Vintage Lester 18/11/2026

Good wine. Strong opinions. No last word.

After 41 years, we closed down Winewise Pty. Ltd. on June 30. My wife Adrienne and I had been there from start to finish, and I was ready for a more relaxed life where I didn't have to organise the Winewise Championship and Small Vigneron Awards. This is the first of, hopefully, a long series of articles. I will take a multifarious approach, so you may expect more than just reviews.

Coming up shortly, I'll report on a relatively new Barossa producer and old vine Hunter Valley wines.

The **2022 Soumah Mezzaluna Yarra Valley Nebbiolo** is a compelling expression of the variety. In the glass, it presents an appealing, cerise hue. The nose is immediately captivating, offering a beautifully aromatic fragrance characterised by layers of ripe cherry, dried flowers, and subtle herbal undertones. It is defined by firm, persistent tannins that provide excellent grip and structure. ($92.00) ★★★★☆
https://soumah.com.au/products/2022-sv-mezzaluna

One year younger, and slightly "prettier", the **2023 Soumah Hexham Vineyard Yarra Valley Nebbiolo** is seductively fragrant and comparatively supple (for nebbiolo). It will provide very satisfying drinking in the short term. ($60.00) ★★★★☆
https://soumah.com.au/products/single-vineyard-hexham-nebbiolo

2024 Ross Hill Pinnacle Series Orange Shiraz The cool highlands climate imparts floral notes and spiciness to this enticing shiraz. Fine tannins make it deliciously drinkable, but it will take several years in the cellar with ease. ($50.00) ★★★★☆
https://rosshillwines.com.au/products/pinnacle-series-shiraz

2023 Tapanappa Definitus Foggy Hill Pinot Noir Considering the coolness of the vintage, this wine is a marvel. It presents a delightfully floral perfume, and it's in no way green. The ripe fruit flows evenly over a long, elegant palate. In a word – stylish. ($90.00) ★★★★☆
https://tapanappa.com.au/products/tapanappa-definitus-2023-pinot-noir/

2025 Lyons Will Macedon Ranges Gamay This wine stands up strongly against the latest wave of "serious" beaujolais. The floral/dark cherry aromatics are spot-on varietal, and there's no doubting the satisfying length of this medium-bodied red. ★★★★☆
https://www.lyonswillestate.com.au/store/p94/2025_Lyons_Will_Estate_Gamay.html

Then there's the **2025 Lyons Will Greenways Hill Macedon Ranges Gamay**. It offers Fleurie-like violet aromatics, and a long, fine, balanced palate that is irresistible. Bravo! ($45.00)
★★★★★
https://www.lyonswillestate.com.au/store/p95/2025_Greenways_Hill_Gamay.html

2025 Ross Hill Pinnacle Series Orange Chardonnay All the classic chardonnay trademarks are stamped on this wine – white peach, nougat, toasted almonds. A flavour-packed textural beauty. ($40.00) ★★★★☆
https://rosshillwines.com.au/products/pinnacle-series-chardonnay

Some chardonnays are low-key in their complexity. Others let you know loud and clear that they're in the room. The **2024 Marnong Estate Reserve Sunbury Chardonnay** is in the latter camp. Gunflint, sulphidic overtones are all very well, as long as the wine has the power to carry them, and this exceptional chardonnay lacks nothing in terms of fruit intensity. Brioche notes add a further dimension to the varietal nectarine in a chardonnay with texture and structure. A great example of the "funky" style. ($70.00) ★★★★★
https://shop.marnongestate.com.au/products/2024-reserve-chardonnay

Lester Jesberg

★★★★★	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	