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# Chardonnay

As usual, the chardonnay class was strong, but the continued dominance of Whimwood Estate was the main talking point. Our readers know of our strong support for those who are leading the quality push in the chardonnay field. Here are some more wines that are setting standards for chardonnay in Australia.

**2016 Whimwood Estate Nannup Blackwood Valley Chardonnay** Never in the 30 year history of Winewise has a wine dominated like this one. This is its second Small Vigneron Awards trophy, and it has a Championship medallion as well. If you haven't bought it by now, you take a lot of convincing. It's just as good as ever, retaining its freshness, and showing Meursault-like complexity to enhance the intense flavour. ($180.00 for 6, $340.00 for 12) ★★★★★
https://www.whimwoodestatewines.com.au/buy-wine-859039.html

**2018 Whimwood Estate Nannup Blackwood Valley Chardonnay** It looks like another Whimwood chardonnay is on the rise. The taste-off for top chardonnay was a two-horse race according to all three judges. The family resemblance is strong, with fig/white peach fruit supported by nutty/funky complexity. The palate is long, delivering texture, intensity and a good line of acidity. (Not yet available) ★★★★★

**2017 Rikard Black Label Orange Chardonnay** An impressive chardonnay showing characteristics of stone fruit, citrus and white flowers. The oak folds seamlessly into the long, textural palate. ($55.00) ★★★★☆
https://www.rikardwines.com.au/product/2017-rikard-black-label-chardonnay/

**2017 Two Rivers Yarrawa Road Hunter Valley Chardonnay** It's a funky little number, but the complexity is carried well by the intense fruit. There are hints of almond meal, and the palate is long and creamy. (Not available) ★★★★☆

**2018 Soumah Equilibrio Yarra Valley Chardonnay** An attractively complex chardonnay showing custard apple notes with hints of sulphidic funkiness. The palate offers good weight and balance. ($80.00) ★★★★

**2017 Freycinet Tasmania Chardonnay** A citrus/almond meal style with good textural phenolics. It could be slightly more intense, but the flavour persists on the finish. ($45.00) ★★★★

**2018 Two Rivers Yarrawa Road Hunter Valley Chardonnay** Quite a bit of barrel ferment funk/complexity. The palate is creamy but tapers off slightly. ($50.00) ★★★★

**2018 Kimbolton The Rifleman Adelaide Hills Chardonnay** An attractive chardonnay with nutty complexity and a fine chalky palate. It needs just a little more fruit weight. ($36.00) ★★★★

2**018 Rosily Vineyard Margaret River Chardonnay** A fresh nutty chardonnay with a pronounced oak influence. It has plenty of flavour and some warmth on the finish. ($28.00) ★★★★

**2018 Cannibal Creek Reserve Gippsland Chardonnay** A comparatively restrained white peach/grapefruit style with nicely integrated oak and lively acidity. It's slightly short on the finish. ($50.00) ★★★★

**2018 Sittella Reserve Margaret River Wilyabrup Chardonnay** There's much to like about this chardonnay – complexity, intensity and texture, but the oak is quite prominent. ($36.00) ★★★★

**2018 Santolin Gladysdale Yarra Valley Chardonnay** There's no shortage of intense, fresh varietal flavour, but it carries obvious oak. ($38.00) ★★★★

**2018 Hutton Triptych Reserve Margaret River Chardonnay** There's plenty of peach varietal character backed up by lees complexity. The oak plays a strong role. ($75.00) ★★★★

**2017 Crittenden Estate The Zumma Mornington Peninsula Chardonnay** Although it's a little acidic on the finish, this wine delivers peachy fruit backed up by oak that is a little prominent, but not jarring. ($57.00) ★★★★

**2017 Robert Stein Reserve Mudgee Chardonnay** The nose shows some gunflint sulphides which enhance the citrus aromas and flavours. Hints of spice and toast complete a complex picture. ($40.00) ★★★★

**2016 Ridgeview Impressions Hunter Valley Chardonnay** This is a nutty, complex chardonnay that just needs a little more mid-palate weight. ($35.00) ★★★★

All of these wines reflect winemaker input as much as geographic source, and that's what chardonnay is about.

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