September 7, 2018

# 2018 WINEWISE SMALL VIGNERON AWARDS

## Silver medal red, sparkling & fortified

Here are some more classy wines that acquitted themselves well in the Small Vigneron Awards, but just missed top honours.

**2017 Montalto Pennon Hill Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir** A very drinkable young pinot noir which is quite fragrant, and has some herbal complexity. ($32.00) ★★★★

**2017 Cannibal Creek Gippsland Pinot Noir** Fresh cherry characteristics are matched with stemmy overtones which provide complexity. This is a well made, strongly varietal wine that just needs a little more intensity. ($38.00) ★★★★

**2017 Montalto Tuerong Block Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir** This is a very stylish pinot that is packed with ripe flavour, but is, at the same time, fine and balanced. A wine with a future. ($70.00) ★★★★☆

**2017 Montalto Merricks Block Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir** A fragrant, elegant pinot with stems influence. The tannins are in keeping with the comparatively delicate fruit. ($70.00) ★★★★☆

**2016 Bream Creek Tasmania Pinot Noir** There's plenty of flavour here, with just-right oak support. It's comparatively simple now, but has the intensity and structure to evolve positively over the next few years. ($39.00) ★★★★

**2017 Montalto Estate Mornington Peninsula Shiraz** A decidedly complex shiraz in which the powerful red fruits flavour has to carry significant winemaking inputs including prominent oak. For all that, it's a fascinating wine that could turn into something special. ($50.00) ★★★★

**2017 After Hours Oliver Margaret River Shiraz** The bright raspberry/dark cherry fruit is appealing, but the astringency from skin tannins and oak is a bit too prominent at the moment. ($30.00) ★★★★

**2017 Balgownie Estate Railway Block Bendigo Shiraz** The spicy red fruits nose carries a hint of eucalypt that was both liked and disliked by members of the panel. There's certainly no lack of fruit, and the tannin firmness is well balanced. ($55.00) ★★★★

**2017 Balgownie Estate Centre Block Bendigo Shiraz** The nose tends to redcurrant rather than strong blackberry, and carries its share of oak. The palate is attractively silky and long. ($65.00) ★★★★

**2017 Twisted River First Pick Central Ranges Shiraz** The nose is very seductive – spicy and floral, with whole bunch characteristics. The palate just tapers off a little. ($29.00) ★★★★

**2017 Mount Majura Vineyard Canberra District Shiraz** A spicy cool area style with a touch of whole bunch input. The finish is slightly lean. ($34.00) ★★★★

**2017 Sanguine Estate Kindred Heathcote Shiraz** An approachable, generously flavoured shiraz showing a hint of mint. Good value for money. ($15.00) ★★★★

**2016 Sanguine Estate D'orsa Heathcote Shiraz** A dense, full-bodied shiraz that is crammed with dark fruits flavour. The firm structure includes some oak input. This wine needs plenty of time. ($70.00) ★★★★

**2015 Sanguine Estate D'orsa Heathcote Shiraz** This is a solid, powerful shiraz of good length and varietal character. The oak is a little overt. ($70.00) ★★★★

**2017 Grove Estate Hilltops Shiraz** Dark berry aromas with complex herbal and spicy notes. Fine-grained tannins persist on a long palate. ($25.00) ★★★★

LERIDA ESTATE

**2017 Lerida Estate Cullerin Canberra District Syrah** The red berry aromatics are enhanced by touches of spice and black pepper. There's a very good core of fruit and the tannins are fine. ($38.00) ★★★★☆

**2016 Sons of Eden Romulus Barossa Valley Shiraz** A richly flavoured shiraz that has structure and extract. All the components for cellaring are there, and cellaring is what this wine really needs. ($80.00) ★★★★

**2016 Sons of Eden Remus Eden Valley Shiraz** A deep dark fruits style of shiraz with a whiff of herbal complexity. There's plenty of drive on the richly flavoured palate. ($80.00) ★★★★

**2016 Shaw Vineyard Estate Canberra District Shiraz** A fresh, slightly peppery shiraz showing red fruits characteristics. It's quite elegant and is entering its drinking window. ($34.00) ★★★★

**2015 Springton Hills Koop Creek Reserve Eden Valley Shiraz** Here's a "juicy", spicy shiraz with bright aromas and flavours. Floral and peppery hints add to the appeal. ($35.00) ★★★★☆

**2015 She-oak Hill Estate Heathcote Shiraz** A very richly flavoured dark fruits shiraz which needs all of its intensity to carry the oak. You certainly get plenty of wine for your money. ($25.00) ★★★★

**2014 She-oak Hill Estate Heathcote Shiraz** Another substantial wine. As one judge put it – "huge colour, big fruit, surprisingly balanced." ($25.00) ★★★★

**2017 Grove Estate The Partners Hilltops Cabernet Sauvignon** A fresh, bright cabernet of pleasing varietal character. The tannins are balanced, but the flavour is a touch light. ($25.00) ★★★★

**2017 Sanguine Estate Heathcote Cabernet Sauvignon** A solid young red that certainly doesn't lack flavour, but the tannins are assertive at this stage. ($25.00) ★★★★

**2016 Bowen Estate Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon** Richly flavoured and varietal, with a hint of leafiness. The palate is long and balanced, reflecting skilful use of oak. ($37.00) ★★★★☆

**2016 Risky Business Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon** Shows attractive blackcurrant characteristics which feature on a medium-weight, balanced palate. ($25.00) ★★★★

**2016 Oddfellows Langhorne Creek Cabernet Sauvignon** A bright red fruits style of cabernet with a rewarding palate offering fine tannins. Excellent early drinking. ($25.00) ★★★★

**2016 Bakkheia Priapus Geographe Cabernet Sauvignon** A lively well made cabernet showing both red and blue fruits with a hint of leafiness. The tannins are firm and fine. ($28.00) ★★★★☆

**2016 Saddler's Bluegrass Langhorne Creek Cabernet Sauvignon** A richly flavoured cabernet that does well to carry a heavy load of oak. ($42.00) ★★★★

**2015 Woody Nook Gallagher's Choice Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon** The classic varietal blackcurrant and leaf shows clearly, the oak is integrated and the tannins are fine. Needs just a little more oomph on the middle palate. ($65.00) ★★★★☆

**2015 Mandoon Estate Research Station Reserve Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon** A substantial, firm cabernet which shows a hint of mint. It offers wall to wall flavour but needs time to soften. ($79.00) ★★★★☆

**2017 Z Wine August Old Vine Barossa Valley Grenache** A fragrantly floral, fresh and frisky young grenache. Very pleasant drinking. ($30.00) ★★★★

**2017 Z Wine Rustica Barossa Valley Grenache** Very appealing, spicy, supple and ultra-varietal. Great value too. ($20.00) ★★★★☆

**2016 Symphony Hill Riverland Organic Reserve Lagrein** A rich, dense, brooding wine of considerable substance and structure. It's balanced, but certainly needs time. ($95.00) ★★★★

**2016 Sieber Barossa Valley GSM** An appealingly aromatic wine with red berry flavour and fine, supple tannins. Very enjoyable drinking. ($20.00) ★★★★☆

**2015 Harcourt Valley Vineyards Grenache Shiraz** Bright, fresh and perfumed, with fine tannins and considerable drinkability. It's just a little light. ($20.00) ★★★★

**2017 Stanton & Killeen The Prince Rutherglen Reserva** Nicely spicy and fresh, showing attractive red fruits with a touch of oak. Slightly lean on the finish. ($45.00) ★★★★

**2013 Sittella Grand Vintage Marie Christien Lugten Margaret River Pinot Noir Chardonnay** A fresh sparkling wine with some toasty complexity which adds to the citrus and honeysuckle characteristics. The dosage is a little too high. ($36.00) ★★★★

**NV Stanton & Killeen Classic Rutherglen Muscat** This is a nicely freshened, unctuous fortified with true varietal character and neutral spirit lift. It's a very enjoyable drink that lacks some of the depth of older examples. ($35.00) ★★★★☆

There's a panoply of styles for you to consider, all of which are of high quality. The ★★★★☆ wines narrowly missed out on gold medals, due to the tough stands imposed by the panel chairs and the chairman. They will, quite likely, be awarded gold medals at other wine shows over the next 6-12 months.

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