

# WINEWISE CHAMPIONSHIP

## OTHER DRY WHITE

**T**he first surge of “new” white grape varieties is underway, and experimentation will continue as wine producers strive to discover the perfect growing environments for the likes of fiano, grüner veltliner, pinot blanc and vermentino. However Tahbilk found possibly the world’s best place for marsanne nearly a century ago, and that made the difference in a fascinating series of tastings.



**Medallion Winner 2011 Tahbilk 1927 Vines Marsanne** Here we have one of Australia’s great wine styles at or near its peak. The richness imparted by bottle age is greatly enhanced by freshness and lively acidity. If you want to experience the classic honeysuckle aroma and flavour, look no further than this gem. (\$44.95) ★★★★★  
<http://www.tahbilk.com.au/buy-tahbilk-wine-online/tahbilk-2011-1927-vines-marsanne.html>

**2017 Risky Business King Valley Pinot Gris** So much Australian pinot gris is bland, and this wine is a refreshing (in more ways than one) departure from the norm. There’s pear varietal character in abundance, and the palate is rewarding and textural, with beautifully managed phenolic grip. (\$25.00) ★★★★★  
<https://justwines.com.au/risky-business-pinot-grigio-king-valley>

**2017 Hahndorf Hill Gru Adelaide Hills Grüner Veltliner** A powerful Austrian-leaning, spicy grüner veltliner. There’s a hint of volatility that provoked considerable discussion, but in the end the majority felt that it was all part of the presence of this strongly varietal, intensely flavoured dry white. (\$29.00) ★★★★★  
<https://www.hahndorfhillwinery.com.au/Buy-Online>

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**2017 Artwine Wicked Stepmother Clare Valley Fiano** This wine has very appealing citrus and granny smith apple overtones. The textural phenolics of fiano are beautifully integrated into an impressively long palate. (\$26.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.artwine.com.au/product/Wicked-Stepmother-Fiano-2017?pageID=70C099CA-94FF-FC48-B4FA-2132CAFA8EC7&sortBy=DisplayOrder&maxRows=10&>

**2017 Paracombe Adelaide Hills Pinot Blanc** We think that pinot blanc is an underrated grape variety, and this wine demonstrates its great potential. The pear/apple aromatics are vibrantly attractive and flow through to a very satisfying textural palate. (\$22.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.paracombewines.com/shop/>

**2017 Artwine In The Groove Adelaide Hills Grüner Veltliner**

Another mouth-filling, intense grüner veltliner that shows its Austrian roots, including a hint of white pepper. It's an absolutely delicious drink, showing both the present and a glimpse of the future for this exciting grape variety in Australia. (\$26.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.artwine.com.au/product/In-the-Groove-Gruner-Veltliner?pageID=70C099CA-94FF-FC48-B4FA-2132CAFA8EC7&sortBy=DisplayOrder&maxRows=10&>

**2017 Symphony Hill Gewürztraminer** Powerful and strongly varietal, showing lychee and musk stick aromatics. This wine, made in Queensland's Granite Belt is silky, intense, long and balanced. In fact, Symphony Hill makes what is most likely Australia's best gewürztraminer. (\$45.00) ★★★★★

<https://symphonyhill.com.au/shop/2013-gewurztraminer/>

**2017 Terindah Estate Single Vineyard Pinot Grigio** The 2017 Small Vigneron Awards winner again fared well. It shows fresh pear varietal character, and is crisp and clean, with linear acidity – a true “grigio” style. (No longer available) ★★★★★

**2017 Eldredge Vineyards Clare Valley Pinot Gris** Slightly bronze colour from pinot gris skins. This wine has powerful poached pear varietal character and richness of flavour backed up by some phenolic grip. ★★★★★

**2017 Rusty Mutt Catnip McLaren Vale Viognier** A rich, ripe apricot style of viognier that is packed with flavour. It's a little firm on the finish but delivers plenty of drinking pleasure. ★★★★★

**2017 Brini Estate McLaren Vale Chenin Blanc** Australian wine drinkers tend to ignore chenin blanc, but it can produce wines of quality, and here's an example. The rich stone fruit flavour is backed up by a subtle nuttiness and balanced acidity. Good drinking. ★★★★★

**2017 Hahndorf Hill Adelaide Hills Pinot Grigio** The powerful pear varietal characteristics are supported by well integrated phenolics. Good drinking. ★★★★★

**2017 Vinaceous Impavido Vermentino** This is a very fresh dry white with apple and pear characteristics. A simple early-drinking style with good fruit weight. ★★★★★

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**2017 Longview Vineyard Kuhl Adelaide Hills Grüner Veltliner**

Fresh, but comparatively simple. Still, there's good fruit weight backed up by clean acidity. ★★★★★

**2017 Josef Chromy Tasmania Pinot Gris** Shows varietal pear aroma and flavour, but there's a hint of greenness as well. Good acidity. ★★★★★

**2017 Eden Hall Eden Valley Grüner Veltliner** Floral and spicy, but doesn't have quite enough fruit. ★★★☆

**2017 Stage Door White Note Grüner Veltliner** Floral but slightly forward, with decent fruit weight. ★★★☆

**2017 Hanging Rock Jim 3 Pinot Gris Riesling Gewürztraminer** The gewürztraminer shows out in this fresh blend which is a little hollow on the mid palate. ★★★☆

**2017 Pikes Luccio Fiano** Quite perfumed, but also has a suggestion of greenness. The palate has an appealing talc-like texture. ★★★☆

**2017 Frog Belly Margaret River Pinot Grigio** Quite restrained. There's a whiff of SO<sub>2</sub> on the nose. Could benefit from a year or two in bottle. ★★★★★

**2016 Yalumba Organic Viognier** Offers the typical apricot aroma and flavour. Full flavoured, with grip on the finish. ★★★☆

**2017 Apostrophe Stone's Throw Riesling Gewürztraminer Pinot Blanc** Delicate and floral, with a clean finish. ★★★☆

**2011 Tahbilk Marsanne** Has honeysuckle varietal character, but is quite mature and showing the first signs of drying out. ★★★☆

**2016 Hungerford Hill Pinot Gris** Varietal, but the phenolic grip is a little too dominant. ★★★

**2017 McPherson Wines La Vue Pinot Gris** Quite pink. Powerful, but firm, tending broad. ★★★

**2015 Tellurian Heathcote Marsanne** Quite mature, showing honey and toffee overtones. ★★★

**2017 Pankhurst Arneis** On the lean side. Phenolic grip dominates. ★★

The standard was very high, with 15 of the 27 wines rated silver medal or better. Always consider the alternatives when you're purchasing dry white wine.

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