Championship Chardonnay

No doubt about it. Shaw + Smith scored an emphatic victory here, and it wasn't for lack of competition. Sixteen of the 32 entries registered gold medal scores. This category again demonstrates that Australia is one of the go-to countries for chardonnay, and you're not asked to pay grand cru prices for grand cru quality.

2018 Shaw + Smith Lenswood Vineyard Chardonnay The rich white peach characteristics are perfectly supported by oak and lees complexity. There's also a hint of funkiness to add further complexity. The palate is creamy and long. A stunner. (Not yet available) ★★★★★

2017 Shaw + Smith M3 Adelaide Hills Chardonnay Beautifully managed lees-derived complexity merges with restrained white peach aromatics. The palate is tight, textured, long and very impressive. ($49.00) ★★★★★
https://shortysliquor.com.au/shaw-smith-m3-chardonnay-2017

2018 Shaw + Smith M3 Adelaide Hills Chardonnay This is a delightful chardonnay. The vibrant white peach aroma, with subtle lees/oak complexity and funk invites indulgence. The palate is brilliant – intense, textural, balanced and long. ($42.00) ★★★★★
https://www.jimscellars.com.au/collections/white-wine/products/shaw-and-smith-m3-chardonnay

2018 Xanadu Stevens Road Margaret River Chardonnay The restrained white peach/grapefruit aromatics are subtly enhanced by French oak and lees contact. This is a beautifully creamy wine with a long finish and fresh acidity. ($80.00) ★★★★★
https://www.xanaduwines.com/products/25643-chardonnay/

2017 Xanadu Reserve Margaret River Chardonnay This is a delightfully restrained nutty white peach/grapefruit style of chardonnay. It's long on the finish, fresh and textural. Very classy indeed. Cellar three years. ($105.00) ★★★★☆
http://www.princewinestore.com.au/shop/index.php/category-list/liquor/white-wine/xanadu-reserve-chardonnay-2017-372801.html

2017 Tyrrell's Vat 47 Hunter Valley Chardonnay The fresh varietal nose is greatly enhanced by a touch of quality French oak. Intensity of flavour and nicely balanced acidity are the key components of this beautifully crafted wine that will cellar well for over five more years. ($80.00) ★★★★☆
https://www.tyrrells.com.au/product/vat-47-hunter-chardonnay/

2018 Xanadu Reserve Margaret River Chardonnay An intense, restrained chardonnay offering white peach aromas with an attractive lees influence. It's a wine of power, length and textural grip. (Not available) ★★★★☆

2017 Collector Tiger Tiger Tumbarumba Chardonnay A fresh, grapefruity style with nutty overtones. The creamy texture is a delight, and the finish is long, lifted by regional acidity. Delightful symmetry. ($38.00) ★★★★☆
https://www.collectorwines.com.au/products/tiger-tiger-chardonnay-2017

2018 Whimwood Estate Nannup Chardonnay This is an intense, multifaceted chardonnay, showing skilful use of oak. It's long-flavoured and beautifully textured, with fresh acidity on the finish. Another strong result for this small Western Australian winery. ★★★★☆
https://www.whimwoodestatewines.com.au/buy-wine-859039.html

2018 Curly Flat Macedon Chardonnay Can't help liking the fresh, intense, nutty white peach nose enhanced by quality oak. The palate is rich, creamy and fresh, with typical Macedon acidity. ($46.00) ★★★★☆
https://curlyflat.com/wines/curly-flat-chardonnay-2018/

2017 Brown Brothers Patricia Tasmania Chardonnay This is a delightful, strongly varietal wine that demonstrates precise barrel fermentation. The layers of flavour are backed up by acidity and talc-like phenolics. ($40.00) ★★★★☆
https://www.jimmurphy.com.au/product/brown-brothers-patricia-chardonnay-2017

2017 Rikard Black Label Orange Region Chardonnay A rich, fresh chardonnay with nutty lees overtones. The commendable depth of varietal flavour is supported by acidity and a balanced structure provided by phenolics and well-managed oak. (Not available) ★★★★☆

2017 Handpicked Wines Capella Vineyard Mornington Peninsula Chardonnay The white nectarine aromas and flavours are delivered with admirable restraint. This is a beautifully structured chardonnay that is a pleasure to drink. ($40.00) ★★★★☆
https://www.winestar.com.au/handpicked-capella-mornington-peninsula-chardonnay

2017 Tyrrell's Belford Hunter Valley Chardonnay The restrained white peach aromatics are fresh and strongly varietal. Intensity of fruit, acidity and an appealing texture are features of the impressive palate. Cellar 2-3 years. ($50.00) ★★★★☆
https://www.tyrrells.com.au/product/belford-single-vineyard-chardonnay/

2017 Handpicked Wines Wombat Creek Vineyard Yarra Valley Chardonnay A big, rich chardonnay with buttery overtones. The palate is powerful, creamy and full of life. ($60.00) ★★★★☆
https://www.handpickedwines.com.au/2017-wombatcreekvineyard-yarravalley-chardonnay

2018 Gartelmann Sarah Elizabeth Orange Chardonnay A fresh, peachy style with a whiff of French oak. The textural palate offers satisfying varietal flavour backed up by lively acidity. (Not available)
★★★★☆

2018 Collector Tiger Tiger Tumbarumba Chardonnay Nicely funky, offering cashew and restrained grapefruit/white peach aromas. The palate is creamy, with a strong line of acidity. (Not yet available)
★★★★

2018 Pike and Joyce Kay Reserve Adelaide Hills Chardonnay A fresh, complex chardonnay with guava overtones. The palate is long and creamy. (Not yet released) ★★★★

2010 Freycinet Tasmania Chardonnay The nose is nicely mature and varietal, with a touch of greenness. It's remarkably fresh. The palate offers excellent fruit weight built on steely acidity. (Not available)
★★★★

2017 Crittenden Estate The Zumma Mornington Peninsula Chardonnay Mature, rich and peachy. A big mouthful of chardonnay balanced by acid, oak and textural phenolics. (Not available) ★★★★

2017 Xanadu Margaret River Chardonnay Ripe and peachy, but fresh. The palate offers flavour with good balance and mouthfeel. Enjoy in the short term. ($30.00) ★★★★

2017 Two Rivers Yarrawa Road Hunter Valley Chardonnay Slightly forward, with ripe peachy aromas. Fruit of considerable depth is supported by lively acidity. (Not available) ★★★★

2018 Mount Avoca Estate Organic Chardonnay Nicely restrained. A white peach/citrus style that is faintly nutty, tight and textural. ($37.50) ★★★★

2018 Pike and Joyce Sirocco Adelaide Hills Chardonnay Rich and complex, with cashew overtones, but it's comparatively forward. The palate is mouthfilling, balanced and satisfying. ($32.00) ★★★★

2018 Two Rivers Yarrawa Road Hunter Valley Chardonnay A rich white peach style with an attractive oak overlay. The palate delivers plenty of flavour, but is just a little forward. (Not available) ★★★★

2017 Indigo Vineyard Alpine Valleys Chardonnay A full-flavoured, peachy, fresh chardonnay of good weight and texture. It's drinking very well. ★★★★

2016 Hungerford Hill Tumbarumba Chardonnay This wine offers stone fruit aromas and flavours of good intensity. Typical regional acidity enlivens the finish. ($27.00) ★★★★

2018 Yes Said the Seal Bellarine Chardonnay Peachy, but a little too developed and oaky. The creamy texture is a plus. Drink short term. ★★★☆

2017 Pepper Tree Venus Block Single Vineyard Orange Region Chardonnay The oak tends to compete with the lemony fruit, but there's no shortage of flavour backed up by good acidity. ★★★☆

2018 Coppabella Sirius Tumbarumba Chardonnay Full-flavoured and quite oaky. Ready. ★★★☆

2018 Leura Park Estate Bellarine Peninsula Chardonnay Shows ripe peach characteristics with a hint of tropical fruit together with prominent oak. ★★★

2017 Sunshine Creek Yarra Valley Chardonnay Quite peachy, but is showing a little too much development. ★★★

We consider that the best value in Australian wine is to be found in our chardonnays. Wines that would hold their own anywhere in the world are available for well under $100. Make the best of them while they're still bargains.

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