Championship Sparkling

Take a look at the ratings and you'll see that this was the best, most keenly contested category of the Championship. Australian winemakers have learned a lot about sparkling wine over the past couple of decades, and that is clearly evident in this tasting. The key quality factors are the sourcing of fruit, skilful blending and extended time on lees in bottle.

Try some of these, and you'll discover how exciting Australian sparkling wine can be.

SWIFT

MÉTHODE TRADITIONNELLE

2012 Swift Vintage Brut It was the stunning nose of this wine that made the difference in the final decision-making process. It has attractive butter croissant aromas, but still retains amazing freshness. Add to that intensity of flavour, racy acidity and a very fine mousse and you have the complete package. ($50.00) ★★★★★
https://printhiewines.com.au/shop/sparkling/swift-2012-vintage/

2015 Chandon Whitlands Plateau Blanc de Blanc A vibrant, complex, intense sparkler with a subtle autolysis influence that interacts beautifully with the delicate citrus aromatics. The palate is wonderfully creamy, refreshing and long. ($45.00) ★★★★★
https://www.chandon.com.au/product/Whitlands-Plateau-Blanc-de-Blancs-2015

2008 JuuL Blanc de Blanc Chardonnay This wine has topped the Australian Sparkling Wine Show for the past two years, and we see why. The nose is multi-layered and lively, offering apple notes and toasted brioche complexity. The knockout palate is generously proportioned, long, dry and racy. ($69.00) ★★★★★
https://www.hollydeneestate.com/wine/juul-sparkling-blanc-de-blancs-2008/8982

2012 Brown Brothers Patricia Pinot Noir Chardonnay A very complex wine showing freshly-baked bread and nuts characteristics. The lively palate is a delight, and is built on intensity and a long line of acidity. ($45.00) ★★★★☆
https://edcellars.com/brown-brothers-patricia-sparkling-12.html

2009 Chandon Winemaker's Selection Chardonnay Pinot Noir Beautifully complex and fresh. Autolysis complexity merges with still-vibrant pear/citrus fruit enhanced by the slightest hint of honey. The palate is a delight, lifted at the finish by beautifully balanced acidity. ($54.00) ★★★★☆
https://www.chandon.com.au/product/Chandon-Winemaker-s-Selection-Pinot-Noir-Chardonnay-2009

2015 Brown Brothers Limited Release Blanc de Noir The baked pastry aromas are very attractive, and the palate delivers considerable richness supported by lively acidity. The abundant fine mousse adds to the appeal. ($35.00) ★★★★☆
https://www.brownbrothers.com.au/product/limited-release-sparkling-blanc-de-noir-2015/

2015 Colmar Estate Orange Region Chardonnay Pinot Noir The nose is impressively fresh, showing a subtle bready complexity. It's an intense, long-flavoured wine with a fine mousse and lovely acidity. ($60.00) ★★★★☆
https://shop.colmarestate.com.au/products/2015-colmar-estate-chardonnay-pinot-noir

NV Swift Rosé Brut The colour is pale pink/amber, referred to by some romantics as "partridge eye" or "Oeil de Perdrix" – if you really wish to be pretentious. More importantly, this is a very complex wine which shows the benefits of five years on lees and another four post-disgorgement. It's rich, toasty and multifaceted, but, best of all, it's fresh. ($40.00) ★★★★☆
https://printhiewines.com.au/shop/sparkling/swift-nv-rose-3/

2008 Chandon Late Disgorged Fresh and restrained, showing subtle bottle age and lees complexity. The palate is long, creamy and full of life. Very impressive. (Not available) ★★★★☆

NV Radenti R3 Sparkling Tasmania Chardonnay Pinot Noir This is a fresh, complex sparkling wine in which subtle brioche aromas enhance those of citrus. Persistent flavour is supported by a long line of acidity, and the mousse is very fine. ($55.00) ★★★★☆
http://www.freycinetvineyard.com.au/order_now/order_now.html

NV Brown Brothers Pinot Noir Chardonnay Pinot Meunier The vibrant bready/toasty nose is captivating, and the creamy palate, hinting at apple and white peach, delivers far beyond the price point. ($25.00) ★★★★☆
https://www.brownbrothers.com.au/product/sparkling-pinot-noir-chardonnay-pinot-meunier-nv/

2013 Tempus Two Pewter Sparkling Pinot Noir Chardonnay This wine shows attractive toasty development. The palate is rich, long and creamy, offering considerable drinking pleasure. (Not yet released) ★★★★☆

2012 Bream Creek Vineyard Cuvée Traditionelle Tasmania Pinot Noir Chardonnay A powerful bready, complex sparkling wine of great depth. The palate is long and fresh, and the mousse is persistent. ($35.00) ★★★★☆
https://www.winesquare.com.au/catalog/product/view/id/10823/s/2012-bream-creek-cuvee-traditionnelle-south-east-tasmania/

2015 Home Hill Kelly's Tasmania Cuvée A powerful, fresh wine showing complex autolysis characteristics. It's very creamy and long-finishing, freshened by lingering acidity. ($40.00) ★★★★☆
https://www.homehillwines.com.au/store/2015-Kelly%E2%80%99s-Sparkling-Cuv%C3%A9e-white-p47071006

2011 Blue Pyrenees Midnight Cuvée The colour is surprisingly youthful and the nose is comparatively undeveloped, showing a subtle nuttiness with hints of green melon and grass. It's a very creamy wine with prominent acidity. ($100.00 per magnum) ★★★★

2015 Sidewood Estate Chloe Cuvée Adelaide Hills Chardonnay Pinot Noir It's nicely mature, but still fresh. In fact, it's at its peak, full of flavour and drinking well. ($32.00) ★★★★

NV Pirie Traditional Method Tasmanian Bready and fresh, with hints of grassiness/green melon. The palate is creamy, but needs a little more power and focus. ($30.00) ★★★★

2015 Blue Pyrenees Vintage Brut The bouquet is one of maturing toasty complexity, but this wine is still full of life and creaminess. ★★★★

2015 Chandon Vintage Brut Rosé Pale pink/orange colour. Subtly musky and very fresh, with good length of flavour, but it's comparatively simple. ★★★★

NV Brown Brothers Sparkling Brut Rosé Pink/orange colour. Fresh, full, rich and musky, although slightly too sweet – in our view. The mousse is pleasant and plentiful. ($25.00) ★★★★

2010 Blue Pyrenees Midnight Cuvée Flavour-packed but a little too developed. Lively acidity lifts the finish. ★★★☆

2019 Gilbert Pet Nat Riesling Although it was outgunned by some very sophisticated wines, this Pet Nat deserves credit for its apple-like flavour and lively effervescence. ★★★☆

Congratulations to all who entered. The class was most definitely a pleasure to judge.

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