



**I**n the Geographic Indication (GI) system for Australian wine, one GI covers all of Tasmania. Given the current growth of the wine industry, that will change, especially given the climatic variations across the Island state.

For example the mean growing season temperature \* of the South-East is 13.8°C, making it very cool \*\*, lining up with the Côte de Beaune. The East Coast and Tamar Valley are mid fourteens, similar to the Rheingau, Germany and the Willamette Valley, Oregon.

One wonders why it took so long to plant chardonnay, pinot noir and riesling in Tasmania.

\*From the Wine Australia web site.

\*\*From Andrew Pirie (2012) Proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Cool Climate Symposium, Hobart

Our tasting report follows.

## SPARKLING



**2008 Josef Chromy ZDAR Vintage** The nose is multi-faceted, showing freshly baked croissant and toasted nuts with a hint of leatherwood honey. The palate is impressively long and powerful, with a fine mousse and cleansing acidity. (\$150.00) ★★★★★

<https://shop.josefchromy.com.au/product/2008-ZDAR-Vintage>



**NV House of Arras Brut Elite** A complex sparkler showing ground cashew and a faint intriguing funkiness. The long palate is tight and fine, with apple and stone fruit flavours filling the middle. A stylish wine.

(\$42.00) ★★★★★☆

<https://www.danmurphys.com.au/>

**NV Radenti R3 70% Chardonnay 30% Pinot Noir** A bready complexity enhances the citrus aromas. Palate-wise this wine delivers everything you need – intensity, creamy mousse and racy acidity. (\$55.00)

★★★★★

[http://www.freycinetvineyard.com.au/order\\_now/order\\_now.html](http://www.freycinetvineyard.com.au/order_now/order_now.html)

**2016 Josef Chromy Brut Finesse** A fresh citrus style with hints of nutty aldehyde complexity. There's good intensity, mousse and acidity to be enjoyed. (\$49.00) ★★★★★

<https://shop.josefchromy.com.au/product/2016-Brut-Finesse>

**2017 Holm Oak Rosé** Pale pink. There's a touch of breadiness which complements the muskiness of pinot noir. The palate is lively and creamy, with a balanced grip. (\$50.00) ★★★★★

**2013 Marion's Vineyard Blanc de Blanc** The nose offers complex bready “oyster shell” overtones, and the palate is intense and rich, with a slight sweetness. ★★★★★

**NV Josef Chromy Tasmanian Cuvée** The stone fruit aromas are full of life, but this is a fairly simple wine with plenty of flavour and mousse. (\$34.00) ★★★★★

**NV Nocton Sparkling** Although the aroma is faintly bready, this is a comparatively straightforward wine with a fine mousse and lingering acidity. (\$35.00) ★★★

**NV Holm Oak Pinot Noir Chardonnay** A fresh stone fruit/citrus style that is simple and a little sweet. (\$40.00) ★★★

**NV Josef Chromy Sparkling Rosé** Very pale pink. Delicate perfumed strawberry aromas. Lively but straightforward. Somewhat sweet and sour. (\$29.00) ★★★

**NV Nocton Sparkling Rosé** Deep orange/pink. Fresh and musky. A bit firm and developed. (\$38.00) ★★★

## RIESLING



**2020 Bay of Fires Riesling** A rich limey varietal style with cool floral overtones. It's flavour-packed and satisfying, with a long steely finish.

(\$31.95) ★★★★★

<https://www.kemenys.com/go.jsp#!class=Product&spn=1130172>

**2020 Quiet Mutiny Charlotte's Elusion Riesling** This is a powerful lime/stone fruit riesling with a rewarding, long, acid-fresh palate. A touch of sweetness is beautifully incorporated and balanced. (\$38.00)

★★★★☆

<https://quietmutiny.wine/>

**2020 Freycinet Vineyard Riesling** The perfumed citrus/floral, faintly grassy, nose is attractive. This wine has plenty of depth and power backed up by lively acidity. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

<http://www.freycinetvineyard.com.au/>

**2020 Mount Majura Tasmania Riesling** A delicate limey style with flinty, chalky overtones. It's quite mouthfilling, assisted by a faint sweetness with good acid support. (\$29.00) ★★★☆

**2018 Waterton Hall Tamar Valley Riesling** The pristine floral nose has a touch of maturity. A dry, intense, acid-driven riesling that is drinking well. (\$27.00) ★★★☆

**2019 Holm Oak Riesling** Developed, kerosene-like aromas intrude on rich citrus varietal character. Although there's good fruit and acidity, this wine is quite forward. (\$28.00) ★★★

**2019 Vélo Wines Legana Estate Riesling** A slightly developed limey riesling that is ready to drink. (\$30.00) ★★★

**2019 Freycinet Vineyard Riesling** The rich citrus nose has a cool Tasmanian influence and a marmalade background. An intense but firm riesling. (\$30.00) ★★★

**2018 Bell & Gong Riesling** The colour is pale, but this wine shows kerosene development, and is fairly sweet. (\$30.00) ★★

## CHARDONNAY



**2019 Tolpuddle Vineyard Chardonnay** The intense funky grapefruit/white peach nose is a stunner. The palate benefits from balanced French oak, and is creamy and long, with a fine talc-like grip. A brilliant chardonnay. (\$74.95) ★★★★★  
<https://www.kemenys.com/go.jsp#!class=Product&spn=1129556>

**2019 Josef Chromy Chardonnay** A vibrant white peach chardonnay showing a hint of nougat complexity and a whiff of quality oak. The palate is tight, long and textured. (\$34.00) ★★★★★☆  
<https://justwines.com.au/>

**2018 Freycinet Vineyard Chardonnay** Very much a cool region style, with hints of grapefruit. The fruit intensity, texture, length and acidity are exemplary. (\$40.00) ★★★★★☆  
<http://www.freycinetvineyard.com.au/>

**2019 Holm Oak Chardonnay** The fresh nougat and white peach aromas are attractive, as is the richly flavoured palate, with its balanced oak and gentle grip. (\$35.00) ★★★★★☆  
<https://justwines.com.au/>

**2018 Marion's Vineyard Chardonnay** A restrained white peach style with subtle nuttiness, an attractive creamy texture and impressive length. Drink now – 2023. (\$32.00) ★★★★★  
<https://www.dynamicwines.com.au/>

**2019 Bream Creek Chardonnay** A rich, full, white peach style that is nicely nutty. Impressive fruit weight, freshness and structure are key features of a satisfying palate. (\$36.00) ★★★★★  
<https://www.winesquare.com.au/>

**2018 Vélo Wines Legana Estate Chardonnay** Rich, forward and fairly oaky. It certainly doesn't lack flavour and is ready to drink. (\$35.00) ★★★★★☆

**2019 Holm Oak The Wizard Chardonnay** Fresh grapefruit aromas are challenged by those of butter, caramel and oak which carry though to a strongly worked palate. (\$65.00) ★★★★★☆

**2018 Freycinet Vineyard Louis Chardonnay** A very fresh chardonnay with green melon rind overtones. Good initial flavour is followed by a slightly sweet-sour finish. (\$27.00) ★★★

**2017 Freycinet Vineyard Chardonnay** A full-on peachy style that is fresh but ready to drink. (\$40.00) ★★★

## OTHER WHITE



**2019 WineGlass Bay Sauvignon Blanc** A fresh powerful passionfruit/gooseberry sauvignon blanc. It's big on flavour, with a good acid lift. (\$27.00) ★★★★★

[http://www.freycinetvineyard.com.au/order\\_now/order\\_now.html](http://www.freycinetvineyard.com.au/order_now/order_now.html)

**2019 Bell & Gong Sauvignon Blanc** A grassy/tropical fruit style with good intensity and acid. Very enjoyable drinking now. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

<https://bellandgong.com/wines/sauvignon-blanc-2017>

**2019 Waterton Hall Tamar Valley Viognier** Fresh ginger root aromas add another dimension to the delicate apricot perfume. The fresh palate is of good length, with a balanced phenolic grip. (\$38.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.watertonhall.com.au/shopwithus2019.php>

**2020 Nocton Chenin Blanc** The fresh apple/pear/green plum characteristics are typical of chenin blanc, as is the prominent acid which is partially balanced by sweetness. (\$50.00) ★★★★★☆

**2019 Freycinet Vineyard Schönburger Riesling** Very perfumed, with a hint of musk stick. Quite sweet and ready, freshened by acidity.

(\$27.00) ★★★★★☆

**2019 Holm Oak Arneis** The faintly cheesy lees aromas and flavours add complexity, but challenge the fruit in this interesting textural varietal white which finishes with freshening acidity. (\$28.00) ★★★★★

**2018 Grey Sands Glengarry Pinot Blanc** Offers some fruit, but is too developed and dull. (\$45.00) ★★★★★☆

**2019 Nocton Sauvignon Blanc** Quite advanced, but still shows some varietal aromatics. Fading. (\$29.00) ★★★★★☆

## PINOT GRIS



**2019 Haddow + Dineen Grain of Truth Pinot Gris** The attractive pear tart aromas grab the attention and the vibrant, rich, complex palate is delightfully textural. A knockout pinot gris. (\$48.00) ★★★★★  
<https://www.haddowanddineen.com.au/>

**2020 Ninth Island Pinot Grigio** Quite perfumed, suggesting nashi pear. This is a mouthfilling wine with a finely textured, crisp acid palate. Very enjoyable drinking now. (\$17.95) ★★★★★☆  
[https://www.danmurphys.com.au/product/DM\\_903930/ninth-island-pinot-grigio](https://www.danmurphys.com.au/product/DM_903930/ninth-island-pinot-grigio)

**2020 Holm Oak Pinot Gris** A complex, slightly nutty white with ripe custard apple aromas. The rich, firm palate offers plenty of flavour and interest. (\$25.00) ★★★★★  
<https://justwines.com.au/>

**2020 Devil's Corner Pinot Grigio** Intense Williams pear aromas lead into a firm palate with plenty of flavour, good acidity and a slight sweetness. (\$17.00) ★★★★★☆

**2019 White Rock Vineyard Pinot Gris** There's plenty of poached pear flavour but too much grip. (\$23.00) ★★★☆

**2020 Coldstream Hills Tasmania Pinot Grigio** This wine shows poached pear with less complexity that is overdone. (\$20.00) ★★★☆

**2016 Grey Sands Glengarry Pinot Gris** Rich, but honeyed and advanced. Showing its age. ★★

## PINOT NOIR



**2019 Quiet Mutiny Venus Rising Pinot Noir** This is a powerful dark cherry pinot noir showing a caress of oak. It's a wine of considerable depth, length and structure in the manner of a Côte de Nuits burgundy like Morey-St-Denis. (\$48.00) ★★★★★  
<https://quietmutiny.wine/>

**2018 Tolpuddle Vineyard Pinot Noir** The aromatic combination of cherry, stems and oak is vibrant and complex. Intense, lingering fruit is balanced by fine, persistent tannins. (Seems to be sold out everywhere)  
★★★★★

**2018 Petrichor Coal River Valley Single Vineyard Pinot Noir** An intense cherry style of pinot featuring exemplary oak handling. The structure matches the powerful fruit perfectly. (\$300.00 for three of these and three 777 clone) ★★★★★☆  
<https://www.petrichorwines.com.au/shop/2018-single-vineyard-pinot-noir-6pack>

**2018 Bream Creek Reserve Pinot Noir** The bright dark cherry aromas benefit from a touch of classy oak. The palate is silky, fine and long. (\$65.00) ★★★★★☆  
<https://www.breamcreekvineyard.com.au/>

**2019 Bream Creek Pinot Noir** The fresh red berry nose is very attractive, and expresses the variety eloquently. This isn't a big pinot, but it's deliciously satisfying. (\$42.00) ★★★★★☆

**2017 Bell & Gong Pinot Noir** The fresh red berry/rhubarb characteristics are attractive, and the palate offers good intensity and length, with fine, firm tannins. (\$48.00) ★★★★★☆  
<https://bellandgong.com/wines/pinot-noir-2017>

**2018 Devil's Corner Resolution Pinot Noir** The nose shows complex dark cherry with stems and oak in the background. The opulent palate delivers delicious layers of flavour. (\$34.00) ★★★★★☆  
<https://www.brownbrothers.com.au/product/devils-corner-resolution-pinot-noir/>

**2018 Petrichor Coal River Valley Single Vineyard 777 Clone Pinot Noir** Very pale colour. A slight stems complexity enhances the fresh red fruits. The palate is of adequate weight, balanced by fine tannins. (\$300.00 for three of these and three Single Vineyard – above) ★★★★★  
<https://www.petrichorwines.com.au/shop/2018-single-vineyard-pinot-noir-6pack>

**2019 Josef Chromy Block 115 Pinot Noir** Delightfully fragrant and “pretty”, but, although of good persistence and balance, is delicate rather than intense. (\$120.00) ★★★★★  
<https://shop.josefchromy.com.au/product/2019-Josef-Chromy-Block-115-Pinot-Noir>

**2018 White Rock Vineyard Pinot Noir** A powerful dark cherry style of pinot with beautifully integrated oak. The intense, long-flavoured palate is firm but balanced. ★★★★★  
<https://www.whiterockvineyard.com/>

**2019 Josef Chromy Pinot Noir** This is a very fresh, perfumed pinot noir that needs just a little more fruit weight. (\$42.00) ★★★★★

**2019 Haddow + Dineen Private Universe Pinot Noir** The raspberry nose shows stemmy characteristics that carry through to a palate with adequate fruit. (\$48.00) ★★★★★☆

**2014 Grey Sands Glengarry Pinot Noir** A mature pinot noir showing faintly leathery notes. It’s quite firm, but retains enough fruit for pleasant drinking. (\$60.00) ★★★★★☆

**2018 Vélo Wines Legana Estate Old Vine Pinot Noir** Bright light colour. The vibrant strawberry aromas carry a hint green herbs. It’s not a big pinot, but it has persistence. (\$30.00) ★★★★★☆

**2019 Holm Oak Pinot Noir** Bright but pale colour. Pleasantly aromatic floral/strawberry nose, but is a little too firm for its weight. (\$35.00) ★★★★★☆

**2018 Bell & Gong Pinot Noir** Very pale colour. A light, early drinking strawberry-scented style. (\$38.00) ★★★★★☆

**2018 Freycinet Vineyard Pinot Noir** The fragrant cherry/floral nose is attractive, but the palate needs more intensity. (\$67.00) ★★★★★☆

**2019 Nocton Pinot Noir** Quite big and firm, tending raspberry to blackberry with a reductive influence. (\$32.00) ★★★★★

**2018 Holm Oak The Wizard Pinot Noir** Very pale. Red berry aromas compete with toasty oak. This wine needs a bit more mid palate weight. (\$65.00) ★★★★★

**2018 Vélo Wines Legana Estate Pinot Noir** Pale colour. Fragrant red berries show on a light nose. The palate tapers off. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

**2016 Glen Gray Pinot Noir** Quite pale. Although there’s some varietal character with a touch of development, the palate is firm, lacking middle. (\$30.00) ★★★★★☆

## OTHER REDS

**2019 Nocton Merlot** Impressive blackcurrant and plum aromas open the door to an opulent palate with savoury tannins. (\$32.00) ★★★★★  
<https://www.noctonwine.com.au/product/merlot/>

**2018 Marion's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon** Rich blackcurrant pastille aromas scream cabernet sauvignon. A substantial wine with classic varietal tannins. ★★★★★

**2018 Marion's Vineyard Syrah** A fragrant, spicy dark cherry style showing some oak. This is a fine, firm red with medium fruit weight. (\$55.00) ★★★★★

**2016 Freycinet Vineyard Cabernet Merlot** The blackcurrant/leaf aromas have a slightly minty edge. There's no lack of flavour and the finish is quite firm. (\$40.00) ★★★★★

**2016 Freycinet Vineyard Shiraz** The spicy red berry nose is fresh, and the fruit just holds its own with the firm lingering tannins. (\$60.00) ★★★★★

**2018 White Rock Vineyard Dornfelder** Deep purple colour. An intense dark berry style that shows some reduction. This is a fully ripe red with slightly furry tannins. (\$34.00) ★★★

**2010 Grey Sands Glengarry Merlot** Mature red fruits, tobacco leaf and plum show on the nose. This wine still has flavour but is quite firm and dry. (\$55.00) ★★★

**2015 Grey Sands Glengarry The Mattock Merlot Malbec Cabernet Franc** Fresh red fruits with a green edge. Lively but a little lean. (\$45.00) ★★★

**2018 Vélo Wines Legana Estate Cabernet Sauvignon** Vibrant colour and blackcurrant aroma. It's a bit too lean and green. ★★☆☆

**2018 Waterton Hall Tamar Valley Shiraz** Pale but bright. Fresh light red berry flavour tapering to an acid finish. (\$35.00) ★★☆☆

**2019 Marion's Vineyard Tempranillo** Plummy and spicy but has a volatile edge. (\$50.00) ★★☆☆

**2017 Waterton Hall Tamar Valley Shiraz** Pale but bright colour. A fragrant, spicy shiraz that is just too light. (\$35.00) ★★☆☆



## SWEET WHITE

**2019 Josef Chromy Botrytis Riesling** The vibrant nose offers concentrated lime with a touch of marmalade. The lusciously sweet palate is supported by lively acidity. (\$32.00/375ml) ★★★★★☆  
<https://shop.josefchromy.com.au/product/2019-Josef-Chromy-Botrytis-Riesling>

**NV Freycinet Vineyard Botrytis** An intense tropical fruit, passionfruit, citrus style which is rich and mouthfilling, with a good acid balance. (\$30.00/500ml) ★★★★★☆  
[http://www.freycinetvineyard.com.au/order\\_now/order\\_now.html](http://www.freycinetvineyard.com.au/order_now/order_now.html)

## Two From Left Field & a Rosy Prospect

**2020 Haddow & Dineen One Hundred Days Methode Ancestrale** Call it Pet Nat or Methode Ancestrale, what we have is a cloudy, fizzy beverage that smells and tastes like a cross between ginger beer and apple juice. It's fresh and enjoyable, but won't be appreciated by all. (\$39.00) ★★★☆☆

**2019 Marion's Vineyard Pinot Gris** Decidedly orange colour. This is a well made wine in the skin contact style. The sweetness and fruit richness are balanced by acidity. (\$32.00) ★★★★★☆

**2018 Vélo Wines Legana Estate Rosé** Deep pink colour. The rose petal aromas are fresh and appealing, and the palate delivers considerable substance and structure. This ain't no wishy-washy rosé. (\$30.00) ★★★★★☆  
<https://velowines.com.au/collections/store/products/2009-dominique-rose-yk86f>

**Tasted by: Lex Howard, Lester Jesberg, Deb Pearce & David Yeates** The wines were poured blind by our stewards Andrew Veilands, Bob Judd & Ed Peek.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

We can assume that Tasmanian vines are planted in soil suitable for grape-growing, so it comes down to climate. Given that mesoclimates in Tasmania approximate those of Burgundy and Alsace, it's logical that chardonnay, pinot noir, riesling and pinot gris are the grape varieties that succeed. Climate projections suggest that shiraz and cabernet sauvignon will have to wait for a while, although certain sites may succeed in some years.

The ★★★★★ wines are as good as the best Australia produces, and that especially applies to the Haddow + Dineen Grain of Truth Pinot Gris.

Lester Jesberg

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