

Recent Tastings

The organisation of the final Winewise Championship has been demanding, so there hasn't been a lot of time spent on tasting. However, here are a few that are worthy of note.

I mentioned the **2025 First Ridge Mudjee Vermentino** in the lead-up to Christmas, and it deserves another few lines here. It certainly sits comfortably in the top level of Australian vermentinos, being vibrant, strongly varietal and beautifully made. ★★★★★☆ (\$28.00)
<https://www.firstridge.com.au/product/first-ridge-vermentino-2025>

More excellent wines from Tapanappa/Terre à Terre

The **2022 Terre à Terre Crayères Vineyard Reserve** (66% cabernet sauvignon, 17% shiraz, 17% cabernet franc) shows the dusty road scent encountered in many Médoc reds together with red plum and classy oak. Long, intense flavour is balanced by lingering fine tannins. Patience required. (\$90.00) ★★★★★

I mention this wine every year, but it's so good, how can I not? The **2024 Terre à Terre Crayères Vineyard Reserve Fumé Blanc** gets my vote for Australia's best sauvignon blanc. The ripe gooseberry varietal character is greatly enhanced by lees-derived nutty complexity. The intense flavour is supported by refreshing acidity and balanced firmness. A wine of considerable presence. (\$59.00) ★★★★★

<https://terreaterre.com.au/>

2025 Tapanappa Tiers 1.5m Vineyard Piccadilly Valley Chardonnay
Even though this wine is from a warm vintage, it's restrained, with a pronounced line of acidity. The aromas and flavours suggest white peach, grapefruit and warm croissant. The components of this creamy chardonnay need time to knit together, but it's a class act! (\$90.00)
★★★★★

2025 Tapanappa Tiers Vineyard Piccadilly Valley Chardonnay
More white peach and less grapefruit than the 1.5m. The nutty lees and a caress of oak provide harmonious complexity. A lingering, fine grip and perfectly balanced acidity complete the picture. (\$110.00) ★★★★★

<https://tapanappa.com.au/>

2025 Longview Juno Nebbiolo Pinot Nero Rosato We seldom encounter a rosé that stands out from the mainstream. Here's one. The bright orange/pink colour has visual appeal, and the perfumed strawberry aroma provides further allure. The satisfying dry, firm, balanced palate seals the deal. (\$32.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.longviewvineyard.com.au/product#/2025-juno-rosato>

Lester Jesberg