October 31, 2019

Other Red Varietals

Once again we discover some gems in what has become a fascinating category of wine. The nine wines that we feature here cover four states, and Geographe (W.A.) and Hilltops (N.S.W.) each have two wines in the line-up.

2018 Mayford Tempranillo Mayford is a leading contender for the title of Australia's Best Tempranillo. From Porepunkah, near Bright in Victoria, this tempranillo is lively and complex, showing a little whole-bunch complexity to complement the spicy red fruit. A touch of classy French oak completes this finely structured, savoury tempranillo. (Soon to be released. The 2017 is currently available at $38.00) ★★★★★
https://mayfordwines.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Mayford-September-2019-Order-Form.pdf

2018 Bakkheia The Wonderful Miss Gerry Grenache First we have attention-grabbing spicy red fruits aromas that are varietal but not confection-like. Then comes the long palate with fine, drying, but not dominant, tannins. This grenache from Geographe (W.A.) has it all. ($32.00) ★★★★★
https://bakkheia.com.au/wines/

2018 Fifth Estate Wines Geographe Tempranillo There's plenty of fresh dark berry fruit with a hint of licorice. The tannins are fine and savoury, contributing well balanced dryness. Fairly prominent oak provoked discussion, but it was decided that it wasn't too aggressive. ($21.00) ★★★★☆
http://fifthestatewines.com.au/shop/

2015 Freeman Hilltops Nebbiolo Although this wine shows some maturity, there's no doubt that it's classically varietal. The rose petal aroma carries hints of dried herbs and tar, while the satisfying palate features the familiar firm varietal tannins. ($40.00) ★★★★☆
http://www.freemanvineyards.com.au/wines/

2018 Mount Avoca Organic Estate Lagrein A bright, fresh wine packed with purple fruits. It's quite spicy and voluptuous, expressing the northern Italian variety well. (Not yet available) ★★★★

2017 Mistletoe Hilltops Sangiovese The sour cherry overtones typify the variety and are backed up by subtle oak. A fruit-sweet red with plenty of flavour. ($260.00 per dozen) ★★★★

2018 Gibson Wines Discovery Road Tempranillo A good red berry varietal style with hints of tobacco and spice. It's a medium-bodied, well balanced wine. ($25.00) ★★★★

2017 Shaw Vineyard Estate Canberra District Merlot A "sweet" red berry style which shows some oak. The generous flavour is balanced by fairly firm tannins. ($28.00) ★★★★

2017 Risky Business Malbec (Frankland River/Margaret River) The typical blue fruits of malbec are clearly on display in this wine. It's fresh and well structured, and needs a year or two in bottle. ($25.00) ★★★★

We were delighted with the quality of the better wines in the "other" classes, and applaud the efforts of all concerned with producing them. It's time to switch from the shiraz, pinot noir, cabernet mindset and cast your net wider.

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