing, but genuinely interesting.

2017 Red Knot by Shingleback Rosé Delicate pink. The nose has an appealing fragrance of rose petal, and the palate is deliciously fruity and fresh, finishing with beautifully-judged, gentle, drying tannins.. ($15.00 – Exclusive to Dan Murphy's & BWS) ★★★★☆

SHINGLEBACK

2017 Shingleback Aficionado McLaren Vale & Adelaide Hills Rosé Delicate pink. The rose petal/ cherry nose is a winner, as is the palate, offering good fruit intensity and textural, low-key tannins. ($15.00 Exclusive to Vintage Cellars) ★★★★☆

2017 Tarrawarra Estate Pinot Noir Rosé Pale salmon pink. The delicate strawberry aroma is attractive, and the palate offers satisfying flavour backed up by a pleasantly dry, savoury finish. ($25.00) ★★★★☆
http://www.tarrawarra.com.au/product/2017-Pinot-Noir-Ros-

2017 Wirra Wirra Mrs Wigley Grenache Rosé Bright pink. Decidedly potpourri nose which is very fresh. The palate shows some of the Turkish delight of grenache and seems to be drier than that of previous vintages. An enjoyable, refreshing wine. ($16.00) ★★★★

2017 Pig In The House Organic Rosé Very pale pink. Delicate strawberry nose. The palate is very fresh, but is just a little light and short. ($25.00) ★★★☆

2017 Angullong Fossil Hill Rosato (sangiovese) Bright light pink. Fresh raspberry/cherry nose. The palate is a touch too firm for the fruit weight. ($24.00) ★★★

2017 Risky Business Western Australia Pinot Noir Rosé Bright pink. Sautéed strawberry nose. There's plenty of flavour, but the finish is a little too firm. ($20.00) ★★★

2017 Zonte's Footstep Scarlet Ladybird Rosé Bright pink. A rosé with loads of flavour and comparatively firm tannins. ($20.00) ★★★

2017 Pitchfork Margaret River Pink Bright pink. Fresh but confection-like nose with a faintly green hint. The palate has a slightly sweetish start, but shortens up to a drying finish. ($16.00) ★★★

2017 Risky Business King Valley Sangiovese Rosé Pale pink. Delicate nose of red flowers. Quite lean and acidic. ($20.00) ★★☆

Editor's note (1): Some years back, I bemoaned the lack of rosés at a major wine show, and suggested to a senior judge that it was a style Australia really needed. A couple of years later he was chairman, and directed my panel to the rosé class. "Be careful what you wish for," he laughed, pointing at 140 glasses of pink wine, lined up in three rows on the tasting table.

He was right. Sad to say, the majority of rosés aren't worth reviewing, but we can take heart from the top few wines in this tasting.

Editor's note (2): I occasionally enjoy a glass or two of good rosé with a Turkish/Lebanese kebab roll. It occurred to me that middle eastern food and pink wine would be an ideal way to celebrate a multi-cultural, open-minded Australia on January 26.

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