

Championship Semillon

With over 50% gold medal scores, this class maintained its reputation even though the 2018 and 2019 vintages in the Hunter Valley were better suited to red wine than white. We tip our hat to Peter Lehmann Wines who continue to show that South Australia is not out of the semillon race.



2013 Thomas Wines Cellar Reserve Braemore Hunter Valley Semillon What a great example of bottle-aged semillon this is. From the fresh lemon brulée nose to the tight, satisfying palate with lingering acidity, it delivers the goods – and then some. (To be released on 1 September, 2020 for \$65.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.thomaswines.com.au/>

2009 Tyrrell's Vat 1 Hunter Valley Semillon A remarkably fresh and concentrated wine showing lemon curd aromas. The palate is powerful and long, yet comparatively restrained, with a great acid line. (Not available) ★★★★★

2014 Two Rivers Stone's Throw Hunter Valley Semillon A vibrant “soapy”, lemony semillon offering lovely fruit and acidity. It’s still impressively youthful. (Not available) ★★★★★☆

2013 McGuigan Bin 9000 Hunter Valley Semillon A fresh, restrained, lemony semillon with a great fruit-acid balance. It’s drinking beautifully, but still has a future. (Not available) ★★★★★☆

2009 Tempus Two Copper Zenith Hunter Valley Semillon Mature and toasty, but still very fresh and citrus-like. The satisfying palate is full of life. (Not available) ★★★★★☆



2019 Two Rivers Stone's Throw Hunter Valley Semillon The fresh lemony, "soapy" nose is absolutely typical of young Hunter Valley semillon. The pristine varietal fruit is supported by a good line of acidity. Cellar 3-5 years. (\$20.00) ★★★★★☆
<https://www.tworivers.com.au/wineShop>

2012 Peter Lehmann Margaret Barossa Valley Semillon It's rich, mature, lemony and still in good form. A most enjoyable drink. (\$35.00) ★★★★★☆
<https://www.peterlehmannwines.com/shop-wines/>

2018 Tintilla Estate Angus Hunter Valley Semillon The restrained lemon/lime nose shows a touch of SO₂ but still impresses. A strong acid line suggests that cellaring will be rewarded. (Not available) ★★★★★☆

2018 McGuigan The Shortlist Hunter Valley Semillon A fresh lemony-flavoured style that is satisfyingly mouthfilling. There's enough acidity for short-term cellaring. (Not available) ★★★★★☆

2014 Tyrrell's Belford Hunter Valley Semillon Although it's showing honeyed maturity, it's still fresh, enjoyable drinking with a good acid lift on the finish. (\$40.00) ★★★★★

2019 Peter Lehmann Margaret Barossa Valley Semillon Full-flavoured, lively and lemony. A clean, rich varietal style with balanced acidity. (Not available) ★★★★★

2017 Peter Lehmann Margaret Barossa Valley Semillon A rich semillon with tropical fruit overtones and good supporting acidity. Enjoyable drinking. (Not available) ★★★★★

2015 Coolangatta Estate Wollstonecraft Semillon Varietal but comparatively developed, still offering good fruit and acidity. ★★★★★

2009 Coolangatta Estate Wollstonecraft Semillon The nose is fully mature but still commendably fresh. There's a faint hint of green pea together with plenty of varietal flavour. ★★★★★

2005 McGuigan Hunter Valley Semillon It's lemony and developed but still holding on. Acid lifts the finish. (Not available) ★★★★★☆

2019 Shaw Wines Canberra District Semillon Sauvignon Blanc This wine has come forward quickly since the Small Vignerons Awards and is now looking quite forward compared to the entries of similar age. (Only 5% sauvignon blanc) ★★★

Of the young wines, the 2019 Two Rivers Stone's Throw is not just the best, it's a bargain. Those looking for a classic bottle-aged style should pounce as soon as the 2013 Thomas Wines Braemore Reserve is released on 1 September.

Championship Fortified

We were disappointed when only two entries were received, but the level of quality should not be ignored. These wines qualified with gold medals at the National and McLaren Vale Wine Shows respectively, where the judges are very demanding.



2018 Shingleback Vintage Fortified McLaren Vale Shiraz

Perfectly chosen spirit enhances the strong floral aromatics.. The palate isn't overly sweet, and is balanced by fine tannins. Cellar 20 years – no problem. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

2019 Graham Stevens Wines Vintage Fortified Shiraz A big, sweet, traditionally Australian style packed with blackberry flavour. The tannins are firm at this stage, and need time to soften. (\$38.25) ★★★★★

<https://www.grahamstevenswines.com.au/order>

WINEWISE RATING SCALE

★★★★★	Outstanding	97-100 pts	Gold medal
★★★★☆	Highly Recommended	93-96	Gold/silver
★★★★	Recommended	90-92	Silver
★★★☆☆	Recommended	87-89	Bronze
★★★	Agreeable	85-87	Bronze
★★☆☆	Agreeable	82-84	
★★	Acceptable	80-82	
★☆☆	Acceptable	77-79	
★	Barely Acceptable	74-76	
☆	Unacceptable	71-73	
No stars	Undrinkable	<71	

If you're not a Winewise subscriber, please join us (Only \$35 per year) <http://winewise.net.au/>