

SEVEN of the BEST



From 11-13 April, the Winewise panel, supported by Tim Knappstein (Riposte Wines), Bryan Currie (Hungerford Hill), Nick O'Leary (Nick O'Leary Wines) and Sharyn Foulis (Drinkslink Australia) tasted 400 wines that had won gold medals in the past 12 months. Here we review ten of the best and tell you where to get them at the right price.

2016 Whimwood Estate Nannup Blackwood Valley Chardonnay

Bridgetown and Nannup may not be household names, but they're towns in a rapidly-emerging wine region, the Blackwood Valley of Western Australia. The Blackwood Valley lies about 280 km south of Perth and 100 km east of Margaret River. This wine is beautifully crafted, allowing the barrel ferment complexity to merge perfectly with the fresh varietal fruit. The palate is long and creamy. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.whimwoodestatewines.com.au/buy-wine-859039.html>

2011 Tahbilk 1927 Vines Marsanne There's no doubt that Tahbilk Marsanne is one of Australia's wine treasures. The ninety year old vines have yielded a great example of this distinctive wine style. At seven years of age it's still fresh, displaying the subtle honeysuckle aromas that mark the variety. Fresh acidity lifts the lingering finish. (\$44.95) ★★★★★

<http://www.tahbilk.com.au/buy-tahbilk-wine-online/tahbilk-2011-1927-vines-marsanne.html>

2015 d'Arenberg The Noble Botryotinia Fuckeliana This magnificent wine deserves a better name. Not only does it show pristine orange peel botrytis characteristics, the fruit is remarkably fresh, and lively acidity balances the lusciousness. It triumphed over Australia's most highly regarded sweet whites to claim the Championship medallion. (\$20.00/375 ml) ★★★★★

https://darenberg.com.au/wine_family/the-nobles/

2015 Sons of Eden Remus Shiraz The 2017 Winewise Small Vigneron Awards trophy winner triumphs again! The skilful use of whole bunches in the fermentation lifts this wine to another level. Herbal complexity imparted by that technique works beautifully with the red and black berry regional aromatics. Silky opulence is what the palate is all about. A gem. (\$55.00) ★★★★★

http://www.aussiewines.com.au//wine_Growing_Regions.php?pid=3408&page=1152&cs=&f=&wines=SouthAustralia

2016 Mount Majura Vineyard Mondeuse This wine is the “sleeper” of the year. Very few people know about it, but winemaker Frank Van de Loo has another unique winner on his hands. The nose is vibrantly perfumed and floral, while the palate is long and fine. Don’t miss this one. (\$29.00) ★★★★★☆

<https://www.differentdrop.com/collections/wines/products/2016-mount-majura-mondeuse-1?variant=11158221488171>

2015 Yeringberg Cabernet (66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc, 8% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot, 5% Malbec) It’s not often that we encounter a wine in the Championship that clearly stands out. This one does. Lester’s notes referenced Châteaux Margaux, and that’s not a stretch of the imagination. This perfumed, finely structured Yarra Valley wine is both subtle and complex. The typical blackcurrant and leaf aromas are there, but there’s much, much more. It’s a classic in the making which offers a lot now, but it will go on for decades.

(\$100.00) ★★★★★

<http://www.winestar.com.au/yerlingberg-cabernet-2015>

2017 Ricca Terra Vintners Bullets Before Cannonballs (Nero d'avola, lagrein, negroamaro & tempranillo) The art of wine really comes to the fore in blending, and here’s as good an example as you’ll find. It’s a juicy, spicy, savoury, red berry delight. Enjoy it now. (\$22.50)

★★★★☆

<https://riccaterrafarms.com.au/vintners/shop/>

We had the pleasure of tasting some of Australia’s finest wines in the Winewise Championship, and over the coming weeks we’ll review them all for subscribers. This selection won gold medallions, and there are many more of similar quality. There are also a few shocks which will make for interesting reading.

★★★★★	Outstanding	97-100 pts	Gold medal
★★★★☆	Highly Recommended	93-96	Gold/silver

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