

2018 Whites

2018 Obstgarten (Vignerons Schmolzer & Brown) King Valley

Riesling Although this wine is yet to be released, we've included it to give you a heads-up (the 2017 was \$44.00 ex-winery). It's very much in the German spätlese style (think Rheinhessen) with a lovely spine of acidity that balances the residual sugar. Pristine varietal fruit fills the mid palate. ★★★★★

Note: Jeremy Schmölder and Tessa Brown are Beechworth-based vigneron who produce small quantities of expressive, high-quality wine. A recent tasting convinced me that they're here to stay. **LJ**

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2018 Grosset Springvale Clare Valley Riesling A very limey riesling that is fresh but comparatively forward. It has good initial fruit impact and balanced acidity, but doesn't quite have the fineness and length of the best examples. (\$44.00) ★★★★★

2018 Grosset Polish Hill Clare Valley Riesling This is a substantial riesling with both lime and stone fruit characteristics. The palate starts off well but fades a little at the end. It will probably peak earlier than usual. (\$62.00) ★★★★★

2018 Grosset Alea Clare Valley Riesling A full flavoured limey style with low-level sweetness and a little firmness. Short-term. (\$40.00) ★★★★★

2018 Tim Adams Clare Valley Riesling Fresh limey flavour backed up by balanced acidity. Dry, as usual, in the Adams style. Enjoy over the next couple of years. ★★★★★

Note: All four Clare rieslings were beautifully made, but none had the tightness and acid spine of great vintages. It appears that, even with carefully-used irrigation, the drought conditions have had an impact. **LJ**

2018 Bleasdale Potts' Catch Langhorne Creek Verdelho Lemon sherbet and passionfruit. Plenty of fresh flavour with balanced grip. A delicious drink-now wine. (\$20.00) ★★★★★

2018 Shaw and Smith Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc Over nearly three decades, this label has become one of Australia's most consistent. This vintage is among the best – passionfruit and grassy aromas, excellent weight of fruit and a strong acid line. (\$28.00) ★★★★★

2018 Bleasdale Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc A fresh, restrained, grassy/grapefruit style that is a little dilute and short. (\$20.00) ★★★★★

2018 Wirra Wirra Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc Fresh grapefruit/gooseberry. Pleasant textural grip. Good length, weight and acidity. Impressive. (\$24.00) ★★★★★

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