

Edited by David Moore *with* Neville Blech

# Wine behind the label

*The award winning guide to the world's leading wine producers and their wines*



## 8th edition

Fully revised and enlarged for 2011

*'For me, by far the best of the wine guides'*  
Steven Spurrier

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## THE HISTORY OF THE GUIDE

Original authors David Moore and Philip Williamson have been involved with assessing high quality wine for the past 20 years. Both have travelled widely and been exposed to hands-on winemaking from Bordeaux to Barossa. During the past 10 years both writers contributed to a diverse range of wine information media. They were involved with the London based Vinopolis Wine Experience in its inception, ensuring its authenticity as a major Wine tourist attraction. In 2000-2001 they were the principal wine judges for Wine Today Europe for the New York Times.

From 2001 the pair pooled their substantial wine tasting expertise to set about creating a wine guide of unprecedented depth and scope. The result, the critically acclaimed *Wine behind the label* (first edition 2003) covers all the world's top wine producers, and their wines, in a truly global context, in a way no other wine book has before. They both actively sought out new producers, travelling extensively to visit them at their wineries or meet them at the most important of the world's major wine fairs.

The pair gained wide recognition resulting in three major awards for *Wine behind the label* in 2006 and 2007, the Louis Roederer Wine Guide of the Year, Glenfiddich Drink Book of the Year and the André Simon Drink Book of the Year. Crucially, they have had no commercial links with wine producers in order to maintain their independent stance and unreserved critical analysis.

Philip has now left and David has taken the overall role as editor for the whole project. Neville Blech, is a contributor and also editor on this 8th edition. He is responsible for updating Italy and Other Europe the Middle East and North Africa. Sarah Ahmed has been responsible for Australia and Portugal. Neil Fairlamb provided input, with Neville for the German section. Maggie Rosen and Stuart George have between them updated Burgundy and Austria.

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# Wine behind the label

*The ultimate guide to the world's leading wine producers and their wines*

## 8th edition

Edited by David Moore  
*with* Neville Blech

*'An incredibly in-depth and addictively readable survey of wines of quality from around the world with intelligent tasting notes and informative background to the producers, plus stockists and UK prices. For me, by far the best of the wine guides'*  
**Steven Spurrier, Decanter Magazine**

*'I'm a fan.'*  
**Hugh Johnson**

*'This is Robert Parker territory but succinct and cheaper'*  
**Joanna Simon, Sunday Times**

*'With its championing of authenticity of origin, gifted winemakers, smaller producers, organic and biodynamic winemaking, as well as its wealth of detail, this could well become the annual guide by which all others are judged.'*  
**Fine Wine Magazine**

*'... a guide that's immediately established itself as more or less indispensable.'*  
**Peter McCombie MW, Restaurant Magazine**

*'I heartily recommend this book as a thorough independent overview of the world's best wine estates'*  
**Tom Cannavan, wine-pages.com**

*'As essential to the sommelier as their corkscrew'*  
**Paul Dwyer, BBC Radio 5 Live and BBC Radio Scotland**

*'If you are passionate about your wine and pay serious attention to sampling the world's finest bottles then this book should be on your shelf... I would strongly recommend this excellent guide'*  
**Dr Edward Fitzgerald, Oxford University Wine Society**

*'...a tremendously useful and comprehensive reference work...(it) is bang up to date. Any wine nut will have a lot of fun with this book'*  
**Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com**

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Designed by Davis Wadicci

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# Introduction

## Our concept

Wine behind the label was first conceived as an ambitious attempt to produce an authoritative single volume guide to producers of quality wines from around the world. We believe we are succeeding in what we set out to achieve but will always view it as a work in progress, continuing to respond to an ever expanding quality spectrum as well as looking for better ways to present our findings. We remain committed to providing both depth and criticism about quality wines whatever their provenance and from as many quality wine producers as possible. It is a guide for enthusiasts or would-be enthusiasts, not for those who can't detect any differences or don't care too yet a reference that is accessible to the novice and learned alike. The 7th edition sees a further significant expansion in our reach, uncovering many more producers - both from the classic regions but also reflecting the quality being obtained in places that don't make the headlines. As ever, it is still far from exhaustive but hopefully there's plenty to sustain your interest. For those new to Wine behind the label we have repeated below what you can expect to find as well as some of our thoughts about wine and winemaking.

## Behind the label

The industrial mentality which has given us brilliant cars and computers doesn't have a place in high quality wine (or food) production. An essential difference between a high production brand and one produced on a more human scale is the personal effort and commitment that the family or individuals who make it have put into it. We therefore highlight individuality and character over more boring standardized production.

We also attempt to bring the producer a little closer to whoever is drinking their wine so that some inkling of their philosophy and effort might enrich the enjoyment the wine brings. We lend our support particularly to small producers and talented winemakers, and wherever we see honesty and integrity but every quality wine is considered on its merits. A small producer, no matter how earnest or sincere, will not make good wine if he or she doesn't manage the vineyards well and employ sound winemaking practice. Equally, spending exorbitant sums on PR and marketing doesn't always mean the wine in the bottle is poor - though it is likely given the money spent that it could be better value.

## Winemaking and a wine's origins

We've tried to provide information about where quality and character come from - the most relevant aspects of winemaking, viticulture and vineyard site that contribute to what's in your glass. There is also information on the extent of a wine's manipulation such as fining or filtration, and whether organic or biodynamic principles are employed. In the last decade we have witnessed the increasing acceptance of the importance of *terroir* in tandem with a continued trend to more vineyard specific wine production. Where great wine is a combination of several small parcels it is our hope that more producers will provide details of the individual plots that contribute to the wine's character. In some cases, celebrated labels are now no longer based on the top vineyard sites that brought early acclaim (whether a Bordeaux classed growth or elsewhere in Europe or the new world). We are also keeping tabs on some of the most famous names where the pursuit of profit, lacklustre direction or a change of ownership may have compromised quality. On the other hand we point out where a new, often more highly-trained, generation has made a positive impact or where outside investment has resulted in a new lease of life.

## Really useful stuff

This guide does contain a lot of information about producers and their wines. In this edition over 3,100 producers are covered in depth. Furthermore over 18,000 wines are rated and price coded. While some of world's finest wines can be hard to get hold of in many instances there is a first point of contact that will sell direct by mail-order or over the Internet. In addition there are a number of features that will help you find the information you want more quickly. The lists of producers by appellation or region (at the end of each section's introduction) is an alternative to using the Index, and an excellent way to find or familiarize yourself with producers from a favourite area. Where possible there are also single page map inserts for quick reference to less well-known regions or appellations. For the many readers who only have time to dip in and out of the book we would encourage you to use the 'Author's Choice' lists at the end of each section. These contain at least one wine from most of a region's best producers and make a useful alternative starting point to discovering new wines. In particular the 'Value for money' lists highlight some of the best buys. Given that exciting new producers are emerging all the time we have included a 'Work in progress' list covering those we will be assessing for the next edition.

## Tasting, ratings, and assessing producers

Our Quality Rating (see How to Use this guide) is intended to give a truer assessment of wine quality than a vintage dependent point score. It is nearly always based on scores from a minimum of two recent vintages. Wine shows and competitions encourage the production of wines of flattering first impressions but don't always reward those that show at their best with age. Nor do they address the implications of the vintage characteristics. Rather than a snapshot, consensual tasting mentality we believe in tasting wines again and again (both blind and non-blind) in order to gain a better understanding of a wine's style and when it should be drunk. A rating combined with an understanding of the style is the key to discovering the best wines, and that means those you will most enjoy. Before choosing a bottle for immediate consumption always ask yourself which wine works best now, reflects my mood, personality, or that of my friends or family? What flavours do I want? How much flavour? By buying wine for cellaring it will be possible to contrast different vintages of the same wine. Alternatively from a case of the same wine the gradual development and increasing maturity of a specific vintage can be assessed over a decade or more.

## Conclusion

Think of this book as a catalogue to a vast array of vinous riches. Choose with the certainty of trying wines of dependable quality that our labours and experience provide through our rating system. If you haven't tasted Austrian Grüner Veltliner or Californian Syrah then try a three star example from at least two or three profiled producers. Buy the best new reds from the Languedoc-Roussillon, Southern Italy, Spain or Portugal. In the past five years Germany has made better Riesling than ever before but contrast these with those from Alsace, Austria or Australia. Discover a wealth of fine Pinot Noir from Central Otago, Victoria & Tasmania or North America. Alternatively seek out new names from the classic regions such as Burgundy, Bordeaux or the Rhône, Tuscany or Piedmont, Napa or South Australia. Most of all we implore you to taste more widely.

The major part of this guide is split into regional or country sections. Within each one you will find an Introduction including, where possible, Vintage information. This is followed by a list of the producers (by region or appellation) that have been profiled within the A-Z that makes up the bulk of the section. At the end of the A-Z of producers, other quality wines tasted from the region are included in Other Wines of Note. The wines listed here are only those of sufficient quality that have been tasted - in some instances other good wines from the same producer exist. Work in Progress includes (often new) estates or producers that we will be assessing over the next 12 months. At the very end of each section under Author's Choice we have added lists of wines that are a personal selection but are also often themed by a shared style or grape variety and so should aid navigation. For Individual A-Z entries see the sample entry below. The use of CAPS (eg Louis JADOT) indicates the existence of a cross-referenced entry that can be found from the Index.

## Vintages Charts:

In those sections where vintages have the greatest significance, Vintage Charts are also provided (as is text on individual years for the classic wines of Bordeaux, Burgundy, Piedmont, Tuscany and Port). Specific styles of wine are given an overall vintage rating between one and five stars for individual years. In some instances it is not possible to provide a balanced judgement on the vintage until nearer the wines' release (with Brunello di Montalcino for example). These have been designated NYR (not yet rated). When to drink the wines of a given vintage is a largely subjective, personal judgement and can depend as much on mood or context but the letter (A-D) following the ratings gives a general indication of their likely development:

- A - wines to Anticipate, not ready for drinking
- B - wines that can be Broached, but with much more to give
- C - wines to Consume, at or near their best
- D - wines likely to be in Decline, past their best

## A-Z Order:

The order of the A-Z entries is based on the name they are most commonly referred to and they appear as they are written but with priority to surnames. 'Domaine' is ignored but 'Château', 'Castello', 'Quinta' etc are respected as is the definite article when implicitly part of the name (eg Il Poggione appears under 'I'). The only exception to these principles is in Bordeaux where the name of the château or estate takes precedent.

## Visiting

We have listed in most entries telephone and fax numbers for those readers who wish to visit producers. It is always advisable to call ahead because in many cases appointments need to be booked. It is also worth noting that many small producers are not open to visitors.

## Ownership:

Ownership is also given throughout and wherever this appears in **bold** it refers to a corporate owner rather than an individual or individuals. Obviously contact with a corporate owner shouldn't be assumed to be possible via the winery's address that follows it.

## Symbols:

- red wine
- white wine
- ⊙ rosé wine
- >> indented entries indicate a new producer profile

## Ratings:

- ★ a wine of good quality, not just sound but of good fruit and with some character.
- ★★ a wine with more depth, interest and concentration, usually with some aging potential
- ★★★ a very good, even fine, wine. In the case of many reds repaying lengthy cellaring.
- ★★★★ a wine of very high quality, among the very best even in a top appellation or region.
- ★★★★★ outstanding quality, potentially a classic.
- ⊙⊙⊙⊙⊙ super 5 stars, restricted to the true classics, out-and-out world class.

☆ white stars are used to show a superior wine at a given rating

We have rated as many of a producer's wines as possible, but in some instances the wines are too new or too scarce to have yet received a rating. Such wines are covered in the text only.

## Tasting notes and scores:

It is not in the style of this guide to provide tasting notes for individual vintages along with their scores. However this information will be provided by our website over the coming year and we intend to give readers the opportunity to receive the scores for currently available vintages by electronic means. Given that scores are vintage specific, they sometimes exceed or fall short of the rating that is based on repeated tastings. (also see 'Tasting, Ratings, and assessing producers' in the Introduction)

## Prices:

A code is provided which represents an estimated retail price bracket and it is based on the standard 75cl bottle size. Price codes for those wines produced only in 1.5 litre (magnums), 50 cl (half litre) or 37.5 cl (half bottle) formats have been given 75cl equivalents. A half bottle costing £8.95/\$16.00 for instance will have a price code of ED.

EA: less than £5.00 (\$8.00)	EE: £20 - 30 (\$32 - 48)
EB: £5 - 10 (\$8 - \$16)	EF: £30 - 50 (\$48 - 80)
EC: £10 - 15 (\$16 - 24)	EG: £50 - 75 (\$80 - 120)
ED: £15 - 20 (\$24 - 32)	EH: £75 or more (\$120 or more)

*The entries follow this simple 'all you need to know' format*

Producer
Wine region

↓
↓

**BRYANT FAMILY** Napa Valley
 Owner's name and address

*Bryant family 1567 Sage Canyon Road, St Helena, CA94574*
←

*Tel: 314 231-8066*

With production of just over a 1,000 cases the Bryant Cabernet has become one of a handful of blue-chip California examples of the variety alongside such illustrious names as ARAUJO, COLGIN, GRACE FAMILY, HARLAN and SCREAMING EAGLE. The property is located in the Pritchard Hill sector of the Napa, close to CHAPPELLET and the Bryants evidently achieve much more from the area than their neighbours. The vineyards benefit from cooling breezes channelled directly from Lake Hennessey on the eastern slopes of the valley...

← Individually researched entry

● Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley ⊙⊙⊙⊙⊙ EH

↑
↑

Red, white or rosé
Quality rating indicator

The extent to which Australia's global success derives from its easy-to-understand appeal - from mostly varietal labelling of wine names to the direct and overt fruitiness that still characterises many of the wines - can not be underestimated. Yet there are also fine wines with great depth and structure and others of real style, elegance and nuance. The first years of the new century have witnessed a sea change in placing much greater emphasis

on diversity and regionality. The correlation between price and quality is also improving but care is needed when purchasing more expensive bottles. In order to give some coherence to Australia's ever burgeoning vineyard area we have made four broad geopolitical divisions: South Australia, Victoria & Tasmania, New South Wales & Queensland, and Western Australia.



# South Australia

*Almost half of all Australian wine comes from South Australia. The bulk of the cheaper wine comes from the Riverland area, on the Murray River close to Victoria, while many premium wines (red, white and fortified) are made from regions that range from baking hot to distinctly cool. Quality in all the established regions is producer-dependent, as many have chosen to maximise profits by concentrating their efforts on marketing and distribution rather than producing ever better wines. From both the latest wave of high-quality small producers and some of the more established names, the wines are increasingly vineyard-specific and less about winemaking technique but great wines also continue to be blended from a range of mesoclimates. There is also a trend in favour of experimenting with alternative varieties, notably Italian and Spanish, but also Austrian and Portuguese. It can result in some exciting, textured wines at the drier end of the spectrum, though prices tend to be high, especially if these wines are compared with their European counterparts.*

## Barossa

This GI zone, incorporating the Barossa Valley and the Eden Valley, witnessed the greatest revival amongst Australia's many historic winemaking areas during the 1990s.

### Barossa Valley

Since the 1840s both English and Silesian immigrants have played an important part in establishing what has become the heart of the Australian wine industry. But in the modern revival of Australian table wines Barossa lost ground to newer areas and its rich viticultural resource of often unirrigated, old-vine Shiraz, Grenache and Mourvèdre began to rapidly disappear under Vine Pull schemes of the 1980s. Fortunately Peter Lehmann, Grant Burge, Charlie Melton and others rode to the rescue by producing wines of a quality that the world couldn't ignore and has since not been able to get enough of. Besides rich, lushly textured old-vine Shiraz and Rhône-style blends, Cabernet Sauvignon has an important place for its distinctive dense, black-fruited blockbusters; such Barossa classics often owe their sweet casing to ageing in American oak but the trend, even for classics like Peter Lehmann Stonewall, is in favour of French oak. Barossa also has a great history of fortified wines and very high-quality examples, often blended from old wines, continue to be made. Though full-flavoured, whites are less suited to the conditions. Chardonnay, whose appeal in the 80s soon waned, does less well than Semillon in the heat. Moscato d'Asti style fizz, on the other hand, works very well

### Eden Valley

The most successful of the whites in the Barossa zone is Riesling, but from over the eastern ranges of the Barossa Valley in the significantly cooler, more elevated vineyards of the Eden Valley. Riesling particularly excels in the higher, more southern reaches where the Mount Lofty Ranges run through from the Adelaide Hills to the south. These areas are known as **High Eden** (a recently approved sub-region), home to Mountadam, Eden Springs, Heggies and Pewsey Vale (see Yalumba), and **Springton** and are the source of high-quality Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Merlot. Viognier shows real potential too, though current quality has been a little overhyped. Great reds, particularly Shiraz but also Cabernet, are also produced from lower altitudes, most notably those from Henschke, near Kyneton.

## Mount Lofty Ranges

Though geographically disparate, the Clare Valley and Adelaide Hills both form part of the Mount Lofty Ranges, where altitude plays a significant role in the style of the wines.

### Clare Valley

Lying to the north-west of Barossa, the Clare Valley might be expected to be even hotter, but altitude changes the equation and is critical to the success of individual varieties. However, it is warm and even with irrigation vines can suffer water stress in particularly hot years. Several sub-regions have already emerged, including **Auburn**, **Polish Hill River**, **Sevenhill**, **Watervale** and around the township of **Clare** itself – though none have yet received official GI sanction. Most Rieslings from the Clare Valley offer less immediate fruit sweetness than those from the Eden Valley but have better structure and greater style. The best examples can be relatively austere in youth but develop an

intense limey, mineral toastiness with 10 years' age or more. Shiraz is the most widely planted variety and the higher west-facing vineyards in particular provide some excellent examples with a captivating smoke, earth and mineral character (superbly illustrated by the likes of Kilikanoon). Cabernet Sauvignon is also a leading variety and if generally less compelling than the best Shiraz it also shows a distinctive regional stamp. Chardonnay, Semillon and Merlot are the most important of the other varieties.

### Adelaide Hills

The Adelaide Hills, in the ranges along and beyond the eastern edge of the state capital, form part of the southern extension of the Mount Lofty Ranges. Elevation is again critical and the reputation of this relatively small vineyard area grows apace, now way beyond its size, since being pioneered by Brian Croser (founder of Petaluma) in the 1970s. Chardonnay, especially from the sub-regions of **Lenswood** and **Piccadilly Valley**, rivals, even surpasses the best in the country but there has also been compelling quality from Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc. The patchwork of vineyards, resulting in part from the perils of spring frost, contrasts with the swathe of low-altitude vineyards that carpet the floor of the McLaren Vale a short distance to the south.

### Fleurieu

The Fleurieu Peninsula is dominated by production from the historic and important McLaren Vale but in the past decade wines of quality have begun to emerge from lesser-known neighbouring regions.

### McLaren Vale

In the McLaren Vale, tucked between the hills and the coast, the heat is relieved by sea breezes and Shiraz, Grenache, Mourvèdre and Cabernet Sauvignon assume ascendancy. However, care must be taken if the wines are to show balance and depth as well as a lush texture. A re-energising of established producers (such as D'Arenberg) together with the emergence of the likes of Clarendon Hills, Fox Creek, or more recently, Gemtree, Paxton and Mitolo, have, in conjunction with the general revival in the fortunes of Rhône varieties in South Australia, brought about both greater diversity in red wine styles and ever higher quality. So-called "Cadenzia" blends put the emphasis on Grenache. Given the region's mix of soil types it is also encouraging to see increasing identification of the various sub-zones and individual vineyards. Soon the likes of Blewitt Springs, Clarendon and Kangarilla should be as well known for their location as for the wineries named after them. Whites are less exciting. Some producers persist with Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay, the best of which come from the cooler northern end (Clarendon, Kangarilla) of the region where the Adelaide Hills begin, but the long-term success of whites in the heartland seems more suited to Rhône and other warmer-climate varieties.

### Other Fleurieu regions

Flood-irrigated **Langhorne Creek** on the other side of the Fleurieu Peninsula has long provided soft, ripe Shiraz and Cabernet fruit that contributes to many a well-established blended South Australian red. An absence of high-profile producers has contributed to a lack of identity but Bleasdale, Bremerton, Lake Breeze, Heartland and others will bring greater recognition. Other pockets of vineyard that have recently been given their own official sanction are **Currency Creek** and **Southern Fleurieu** which lie either side of Langhorne Creek. **Kangaroo Island**, a large (4,350 km<sup>2</sup>), sparsely populated island 110 km south-west of Adelaide, has but a few vines yet shows good potential for Bordeaux-style reds. Jacques Lurton established the Islander on Kangaroo Island in 2000.

### Limestone Coast

The south-eastern corner of the state is geographically an extension of Victoria. The Limestone Coast zone is essentially flat yet its magic emerges from low limestone ridges topped with the famous terra rossa (or terra rosa) soil. The most established of these is, of course, Coonawarra.

### Coonawarra

Coonawarra only emerged as a high-quality region in the latter half of the 20th century. Despite its renown, quality from this elongated, relatively exposed and coolish region with its terra rossa soils and high water table was highly variable. The combination of intermittent summer heat and cold, wet winters is as significant to quality as the fabled free-draining soils. Cooler vintages in particular demand high standards of viticulture yet mechanically harvested fruit that comes from high-yielding Cabernet Sauvignon vines fails to get fully ripe as

does that from less suitable more water-retentive soils at the limits of the region. Many of the high-volume blends that result denigrate the Coonawarra name. Fortunately viticultural standards are on the up. Wynns, the region's biggest producer and a growing number of small or medium-sized estates (such as Bowen Estate or Hollick) are showing the sort of quality that is possible, and from Shiraz as well as Cabernet. There has been much fuss over Coonawarra boundaries but wiser producers are investing their energies on developing other similar, and very promising regions.

## Padthaway

Northernmost of the Limestone Coast regions, Padthaway has a far less established reputation than Coonawarra. Despite being the warmer of the two, Padthaway already has a considerable reputation for Chardonnay. There are also substantial plantings of Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz and significant amounts of Riesling, Merlot and Pinot Noir. The Limestone Coast is destined to be better known as a grape growing rather than winemaking region.

## Mount Benson and Robe

Mount Benson and adjoining Robe lie to the west of Coonawarra and Wrattenbully, right on the coast. Vineyards were non-existent here until 1989. Temperatures during the growing season are lower than in Coonawarra and both wind and frost can be a problem. Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz lead the plantings; Shiraz in particular, shows real promise. Interest has been heightened by both the development of Kreglinger Estate (Norfolk Rise), the region's largest, and investment from Chapoutier of the Rhône Valley.

## Wrattenbully

To the north of Coonawarra, Wrattenbully is now rapidly emerging as an important region for quality wines. Slightly warmer than Coonawarra, it has similar if older, terra rossa soils underneath the gently undulating surface and also slightly less risk of frost. The lion's share of planting has been to Cabernet Sauvignon but there are also significant amounts of Merlot and Shiraz. It is to some degree the Right Bank to Coonawarra's Left Bank. Wines from the region often form part of a Limestone Coast blend.

## The rest of the Limestone Coast

Smaller newer areas that have yet to take on any real significance include Mount Gambier (in the extreme south of the state), Lucindale (on another Limestone ridge between Mount Benson and Wrattenbully), and Bordertown. The last already has significant plantings used in Limestone Coast blends.

## South Australia vintages

The generalised Vintage charts cover some of the most ageworthy styles but needs to be taken together with comments on style and ageing given in individual A-Z producer entries. Many wines can be drunk young but an increasing number will not be at their best for at least 5 years, both powerful, full-bodied reds or a more structured example of Clare Valley Riesling. Top-quality Chardonnay and Pinot Noir need 3-6 years' ageing. In terms of longer-term cellaring potential, great Australian Rieslings have been shown to age for a decade or more, while some famous Australian reds have been proven to age for 30 or even 40 years. Both the vintage ratings and when to drink assessments generally only apply to the top rated examples (3-star or higher).

## Recent vintages

**2010** An early, low yielding year with poor fruit set followed by dry conditions and warm temperatures throughout the growing season, marked by an unseasonably warm spring and higher night-time temperatures than usual. Overall fruit quality is high, with some excellent reds forecast, though whites will perhaps lack the structure and finesse of top years.

**2009** A longer growing season than previous years despite a heatwave in late January/early February. This resulted in lower yields and heat stress in hotter regions. Where heat stress was managed, and in temperate and cooler regions where veraison had not yet occurred, flavour intensity, balance and tannin quality was very good to excellent. **2008** Fine growing conditions with the exception of some regions in South Australia which were hit by a heat wave in early March. Quantities were down by up to 20% in those areas. **2007** Yields were drastically down due to frost and severe drought conditions. Yet quality is promising particularly in the cooler regions or where growers aren't dependent on irrigation. **2006** A third successive large harvest. After a cool February, a hot early March accelerated ripening in most parts. Cooler and wetter conditions affected those harvesting late.

## South Australia vintage chart

	Barossa/Clare Shiraz	Coonawarra Cabernet	Clare/Eden Valley Riesling	Adelaide Hills Chardonnay
2010	★★★★☆ A	★★★★ A	★★★ A	★★★ A
2009	★★★★ A	★★★★ A	★★★★ A	★★★★ A
2008	★★★★ A	★★★★ A	★★★★ B	★★★★ B
2007	★★★★ A	★★★★ A	★★★★ B	★★★★ A
2006	★★★★ A	★★★★ A	★★★★ B	★★★★ B
2005	★★★★☆ A	★★★★ B	★★★★☆ B	★★★★☆ B
2004	★★★★ B	★★★★☆ B	★★★ B	★★★★☆ B
2003	★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★★ C
2002	★★★★☆ B	★★★★☆ B	★★★★☆ B	★★★★☆ C
2001	★★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★ C
2000	★★★ C	★★★★☆ B	★★★★ C	★★★ C
1999	★★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★★ C	★★★★ C
1998	★★★★☆ B	★★★★☆ B	★★★★ C	★★★ to ★★★★★ C

## A-Z of producers by region

### Barossa Valley

BAROSSA VALLEY ESTATE  
ROLF BINDER  
WOLF BLASS  
GRANT BURGE  
BURGE FAMILY  
DUTSCHKE  
JOHN DUVAL  
ELDERTON  
GLAETZER  
GREENOCK CREEK  
HAMILTON'S EWELL  
JACOB'S CREEK/ORLANDO  
KALLESKE  
LANGMEIL  
PETER LEHMANN  
CHARLES MELTON  
MT BILLY  
PENFOLDS  
CHRIS RINGLAND  
ROCKFORD  
ST HALLETT  
SALTRAM  
SEPELLT  
TORBRECK  
TURKEY FLAT  
YALUMBA

### Eden Valley

HEATHVALE  
HENSCHKE  
MOUNTADAM  
PEWSEY VALE  
TIN SHED

### Adelaide Plains

PRIMO ESTATE

### Adelaide Hills

ASHTON HILLS  
BARRATT WINES  
CHAIN OF PONDS  
LEABROOK ESTATE  
NEPENTHE  
SC PANNEL  
PETALUMA  
PIKE & JOYCE  
RIPOSTE WINES BY TIM KNAPPSTEIN  
SHAW & SMITH  
THE LANE WINE COMPANY  
GEOFF WEAVER

### Clare Valley

TIM ADAMS  
ANNIE'S LANE  
JIM BARRY  
CRABTREE  
GROSSET  
KILIKANOON  
KNAPPSTEIN

LEASINGHAM  
MITCHELL  
MOUNT HORROCKS  
NEAGLES ROCK  
O'LEARY WALKER  
PIKES  
WAKEFIELD  
WENDOUREE

### McLaren Vale

CASCABEL  
CHAPEL HILL  
CLARENDON HILLS  
CORIOLE  
D'ARENBERG  
FOX CREEK  
GEMTREE  
HAMILTON  
HARDY'S  
KAY BROTHERS  
MAGLIERI  
GEOFF MERRILL  
MITOLO  
SC PANNEL  
PAXTON  
REYNELLA/REYNELL  
ROSEMOUNT (MCLAREN VALE)  
TATACHILLA  
ULITHORNE  
WIRRA WIRRA  
WOODSTOCK

### Langhorne Creek

BLEASDALE  
BREMERTON  
LAKE BREEZE

### Coonawarra

BALNAVES  
BOWEN ESTATE  
HOLLICK  
KATNOOK ESTATE  
LECONFIELD  
MAJELLA  
PARKER COONAWARRA  
PENLEY ESTATE  
WYNN'S  
ZEMA ESTATE

### Mount Benson

RALPH FOWLER  
DOMAINE TOURNON

### Padthaway

HENRY'S DRIVE  
LINDEMANS

### Wrattenbully

TAPANAPPA

### Other

HEARTLAND  
HEWITSON  
TWO HANDS

# South Australia



## A-Z of producers

### TIM ADAMS Clare Valley [www.timadamswines.com.au](http://www.timadamswines.com.au)

*Tim & Pam Adams Warendra Road, Clare SA 5453*  
Tel: 08 8842 2429 Fax: 08 8842 3550

This is a brilliant Clare Valley producer with marvellously consistent reds and whites of great depth and character. Aberfeldy, the top red, has a certain elegance as well as masses of fruit and American oak, in which it spends the best part of 2 years. The Fergus takes its name from a grower who first supplied the Grenache around which a little Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc are now woven; at once complex and appealing, it has a deserved following. Adams was inspired by MUGA (Isaac Muga worked the vintage here) to experiment with Tempranillo and Muga would be prod of the plush but spicy outcome. Riesling and Semillon both have excellent varietal definition and good structure; the just off dry but well balanced Pinot Gris shows bright pear and a hint of spice (it is part barrel fermented). Prices continue to be exemplary for the quality. Adams acquired substantial vineyard holdings from LEASINGHAM, so there is more to come from this established but progressive producer.

- Shiraz Aberfeldy★★★★★ £E
- Shiraz★★★ £D
- The Fergus★★ £C ● Cabernet★★★★★ £D
- Reserve Tempranillo★★★★ £D
- Semillon★★★ £C ○ Reserve Riesling★★★★★ £D
- Riesling★★★ £B
- Pinot Gris★★ £C
- Riesling Botrytis★★★ £C

### ANNIE'S LANE Clare Valley [www.annieslane.com.au](http://www.annieslane.com.au)

*Foster's Wine Estates Quelltaler Road, Watervale SA 5452*  
Tel: 08 8843 0003 Fax: 08 8843 0096

This Clare Valley range of wines is one of the best of the many in the former BERINGER BLASS Australian stable now owned by Treasury Wine Estates (formerly known as Fosters). Named after Annie Wayman, a local personality in the late 19th/early 20th century, the wines were previously made at the historic Quelltaler winery but are now made at the impressive Wolf BLASS facilities in the Barossa. The wines glow with fruit and are full and ripe with good balance and varietal expression. As might be expected for Clare Valley, Riesling and Shiraz particularly shine, as does Shiraz/Grenache/ Mourvèdre blend that contains around 50% Shiraz. The premium Copper Trail Shiraz is made in open fermenters from unirrigated vines with part of the wine receiving an extended maceration prior to 2 years' ageing in mostly French oak barrels. The Riesling, the best value of the lot, harnesses lovely Clare Valley fruit which is checked by good acidity but like all the whites should be drunk young. A Copper Trail version is more structured with better ageing potential. Reds are better with 3 years' ageing or more but will keep considerably longer.

- Riesling★★ £B ○ Riesling Copper Trail★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay★ £C ○ Semillon Sauvignon Blanc★ £C
- Shiraz★★★ £C ● Shiraz Copper Trail★★★★ £E
- Shiraz/Grenache/Mourvèdre★★★★ £C
- Cabernet/Merlot★★ £B

### ASHTON HILLS Adelaide Hills

*Stephen George Tregarthen Road, Ashton SA 5137*  
Tel: 08 8390 1243 Fax: 08 8390 1243

Stephen George is a winemaker of considerable talent, especially given the diverse range of wines he produces to a such high standard. To be equally at home producing fine sparkling wines as cool Adelaide Hills Riesling, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay or rich powerful reds from the Clare Valley, as he is in forging the GALAH wines and making wines at WENDOUREE, is remarkable. The small estate-based 3.5-ha Ashton Hills is known first and foremost for two refined yet ripely fruity sparkling wines. The pale pink Salmon Brut is three-quarters Chardonnay yet its strawberry and delicate biscuity flavours owe as much to the balance of Pinot Noir. An intense Riesling has a structure that puts it with the best from Eden Valley, Clare or Adelaide Hills. Pinot Noir (occasionally made as a Reserve) shows great fruit intensity, and increasingly a texture and breadth uncommon to most Australian examples. Chardonnay, too, shows off the potential of the Adelaide Hills.

- Blanc de Blancs★★ £C ○ Salmon Brut★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay★★★★ £D ○ Riesling★★★★★ £C

### ● Pinot Noir★★★★ £D

### BALNAVES Coonawarra [www.balnaves.com.au](http://www.balnaves.com.au)

*Balnaves family Main Road, Coonawarra SA 5263*  
Tel: 08 8737 2946 Fax: 08 87837 2945

The winning combination of Doug Balnaves fruit and Peter Bissell's winemaking has propelled this 52-ha estate near the southern end of Coonawarra into the top echelon of Coonawarra producers. The flagship is The Tally, a big, powerful, oaky Cabernet Sauvignon that needs at least 5–8 years' ageing. Cabernet Sauvignon is also in a powerful mould with good breadth and style as well as intensity – a really good expression of Coonawarra fruit. Ripe, concentrated Shiraz can be at least as good. At a more affordable level, The Blend (typically Merlot/Cabernet Franc/Cabernet Sauvignon) and Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot, are both ripe, round and pleasurable drinking if nothing more. This being Coonawarra there isn't much white but a Chardonnay with delicious fruit and well-worked oak is amongst the better examples from the Limestone Coast. A sweetish Sparkling Cabernet is a decent example of its type. Doug Balnaves and son Peter also manage vineyards and make wines for others in the district.

- The Tally★★★★★ £G ● Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★★ £D
- Shiraz★★★ £D ● The Blend★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot★★ £C
- Chardonnay★★★ £C
- Sparkling Cabernet★★ £D

### BAROSSA VALLEY ESTATE Barossa [www.bve.com.au](http://www.bve.com.au)

*Barossa Growers/Constellation Wines Heaslip Road, Angle Vale SA 5117*  
Tel: 08 8562 3599 Fax: 08 8562 4255

Established as a co-op (rare in Australia) by around 80 local growers in 1985, BVE is now 50% owned by Hardy Wine Company (Constellation Wines owned) and 50% by Barossa Growers Holdings Ltd. The estate includes some of the best parcels of very old Shiraz vines in the Barossa. The pricey flagship E & E Black Pepper Shiraz is an explosively rich, powerful but balanced expression of old-vine Barossa fruit, full of preserved black fruits, prunes, licorice and tar and with great length too. Ebenezer Shiraz is full of berry fruit and American oak and is a good classic expression of the style. Chardonnay and Cabernet were made in a similarly full-flavoured style. Under winemaker Stuart Bourne, Ebenezer Chardonnay has been dropped, though BVE still makes a Chardonnay under the new E Minor entry level range (£C) which includes a Shiraz and Cabernet Merlot. The slightly more concentrated E Bass range also (£C) includes a Shiraz, Shiraz Tempranillo and Eden Valley Riesling.

- Shiraz E & E Black Pepper★★★★★ £G
- Shiraz Ebenezer★★★ £E
- Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot Ebenezer★★ £E

### BARRATT WINES Adelaide Hills [www.barrattwines.com.au](http://www.barrattwines.com.au)

*Lindsay & Carolyn Barratt Collins Road, Summertown SA 5141*  
Tel: 08 8390 1788 Fax: 08 8390 1788

One of the Adelaide Hills' small gems directed by Lindsay Barratt. The Barratts now have their own winemaking facility at Lobethal and from just 8.9ha in two different vineyards (Uley and Bonython) they highlight the region's affinity for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Since 2001 Pinot Noir production has been divided between a single-vineyard Bonython version and a superior Reserve. All the grapes are hand-picked and a portion of the fruit is fermented as whole bunches, around 40% in the case of the Reserve. While the wines are quite powerful, they avoid being heavy – the alcohol being kept in check by the richly textured fruit. Chardonnay will keep for at least 5 years, Reserve Pinot even longer. Merlot is, like the Pinots, fermented in open fermenters and aged in French oak (part of it new). 2002 was the first vintage of an unwooded Sauvignon and the first from which the Pinots have been bottled unfiltered. The range now includes a Picadilly Sunrise, a Pinot Noir rosé (not tasted).

- Pinot Noir Bonython★★ £C ● Pinot Noir Reserve★★★★ £ED
- Chardonnay Piccadilly Valley★★★★ £D
- Sauvignon Blanc Piccadilly Valley★★★ £C

### JIM BARRY Clare Valley [www.jimbarr.com](http://www.jimbarr.com)

*Barry family Craigs Hill Road, Clare SA 5453*  
Tel: 08 8842 2261 Fax: 08 8842 3752

From a large number of some of Clare's best sites Peter and Mark Barry continue to build on what their father made famous over four decades, but whether the wines will now show more individuality or refinement remains to be seen.

Reds are the mainstay: deep, impressively rich and concentrated if relatively unsubtle Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Sauvignon/Malbec under the McRae Wood label. However, it is for The Armagh that Jim Barry is best known. Considered one of the region's super-reds, it is an uncompromisingly big, thick, extracted and oaky Shiraz with a long track record dating back to 1985. It is made from very old, unirrigated vines and nearly always achieves the balance that some mega-Shirazes lack but must be kept for a minimum of a decade. Riesling is sourced from the Florita vineyard (in Watervale), first made famous by Leo Buring. Lodge Hill is toasty, limy and flavoursome with moderate structure but 'The Florita' has much greater expression, density and structure and is now recognized as one of the region's leading examples. Watervale Riesling (only available in Australia) shows good typicity and represents good value for money. Production is a substantial 60,000 cases, though much of that is accounted for by more ordinary reds and whites.

- **Shiraz** The Armagh★★★★★ £H
- **Shiraz** McRae Wood★★★★ £E ● **Shiraz** Lodge Hill★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** McRae Wood★★★★ £D
- **Cabernet/Malbec** McRae Wood★★★★ £D
- **Riesling** The Florita★★★★ £D ○ **Riesling** Lodge Hill★★ £B

**ROLF BINDER** Barossa Valley www.rolfbinder.com  
*Rolf Binder & Christa Deans Seppeltsfield Road, Dorrien SA 5355*  
*Tel: 08 8562 3300 Fax: 08 8562 1177*

Rolf Binder and his sister Christa Deans draw upon mostly estate vineyards for an annual production of around 35,000 cases. The reds have returned to form with greater oomph and richness on the back of a succession of great vintages. They are deep, powerful, extracted wines, primarily from Rhône varieties, but there's animation too. The most acclaimed wines to date are the Heysen Vineyard and Hanisch Shirazes, the former combining an intense, preserved black fruits, earth and licorice character with a powerful structure and requiring at least 8–10 years' age to show its full potential. A Shiraz/Mourvèdre Pressings (subtitled Binder's Bull's Blood) has rich black plum and berry fruit, while Heinrich is a more backward, extracted Shiraz/Mourvèdre/Grenache blend. Halcyon Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot (usually 70% Cabernet) has intense brambly, cassis fruit and ripe tannins to match. One that doesn't need cellaring is a more forward, supple, raspberrish Shiraz/Grenache under the Halliwell label. Two whites, Helios Semillon and Highness Eden Valley Riesling are also made. The wines remain well priced despite the early hype. Inexpensive Retro 55 red and white are well-made. (SA)

- **Shiraz** Hanisch Vineyard★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Heysen Vineyard★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz/Mourvèdre** Pressings Hubris★★★★ £D
- **Shiraz/Mourvèdre/Grenache** Heinrich★★★★ £D
- **Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot**★★★ £C
- **Shiraz/Grenache** Halliwell★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Hales★★ £B
- **Semillon** Helios★★ £B
- **Riesling** Highness★★★ £B

**WOLF BLASS** Barossa Valley www.wolfblass.com.au  
*Treasury Wine Estates PO Box 396, Nurioopta SA 5355*  
*Tel: 08 8562 1955 Fax: 08 8562 2156*

The Wolf Blass label is now one of the biggest brands in the Treasury Wine Estates portfolio of heavyweight Australian labels. As with any top brand the marketing success has been underscored by supreme consistency even if the wines no longer measure up to the personality and energy of the man who started it all. Of the more affordable ranges, Shiraz, Cabernet or blends of the two under the various red, yellow and Eaglehawk façades have been pretty uninspiring and, if showing some very recent improvement, they haven't been of the standard they were a decade or more ago. Whites are much improved though there is still better value to be had from elsewhere in Australia or further afield. At a higher price point, Presidents Selection wines offer a lot of upfront fruit and oak and adequate depth and structure. None of these labels however, should be confused with the wines near the top of the hierarchy where quality is much higher and the wines' origins are more discernible. Platinum Label Shiraz and Cabernet are based on single vineyards and aged in French oak, and finally deliver on depth, structure and balance, but platinum is also required to buy them. The wines with perhaps the most convincing price/quality ratio are the Gold Label range (an extension from an existing

good-quality Gold Label Riesling). All (a vintage-dated sparkling Pinot Noir/Chardonnay excepted) are region-specific and do portray something of their origins. Lastly, the richly textured Black Label Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz (subjected to a delayed release) is consistently fine.

- **Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz** Black Label★★★★ £F
- **Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc** Gold Label Adelaide Hills★★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Presidents Selection★★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Presidents Selection★★★ £C
- **Shiraz/Viognier** Gold Label Adelaide Hills★★★★ £C
- **Riesling** Gold Label Eden/Clare Valleys★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Presidents Selection★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Gold Label Adelaide Hills★★★ £C

**BLEASDALE** Langhorne Creek www.bleasdale.com.au  
*Potts family Wellington Road, Langhorne Creek SA 5255*  
*Tel: 08 8537 3001 Fax: 08 8537 3224*

Winemaker Michael Potts is fifth generation, making wines in a National Trust-classified winery and still utilising a lever press constructed in the 19th century. His family's vineyards are flooded annually by the Bremer River. All the wines show an accentuated varietal character and lots of flavour intensity. These include an intense peppery Malbec, and a stylish Bremerview Shiraz. While most still want for a little more definition and structure this is not the case with Frank Potts, a savoury, cedary Cabernet Sauvignon-based blend that includes Malbec and Petit Verdot, nor with a profound, complex Generations Shiraz (from a parcel of old vines) that is perhaps the essence of Langhorne Creek with its earth, eucalypt, plum and berry character. Petrel Reserve is another premium Shiraz, first produced in 1999. Sweet, berryish Sparkling Shiraz lacks poise but has smooth tannins. For white wines, cutting the concentrated, spicy fruit of the low yielding old vine Verdelho with a dash of Sauvignon Blanc brings crispness, if at the expense of a bit of character. It is now labelled Potts' Catch.

- **Shiraz** Generations★★★★ £E ● **Shiraz** Bremerview★★★ £C
- **Frank Potts**★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Mulberry Tree★★★ £B
- **Shiraz/Cabernet**★★ £B ● **Malbec**★★ £B
- **Sparkling Shiraz**★★ £B ○ **Verdelho** Potts Catch★★ £B

**BOWEN ESTATE** Coonawarra  
*Doug & Joy Bowen Riddoch Highway, Coonawarra SA 5263*  
*Tel: 08 8737 2229 Fax: 08 8737 2173*

Doug Bowen's smallish 33-ha estate continues to maintain a relatively low profile among the Coonawarra giants, though the wines are widely exported. The reds are of consistently high quality: deep, fleshy and textured with very ripe flavours and a certain idiosyncratic style. The grapes are picked very late and a good dose of oak ensures the wines have a sweet succulence particularly in the warmer years. Perhaps surprisingly for Coonawarra, Shiraz is even better than the Cabernet Sauvignon. The Blend is composed of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. A ripe and creamy Chardonnay is also made while Ampelon is a new single-vineyard Shiraz.

- **Shiraz**★★★★ £C ● **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★★ £C
- **The Blend**★★★ £C ○ **Chardonnay**★★ £C

**BREMERTON** Langhorne Creek www.bremerton.com.au  
*Willson family Strathalbyn Road, Langhorne Creek SA 5255*  
*Tel: 08 8537 3093 Fax: 08 8537 3109*

Sisters Rebecca and Lucy Willson now run this large Langhorne Creek winery. The first vines were only planted in 1991 after the property was purchased by their parents in 1985 and most of the grapes come from their own 120ha of vineyards. The best wines are the top reds, especially the Old Adam Limited Release Shiraz, which is aged in 100% new American oak and shows an oaky, vanilla and ripe black fruits style that is very concentrated, deep and intense – an old-style blockbuster but with fine structure and lots of character. Walter's Cabernet Sauvignon (100% new French oak) is in a similar very ripe-fruited mould but doesn't have quite the same depth or definition. Selkirk Shiraz is more earthy and jammy than Old Adam but has good concentration and depth, while Tamblyn is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Malbec and Merlot that has plenty of fruit, if also a cooler leafy component, and light tannins. Of the whites, Verdelho with spiced citrus fruit and really good weight and structure stands out. Sauvignon Blanc is attractive if drunk young.

- **Shiraz** Selkirk★★★ £C ● **Shiraz** Old Adam★★★★ £D
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Walter's★★★★ £C

● **Tamblyn**★★ EC ○ **Verdelho**★★ EC

**GRANT BURGE Barossa Valley** www.grantburgewines.com.au

*Grant Burge Jacobs Creek, Tanunda SA 5352*

*Tel: 08 8563 3700 Fax: 08 8563 2807*

Grant Burge has an impressive resource of 200ha from which to make top Barossa wines. Nearly all are now prefixed with a vineyard name and are made in the recently reacquired old Krondorf winery. Shiraz is naturally the strongest hand, starting with a sweet-fruited Miamba, progressing to a fuller, richer, oaky but characterful Filsell, and, from the same vineyard, Meschach, a pricey but powerful, super-stylish classic American-oaked Barossa Shiraz from 80-year-old vines that is more than a cut above the rest. Balthasar, a Shiraz Viognier, is made from mostly Eden Valley fruit in a more seductive, velvety style. The Cabernet equivalent to Meschach is Shadrach. a deep, rich and intense red, immersed in heather and blackcurrant and aged in French oak. Some early efforts of both wines lacked balance but this is not true of recent releases. Holy Trinity, composed of Grenache, Shiraz and Mourvèdre (40/40/20), mercifully is more modestly priced and is developing into an increasingly complex red; new French oak and an extended maceration on the skins are now employed to good effect. Two whites are oaky and flavoursome, a Summers Chardonnay surpassed by Zerk Semillon Viognier. Other good whites include Thorn Riesling, Kraft Sauvignon and late-picked Lily Farm Muscat. Barossa Vines is a decent second label for varietal Shiraz, Semillon and Chardonnay. Good sparkling and fortified wines are also made; the 20-year-old Tawny is particularly powerful, plump and appealing.

- **Shiraz** Meschach★★★★★ £G
- **Shiraz** Filsell Barossa★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Miamba Barossa★★ £B
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Shadrach★★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Cameron Vale★★ £D
- **Merlot** Hillcot Barossa★ £C
- **Holy Trinity**★★★★ £E
- **Tawny 20 Year-old**★★★★ £E
- **Chardonnay** Summers Eden Valley★ £B
- **Semillon Viognier** Zerk★★ £C
- **Riesling** Thorn★ £B

**BURGE FAMILY Barossa Valley** www.burgefamily.com.au

*Rick Burge Barossa Valley Way, Lyndoch SA 5351*

*Tel: 08 8524 4644 Fax: 08 8524 4444*

Rick Burge makes classic oak-lined, rich, lush, sweet-fruited Barossa reds. The wines have lots of depth, extract and intensity as well as the varietal expression typical of each grape variety as they perform in the Barossa. The wines have highish alcohol (around 14.5 for most of the reds) but are well balanced, only occasionally showing an excess of oak. Two wines in particular stand out. Olive Hill, roughly equal proportions of Shiraz, Grenache and Mourvèdre, is more complete and characterful than The Renoux, which combines Shiraz with Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Better still is Draycott Shiraz, which has lovely depth and style with a lingering, sweet, fruit-intense finish. Rick Burge's Garnacha, mostly old-vine Grenache but also including a little Shiraz and Mourvèdre, has a sweet crushed berry fruit depth but can struggle to balance the high alcohol. Semillon has plenty of rich Barossa citrus and herb character though is not for long keeping. New from the 2002 vintage is G3, a premium blend of Grenache, Shiraz and Mourvèdre. Also made are Olive Hill Riesling and two inexpensive blended reds, Clochemerle and 'A Nice Red'.

- **Shiraz** Draycott★★★★ £F
- **Shiraz/Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon** The Renoux★★ £D
- **Shiraz/Grenache/Mourvèdre** Olive Hill★★★★ £E
- **Grenache** Garnacha★★ £E
- **Semillon** Olive Hill★★ £D

**CASCABEL McLaren Vale**

*Duncan Ferguson & Susana Fernandez, Rogers Road, Willunga SA 5172*

*Tel: 08 8557 4434 Fax: 08 8557 4435*

This is still a very young operation, having only made wines since the late 1990s, yet this experienced couple seem to have both the know-how and a clear idea of the sort of wines they wish to fashion. All the wines are characterised by bright, pure fruit and definite restraint in terms of alcohol and oak. Round, soft and agreeable, they are not without substance and are always fruit-rich on the finish. Only relatively small quantities are made of each wine, particularly the lime-streaked Riesling. 'Grenache et al' (85% Grenache) includes

Shiraz and Mourvèdre. Shiraz has the usual fruit accent but is also individual with a distinctive smoke and heather character as well as real weight and depth. The style of most of the wines means that they can be drunk quite young. However also interesting are Tempranillo/Graciano (70/30) with very ripe berry fruit character and real intensity. A varietal Mourvèdre (here given its Spanish name, Monastrell) has strongly varietal black fruits appeal. Both of the latter are labelled Viña Cascabel indicating fruit from estate vineyards.

○ **Riesling** Eden Valley★★ £C

● **Shiraz** Fleurieu★★★★ £D ● **Grenache et al**★★ £C

● **Tempranillo/Graciano**★★ £D ● **Monastrell**★★ £D

**CHAIN OF PONDS Adelaide Hills** www.chainofpondswines.com.au

*Acacia Wines Pty Ltd Main Adelaide Road, Gumeracha SA 5233*

*Tel: 08 8389 1415 Fax: 08 8389 1877*

Established only in 1993 by the Amadio family, this is a relatively small producer but with among Adelaide Hills most sizeable vineyards (200ha). However, when the brand was acquired by Acacia Wines in 2004, the vineyards stayed put. Through long term grape supply arrangements with Amadio Vineyards, some fruit is still sourced from the same vineyards to maintain continuity of style, also from other contract growers. Quality has always been high, particularly for Corkscrew Road Chardonnay and the Amadeus Cabernet; the latter is remarkably profound and tightly furled when young, revealing a deep fruit core with at least 5 years' ageing. Top of the range The Cachet (not tasted), is a highly acclaimed Adelaide Hills blend of Cabernet, Shiraz and Merlot renowned for its generous style. Also from Adelaide Hills are Shirazes, Ledge and Graves Gate, the latter sourced from McLaren Vale in 1999 due to frost in Adelaide Hills. The extensive range also includes the Italian varietal-focused Novello label, Rosso (the rosé) is Sangiovese/ Grenache, while Nero is a Sangiovese/Nebbiolo/Barbera/Grenache blend. Pilot Block is the export label used for Italian varietal-focused wines. (SA)

● **Cabernet Sauvignon** Amadeus★★★ £D

● **Shiraz** Grave's Gate★★ £C ● **Shiraz** Ledge★★ £C

○ **Chardonnay** Corkscrew Road★★ £C

**CHAPEL HILL McLaren Vale** www.chapelhillwine.com.au

*Thomas Schmidheiny (Holcim) Chapel Hill Road, McLaren Vale SA 5171*

*Tel: 08 8323 8429 Fax: 08 8323 9245*

Under winemaker Pam Dunsford, Chapel Hill, now Swiss-owned, built a solid reputation for consistent Cabernet and Shiraz. Her successor, Michael Fragos, has continued the good work. Quantity may be rising, but prices are not excessive for wines based on high-quality fruit from 44ha of McLaren Vale vineyards. Medium-bodied Il Vescovo is a supple and attractive blend of Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon. In line with current trends, it has been joined by Il Vescovo Pinot Grigio, Savagnin (originally labelled Albarino), Sangiovese and Tempranillo (not tasted). Shiraz is full and berryish. The Vicar, a blend of Cabernet and Shiraz in roughly equal proportions, is more ambitious and, shows greater refinement and balance as well as tremendous extract. Some of the Cabernet for both this and a varietal Cabernet Sauvignon comes from Coonawarra. Gorge Block Chardonnay from the estate (not tasted) has received critical acclaim for its structure and represents a quantum leap from the previous reserve Chardonnay. An unwooded Chardonnay is less appealing than a tasty, lipsmacking Verdelho. (SA)

● **Shiraz**★★★ £C ● **The Vicar**★★★ £E

● **Il Vescovo**★★ £C ● **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★★ £C

○ **Verdelho**★★ £B

**CLARENDON HILLS McLaren Vale** www.clarendonhills.com.au

*Roman Bratasiuk Brookmans Road, Blewitt Springs SA 5171*

*Tel: 08 8364 1484 Fax: 08 8364 1484*

If you've drunk Australis then either you or your friends are not short of money. Bratasiuk's unfiltered and unfinned, ripe, extracted reds, aged in French oak, are subjected to a long *cuvaison* and exhibit a depth and dimension that most Australian reds don't even approach. Some early vintages had questionable balance and marginal levels of volatility but all is being mastered and refined as the range expands and gains better definition through the use of vineyard or sub-regional names. With no less than 19 single vineyard single varietal wines, Bratasiuk, though not the first to do so, is providing an alternative to the brand-name-only marketers who reveal precious little about their sources (likewise yields), even at a premium level. Reds, particularly Shiraz (labelled

# South Australia

Syrah) and Grenache are powerful, broadly structured as well as very concentrated, marvellously complex and long in the best bottlings. All the names refer to a specific vineyard or vineyards located in three sub-zones of McLaren Vale, Clarendon, Blewitt Springs and Kangarilla. Other wines (not tasted) include Brookman Merlot, Onkaparinga Syrah and Grenache, Hickenbottom Grenache and Liandra Mourvedre. A new 14ha vineyard planted high in the Clarendon Hills promises further exciting developments.

- **Syrah** Australis★★★★★ £H ● **Syrah** Piggot Range★★★★★ £H
- **Syrah** Brookman★★★★ £G ● **Syrah** Hickinbotham★★★★ £G
- **Syrah** Liandra★★★★ £G ● **Syrah** Moritz★★★★ £F
- **Grenache** Romas★★★★★ £F ● **Grenache** Blewitt Springs★★★★ £F
- **Grenache** Clarendon★★★★ £F ● **Grenache** Kangarilla★★★★ £F
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Hickinbotham★★★★ £F
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Brookman★★★★ £F
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Sandown★★★★ £F

## CORIOLE McLaren Vale [www.coriole.com](http://www.coriole.com)

Lloyd family Chaffey's Road, McLaren Vale SA 5171

Tel: 08 8323 8305 Fax: 08 8323 9136

Coriole, now with 33ha of vineyards in the Seaview region, has been known for its intense Shiraz almost since its inception in 1967, having inherited some already old vines and planted new ones which now have a few years behind them too. The wine is consistently richly textured with deep, ripe fruit and has been particularly good in recent vintages. The Soloist is an earthy, characterful single vineyard Shiraz with intense, spicy liquorice. The very complete, stylish Lloyd Reserve Shiraz, made only in very small quantities, is the premium version, with a long-established track record and more structure and oak (French instead of American from 2002) than the regular version. The powerful, minty, spicy, eucalypt Mary Kathleen is from Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot but hasn't the same depth or class. Both require patience. Coriole is also known for its Sangiovese, which it pioneered in Australia with its first plantings in 1985. Coriole now makes three straight Sangiovese wines, Vita Reserve (in outstanding years only - 1998 and 2007 thus far), a new single clone Sangiovese, Brunello and the estate Sangiovese. The latter shows good varietal character flavourwise - cherryish with a savoury, earthy undertow (Vita Reserve and Brunello not tasted). There is also a fleshier, more sweet-fruited Sangiovese Shiraz in the entry level classic range. Other Italian varieties such as Fiano, Barbera and Nebbiolo have followed. The Fiano is increasingly textured with persistent underlying lemony acidity.

Sagrantino is the most recent addition with Coriole's first vintage from 2007 (not tasted) just released to critical acclaim. Nero d'Avola and Prosecco will come into production shortly. From old vine McLaren Vale fruit Lalla Rookh Grenache/Shiraz/Mourvedre has excellent very ripe fruits intensity while The Dancing Fig Shiraz Mourvedre is darker and meatier. The rich, concentrated Semillon with both citrus and tropical flavours is easily the best of the whites but a decent fruity Australian Chenin Blanc is also made.

- **Shiraz** Lloyd Reserve★★★★★ £F ● **Shiraz**★★★★ £D
- **Shiraz** The Soloist★★★★ £E ● **Shiraz** Mourvedre The Dancing Fig★★★★ £C
- **Grenache/Shiraz** Lalla Rookh★★★★ £C
- **Cabernet/Merlot** Mary Kathleen Reserve★★★★ £E
- **Sangiovese**★★★★ £C
- **Fiano**★★ £C
- **Semillon** Lalla Rookh★★ £B

## CRABTREE Clare Valley [www.crabtreewines.com.au](http://www.crabtreewines.com.au)

Richard Woods & Rasa Fabian North Terrace, Watervale SA 5452

Tel: 08 8843 0069 Fax: 08 8843 0144

Crabtree of Watervale is a small Clare operation with its own vineyards. Since 2007, it has been owned by Richard Woods & Rasa Fabian who brought in talented ex-Leasingham winemaker Kerri Thompson (who now has her own label KT & The Falcon). Some of the vines for the Riesling date from the 60s and yields are low resulting in a tight, mineral but scented Riesling that has both concentration and good balance. Shiraz from the Picnic Hill vineyard has a deep black plum, blackberry intensity with a spice and mineral complexity. Cabernet Sauvignon can show a cooler, more herbal aspect but is similarly well made. Newish Tempranillo has a slightly firm edge to the extract but shows good potential. Zibibbo is a light dry Muscat (named for version grown on the island of Pantelleria, south of Sicily). Whites will keep and improve and although most reds need 3-5 years' but Shiraz should be given 6-

8 years'.

- **Riesling** Watervale★★★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Picnic Hill Vineyard★★★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Windmill Vineyard★★★★ £C
- **Tempranillo** Watervale★★★★ £C

## D'ARENBERG McLaren Vale [www.darenberg.com.au](http://www.darenberg.com.au)

Osborn family Osborn Road, McLaren Vale SA 5171

Tel: 08 8323 8206 Fax: 08 8323 8423

Jazzed up in the late nineties, this is a much trumpeted and sizeable producer with a seemingly ever-expanding range totalling 180,000 cases per year. Nearly all the wines are good but only a handful are really exciting; some are a little overhyped. The myriad exotic names don't make this an easy range to negotiate but they surely help with sales. The best reds have exuberant fruit and highish alcohol levels (and plenty of oak to help them on their way), making for enjoyable youthful drinking, but with enough structure to stand a bit of age. Recent vintages are more refined and lifted thanks to earlier picked fruit, more ruthless selection, less oak and less racking (to keep the fruit).

Additionally, Chief Winemaker Chester Osbourne attributes a greater minerality to not fertilising in the last 15 years. The best of the premium wines is the Dead Arm Shiraz, with super fruit, excellent concentration, lots of extract and intensity but balanced if needing time; best with 8-10 years' age. Footbolt is very easy to appreciate but faces stiff competition as South Australia has an abundance of fine Shiraz at this level, some with better texture and more depth. The powerful Ironstone Pressings (Grenache, Shiraz, Mourvedre - 70/25/5) is recently very good, concentrated yet expressive - oozing depth and character. Bonzai Vine offers the same blend at a more affordable price but deserves a little patience. At a similar level to the Ironstone Pressings is the distinctive and characterful Coppermine Road Cabernet Sauvignon with an olive, black plum, spice and fig intensity. Sweet-fruited Custodian Grenache often shows some extraordinary flavours if at the cost of elegance and harmony. Another from the Derelict Vineyard is from late-harvested fruit. Varietal Mourvedre seems more effortless with better depth and structure. Gutsy Galvo Garage is a blend of both Cabernets, Merlot and Petit Verdot from Southern Fleurieu. More unusual is an intense, spicy and concentrated Sticks & Stones which combines Tempranillo, Grenache and Souzao. Whites, from grapes only planted in 1995, are fruit-driven if sometimes a little coarse and lack the structure for long keeping. Riesling, Semillon and Gewürztraminer have been made in a rich late-harvested style with some success. The Stump Jump red and white are forward, fruity gluggers. Lucky Lizard Chardonnay and Feral Fox Pinot Noir incorporate fruit from the Adelaide Hills. New kids on the block include The Cenophilic Cat Sagrantino/Cinsault, The Wild Pixie (Shiraz/Roussanne) and The Love Grass Shiraz. The latter, a characterful, textured, savoury Shiraz incorporates dashes of Petit Verdot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Viognier and Tempranillo and is the first of the new "Out of the Square" experimental wines. A sparkling Chambourcin called Peppermint Paddock and a fortified Shiraz are also made.

- **Shiraz** Dead Arm★★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Footbolt★★★★ £C
- **Shiraz** The Love Grass★★★★ £C
- **Shiraz/Viognier** Laughing Magpie★★ £D
- **Shiraz/Grenache** D'Arny's Original★★ £C
- **Grenache/Shiraz/Mourvedre** Ironstone Pressings★★★★ £E
- **Mourvedre** Twenty-Eight Road★★★★ £D
- **Grenache** Custodian★★ £C ● **Grenache** Derelict Vineyard★★ £D
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Coppermine Road★★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** High Trellis★ £C
- **Galvo Garage**★★ £C ● **Sticks & Stones**★★★★ £C
- **Sauvignon** Broken Fishplate★ £C
- **Riesling** Dry Dam★ £B ● **Riesling** Wrinkled Noble★★★★ £D
- **Chardonnay** Other Side★★ £C ● **Chardonnay** Olive Grove★ £B
- **Roussanne** Money Spider★★ £C
- **Viognier** Last Ditch★★ £C
- **Marsanne/Viognier** Hermit Crab★ £B

## DUTSCHKE Barossa Valley [www.dutschkewines.com](http://www.dutschkewines.com)

Dutschke & Semmler Lot 1, God's Hill Road, Lyndoch SA 5351

Tel: 08 8524 5485 Fax: 08 8524 5489

Shiraz is the thrust of this operation for wines made by Wayne Dutschke from vines belonging to his uncle, Ken Semmler. St Jakobi, with an almost coonutty American-oak influence (60%), displays a deep fruit succulence and plenty

of extract. Although oaky it has depth and character and deserves to be judged with 5 years' bottle age or more. By contrast, Oscar Semmler, the top *cuvée*, is aged in 100% French oak. It is marvellously profound with terrific potential if cellared for at least 5–8 years. While not cheap, quality is commensurate with price. Willowbend (a second label) Chardonnay and Shiraz/Merlot/ Cabernet are enthusiastically consumed locally. Some fortified wines are also made to a high standard.

- **Shiraz** Oscar Semmler★★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** St Jakob★★★★ £E

**>> JOHN DUVAL Barossa Valley** [www.johnduvalwines.com](http://www.johnduvalwines.com)

*John Duval PO Box 622, Tanunda SA 5352*  
*Tel: 08 8563 2591 Fax: 08 8563 0372*

After 29 years at PENFOLDS, during which time he was Chief Wine Maker for 16 years, John Duval struck out on his own in 2003. Unsurprisingly for the man who made Grange for many years, old vine Barossa Valley Shiraz is at the heart of what he does. However, Duval is not seeking to recreate the powerful, muscular style of Grange. Rather, his source of inspiration is Penfolds RWT Barossa Valley Shiraz, a wine which he was instrumental in creating because he wanted to realise the Barossa's potential to produce elegant Shiraz using French oak. Grapes are sourced from pockets of excellence across the Barossa. The wines are long and layered, characterised by fleshy berry fruit of terrific purity supported by ripe, polished tannins. Plexus shows the characteristic red cherry notes of Grenache, but the style is more restrained and pleasingly drier in perception than is typical for the Barossa. Though rich and involving, Entity Shiraz shows a light hand in terms of oak and extraction. Flagship Eligo is more iron fist in velvet glove, showing denser layers of fruit well met by powerful but ripe tannins. (SA)

- **Eligo Shiraz** Barossa Valley★★★★★ £F
- **Entity Shiraz** Barossa Valley★★★★★ £E
- **Plexus** (Shiraz/Grenache/Mourvedre) Barossa Valley★★★★★ £D

**ELDERTON Barossa Valley** [www.eldertonwines.com.au](http://www.eldertonwines.com.au)

*Lorraine Ashmead 3–5 Tanunda Road, Nurioopta SA 5355*  
*Tel: 08 8568 7878 Fax: 08 8568 7879*

An unashamedly oaky, full-throttle style has earned this winery a devoted following. The wines are not to everyone's taste but the best examples have a rich fruit core as they are based on old-vine Barossa Valley fruit. The estate is small in Australian terms with less than 30ha of vineyards, together with a more recently acquired 16ha in Eden Valley. Another recent development is bio-dynamic trials and the environmental credentials are underlined by the winery's carbon neutral status. American oak has been traditionally favoured, the oak once found in nearly all South Australian wineries, which adds intense vanilla, spice, even coconut flavours to the wines. Most successful and sought-after wine is the Command Shiraz. It is very singular and concentrated, the essence of fruit and oak, usually still a baby even with 5–10 years' age. The equivalent Cabernet Sauvignon, the single vineyard Ashmead with rich fruit is aged only in French oak - as is Merlot. Estate Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon are opulent with good fruit intensity. Ode to Lorraine (CSM has been renamed after co-founder Lorraine Ashmead) is not a Rhône blend but what is now an unusual blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and Merlot. Similarly, with effect from the 2008 Vintage, co-founder Neil Ashmead is honoured with Neil Ashmead GTS (Grand Tourer Shiraz), a limited production wine from a biodynamic trial block which is aged in 100% new French oak barrels on gross lees (not tasted). Riesling and Chardonnay are also made and offer plenty of upfront flavour if not much else and are best drunk with just a couple of years' age (Eden Valley Chardonnay has not been tasted). An intensely flavoured dessert wine, Botrytis Semillon (or Golden Semillon), is made from Riverina fruit, while the E Series Shiraz/Cabernet is a flavoursome budget red from wider origins. (SA)

- **Shiraz** Command★★★★★ £F ● **Shiraz**★★★★★ £D
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Ashmead Single Vineyard★★★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Shiraz Merlot** Ode to Lorraine★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★★★ £C
- **Merlot**★★★★★ £C

**RALPH FOWLER Mount Benson** [www.ralphfowlerwines.com.au](http://www.ralphfowlerwines.com.au)

*R & D Fowler Lot 101, Limestone Coast Road, Mount Benson SA 5275*  
*Tel: 08 8768 5000 Fax: 08 8768 5008*

Established in the up-and-coming coastal area of Mount Benson in 1999. The

40ha of estate vineyards include Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and Viognier. Ralph Fowler (of diverse Australian winemaking experience) currently makes both Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon from a blend of Mount Benson and Coonawarra fruit. Both reds show good fleshy texture, depth and definition although the Cabernet can show a cooler but not excessive minty, herbal component. The winemaking has been entrusted to Sarah Squires since 2005. Sauvignon Blanc and Viognier are also made.

- **Shiraz** Limestone Coast★★★★★ £D
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Limestone Coast★★★★★ £D

**FOX CREEK McLaren Vale** [www.foxcreekwines.com.au](http://www.foxcreekwines.com.au)

*J&H Watts, J&L Roberts, P Watts Malpas Road, Willunga SA 5172*  
*Tel: 08 8556 2403 Fax: 08 8556 2104*

This young but already much acclaimed McLaren Vale operation is based on vineyards established by the Watt family in 1985. Since 1995 Fox Creek has made rich, ripe and succulent reds with a measure of (mostly) American oak, sometimes lacking finesse and real style. The first wines were made by Sparky Marquis of Mollydooker but are now made by Scott Zrna. Reserve Shiraz is the leading red and more than any other displays the potency and character of McLaren Vale. Though the varieties are different, there is also classic expression in a more forward but ripe and stylish JSM Shiraz/Cabernet Franc (and a little Cabernet Sauvignon). Reserve Cabernet is rich and earthy with a firm finish. Other reds are less exciting. Merlot and a new Cabernet/Merlot, Duet, show adequate balance and ripeness but lack style and definition. Vixen is a well-balanced if not first-division example of a sparkling Shiraz-based red (but includes both Cabernets). The pick of the whites is a Verdelho with an intense, flavour-some varietal character. Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc have delicious ripe tropical fruit and citrus flavours but need to be drunk very young.

- **Shiraz** Reserve★★★★★ £F ● **Shiraz** Short Row★★★ £C
- **Shiraz/Cabernet Franc** JSM★★★★★ £C
- **Sparkling Shiraz/Cabernet Franc** Vixen★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Reserve★★★ £D ● **Merlot** Reserve★ £D
- **Chardonnay**★ £B ○ **Verdelho**★★★ £B
- **Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc**★ £B
- **Sauvignon Blanc**★ £B

**GEMTREE McLaren Vale** [www.gemtreevineyards.com.au](http://www.gemtreevineyards.com.au)

*Buttery family 184 Main Road, McLaren Vale SA 5171*  
*Tel: 08 8323 8199 Fax: 08 8323 7889*

The Buttery family have more than 130ha of vines and have been grape growers since 1980 if only producing their own range of wines since 1998. A 10ha wetlands project was also initiated in the same year. Since 2008, the entire estate has been farmed biodynamically by viticulturalist Melissa Buttery whose winemaker husband Mike Brown uses open-fermenters and a hands-off approach to vinification. Brown is not afraid to experiment and the style (and portfolio) is evolving beyond richly-textured, expressive fruit-accented reds also to encompass wines of exciting vibrancy. A case in point is White Lees Shiraz, aged on Chardonnay lees which Brown has discovered increases the total acidity. Alternative varieties, notably Tempranillo and Savagnin (originally thought to be Albarino) also bring another interesting dimension, the former making for an unconventional Cadenzia (McLaren Vale Grenache-led blend). Tatty Road is a Cabernet-based Bordeaux blend with a substantial proportion of Petit Verdot. Bloodstone Shiraz oozes flavour and complexity while Bloodstone Tempranillo (now called Luna Roja) shows more sinewy, savoury tannins. Perhaps the most striking wine is the Uncut Shiraz with pristine McLaren fruit richness and depth. Obsidian Shiraz is still deeper and darker but more pricey too. For white, the Citrine Chardonnay is a flavoursome peach and melon fruited example for drinking fairly young. New from the 2005 vintage is The Phantom, a varietal Petit Verdot.

- **Shiraz** Obsidian★★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Cadenzia★★★★★ £D
- **Shiraz** White Lees Shiraz★★★★★ £D
- **Shiraz** Uncut★★★★★ £D
- **Shiraz** Bloodstone★★★★★ £C
- **Tempranillo** Luna Roja★★★★★ £D
- **Tatty Road**★★★★★ £B
- **Chardonnay** Citrine★★★ £C
- **Savagnin** Moonstone★★★ £D

# South Australia

## **GLAETZER Barossa Valley** www.glaetzer.com

Colin & Ben Glaetzer 34 Barossa Valley Way, Tanunda, SA 5352  
Tel: 08 8563 0288 Fax: 08 8563 0218

Colin Glaetzer and his son (and winemaking whizz) Ben (also see MITOLO) have really lifted the quality of their own wines in recent vintages. Grapes come from unirrigated vineyards in the Ebenezer district of the Barossa Valley. The top wines are now very good indeed, not the blockbusters of old but more sophisticated, expressive wines with at least a suggestion of *terroir*. Tiny amounts are made of Amon-Ra, an unfiltered Shiraz produced from 100-year-old vines and aged in French and American oak. Very concentrated and very intense, it has a fabulous fruit expression with plum, carob, blackberry and preserved black fruits but above all is very complete and very classy – best with at least 5-10 years age. The very stylish Barossa Valley Shiraz (from vines over 80 years old) is fermented in open fermenters and aged in American oak. It has classic Barossa style with black plum, licorice, tar, earth and berry richness as well as great length and intensity. More affordable are Bishop Shiraz and Wallace Shiraz/Grenache. These are supple and characterful with plenty of fruit, the latter almost like a Côtes du Rhône. Also tasted is Bush Vine Semillon but this is now only available at the cellar door. Anaperenna, made since 04 and initially labelled Godolphin, is a Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon blend (70/30) that is very ripe, concentrated and powerful, needing at least 6 years age.

- **Amon-Ra Shiraz**★★★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** Barossa Valley★★★★ £E
- **Anaperenna** Barossa Valley★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Bishop★★★ £E
- **Shiraz/Grenache** Wallace★★★ £C

## **GREENOCK CREEK Barossa Valley**

Michael & Annabelle Waugh Radford Road, Seppeltsfield SA 5360  
Tel: 08 8562 8103 Fax: 08 8562 8259

The aim here is for very low yields from unirrigated plots. The grapes are harvested very late, and the wines reveal unusual, almost exotic, ripe flavours and a preserved fruits character. The alcohol levels are high but the wines are balanced. For Shiraz, the Apricot Block is perhaps the most promising vineyard but is quite young; shortcomings in initial releases will be overcome with a little more age. By contrast Creek Block is planted with very old vines, some 80 years old, but the wines are slightly coarse, even jammy, though they don't lack for character. The best wine (at least of those without a completely silly price) is the Seven Acre Shiraz. It has a particularly pronounced preserved fruits profile and reveals real power and intensity on the palate. Cornerstone Grenache (from old vines) and Cabernet Sauvignon usually also show what is possible from the best unirrigated vines. All the wines are expensive due to very low yields, the resultant meagre quantities and their cult status. Also made in tiny quantities but sold for astronomical prices are Roennfeldt Road Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz. New from 2000 is Alice's Block Shiraz.

- **Shiraz** Seven Acre★★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** Creek Block★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** Apricot Block★★★ £G
- **Grenache** Cornerstone★★★★ £F
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★ £F

## **GROSSET Clare Valley** www.grosset.com.au

Jeffrey Grosset King Street, Auburn SA 5451  
Tel: 08 8849 2175 Fax: 08 8849 2292

Jeffrey Grosset is an Australian superstar and deserves to be as well-known as the country's many sporting greats (in some circles he is). Outstanding Riesling, Chardonnay and Gaia Bordeaux blend all show pristine fruit, wonderful symmetry and excellent concentration and have proven ageability. There are now three Rieslings. First, the fine, intense floral and lime Springvale Watervale (now made from 100% own fruit) is made in greater quantity though there is still not much of it; Polish Hill is tighter and characterised by minerals; starting out austere, it particularly benefits from ageing. Both deserve 5 years or more. New from the 2010 vintage is the Off-Dry Riesling, the third Grosset has made but the first this perfectionist is happy to release under his eponymous label. Like the Rieslings and Chardonnay, a pure understated Semillon/Sauvignon blend is one of the best Australian examples of its type. Drink young or with 5 years or more. The compelling Gaia, 75% Cabernet Sauvignon with the balance from Cabernet Franc and Merlot, impresses for its style, complexity and depth. It makes a stark contrast to some of the

overoaked, alcoholic monsters made by others. Grosset produces a little Pinot Noir from two vineyards in the Adelaide Hills. It is increasingly refined with a velvety texture and good detail and dimension. All the wines are made in relatively small quantities and are reasonably priced for the quality.

- **Gaia**★★★★ £F
- **Pinot Noir**★★★★ £E
- **Riesling** Polish Hill★★★★ £E
- **Riesling** Watervale★★★★ £D
- **Riesling** Off-Dry★★★★ £D
- **Chardonnay** Piccadilly★★★★ £E
- **Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc**★★★★ £D

## **RICHARD HAMILTON McLaren Vale** www.hamiltonwines.com

Hamilton Wine Group Main Road, Willunga SA 5172  
Tel: 08 8556 2288 Fax: 08 8556 2868

Richard Hamilton's McLaren Vale operation shouldn't be confused with Hugh Hamilton, though the extensive family connections run back to one of South Australia's first winemakers. His winemaking team produces some intense, characterful McLaren Vale wines, even if in some years they have lacked balance. Centurion 100-Year-Old Vines Shiraz, Gump's Block Shiraz and Burton's Vineyard Old Bush Vine Grenache/Shiraz show good depth and weight, very ripe fruit and often a measure of mint, eucalyptus and gamey notes. Marion's Vineyard Grenache/Shiraz is, like PENFOLDS' Magill, unusual in being a vineyard in the suburbs of Adelaide and shares Magill's flavour intensity. Other wines include Hut Block Cabernets, which has a percentage of Merlot and Cabernet Franc but a tendency to slightly underripe tannins, and Merlot, both a Lot 148 version and the better, French-oaked Reserve Egremont made in part from Coonawarra fruit. Of the whites, the Signature Chardonnay accentuates ripe melony flavours and oak but not at the expense of balance, while Slate Quarry Riesling is also made, somewhat surprisingly, from local McLaren Vale fruit. The Hamilton Wine Group also own LECONFIELD.

- **Shiraz** Centurion 100 Year Old Vines★★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** Gump's Block★★ £C
- **Grenache/Shiraz** Burton's Vineyard★★★ £D
- **Grenache/Shiraz** Marion Vineyard★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Signature★★ £B

## **HARDYS McLaren Vale** www.hardys.com.au

Constellation Wines Reynell Road, Reynella SA 5161  
Tel: 08 8392 2222 Fax: 08 8392 2202

Hardys is one of the great names of Australian wine even if the premium Hardys wines are marginally less well-known than those of some of their rivals. The Eileen Hardy label is reserved for an outstanding Shiraz, a rich, powerful if occasionally slightly over-oaked Chardonnay and new in 2010, a deep fruited, velvety Pinot Noir. These are sourced from the company's best vineyards, which can extend as far as Tasmania for the Chardonnay and Western Australia for the Shiraz. Brawny, extracted Thomas Hardy Cabernet, made since 1989, is now sourced entirely from Coonawarra. It has terrific depth and can evolve into an equally impressive, if less consistent red. Without the cult status of these flagship wines, the Tintara Limited Release Shiraz and Grenache (both McLaren Vale) are full, concentrated and more affordable, if difficult to obtain outside Australia. The Shiraz is open-fermented and basket-pressed like the Eileen Hardy and offers rich succulent fruit. Tintara's rich but characterful single vineyard range of McLaren Vale Shiraz provides an opportunity to explore the region's sub-zonal differences. Hardys sparkling wines, however, show an extra degree of finesse and intensity over most Australian sparklers, as seen in the top two examples, the vintage-dated Sir James Vintage and premium Arras, both Tasmania and Yarra Valley-sourced Pinot Noir/Chardonnay blends. Of the cheaper, everyday brands Nottage Hill varietals are slightly more expensive than the Stamps of Australia dual-variety blends, but offer more than the price differential suggests. The Oomoo range, relaunched to celebrate Hardys' 150th anniversary in 2003, revives a 19th-century label, meaning good. The textured, spicy Grenache Shiraz Mourvedre is particularly good.

- **Shiraz** Eileen Hardy★★★★ £G
- **Pinot Noir** Eileen Hardy★★★★ £G
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Thomas Hardy★★★★ £G
- **Shiraz** Tintara Limited Release★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** Tintara Blewitt Springs★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** Tintara McLaren Flat★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** Tintara Upper Tintara★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** Tintara Clarendon★★★ £F

- **Grenache** Tintara Limited Release★★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** Oomoo★★★ £C
- **Grenache Shiraz Mourvèdre** Oomoo★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Eileen Hardy★★★★ £F
- **Chardonnay** Oomoo Hardy★★★ £C

## HEARTLAND [www.heartlandwines.com.au](http://www.heartlandwines.com.au)

*B Glaetzer, S Collett, G Hardy & G Tilbrook Greenhill Road, Eastwood, SA5063*  
*Tel: 08 8357 9344 Fax: 08 8357 9388*

This joint venture draws in grapes from the Limestone Coast, McLaren Vale, Langhorne Creek and Barossa Valley, mostly from vineyards owned by the four partners who include winemaker Ben Glaetzer (GLAETZER) and viticulturalist Geoff Hardy (PERTARINGA). They manage to combine both quality and volume with the bonus of reasonable prices. Particularly impressive is the Limestone Coast-sourced Directors Cut Shiraz (with a Langhorne Creek component since 2003). Profound, intense and concentrated, this is a stylish and individual wine with a subtle cool streak running through it. Also good are Limestone Coast Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. There's lots of fruit and character too in the unusual blends, white Pinot Gris with a dash of Viognier (originally a Viognier/Pinot Gris, now labelled Pinot Gris) and red Dolcetto/Lagrein. Inexpensive Stickleback red and white are well made with good fruit.

- **Shiraz** Directors' Cut★★★★ £D
- **Shiraz** Langhorne Creek/Limestone Coast★★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Langhorne Creek/Limestone Coast★★★★ £C
- **Dolcetto/Lagrein** Langhorne Creek★★★ £C
- **Stickleback Red**★★★ £B ○ **Stickleback White**★★★ £B
- **Pinot Gris** Langhorne Creek★★★ £C

## HEATHVALE Eden Valley [www.heathvale.com](http://www.heathvale.com)

*Trevor & Faye March Saw Pit Gully Road, via Kyneton, SA 5353*  
*Tel: 08 8564 8248 Fax: 08 8564 8248*

The Heathvale Vineyard has vinous roots going back to 1865 but its modern incarnation begins with the new planting begun by Trevor and Faye March in 1987. The first wines came 10 years later and there are now 10ha split between Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Chardonnay and Riesling. A trained viticulturalist, Trevor March enlists the help of Ben Radford and Jim Irvine for intense, ripe, richly textured wines. From 2008, wines are made on site in the new winery. Shiraz is given a cold soak (pre-fermentation maceration) and aged in mostly French, mostly used oak. It is very distinctive with concentrated very ripe fruit and a hint of eucalyptus and smoke. Chardonnay is whole-bunch-pressed but doesn't go through a malolactic fermentation although it does have extended ageing on lees (with *bâtonnage*). It has excellent fruit – ripe stone fruits and a tropical component – and good breadth and balance. Cabernet Sauvignon and Riesling will be added with further tastings.

- **Shiraz** Eden Valley★★★ £E
- **Chardonnay** Eden Valley/Barossa★★★★ £D

## HENRY'S DRIVE [www.henrysdive.com](http://www.henrysdive.com)

*Longbottom family PO Box 9, Padthaway SA 5271*  
*Tel: 08 8765 5251 Fax: 08 8765 5180*

*Mollydooker winemakers* Sparky and Sarah Marquis have been succeeded by Renae Hirsch and Kim Jackson at this large Padthaway estate established in 1998. It is planted in the main to Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz but also to Chardonnay and Merlot. Shiraz and Cabernet are both distinctive and intense with good balance and texture. From the 2000 vintage the Shiraz has a gravelly, toasty, spicy, berry fruit in contrast to the cooler more minty, eucalyptus and blackcurrant-leaf character of the Cabernet. The Shiraz is aged in new American oak while the Cabernet receives mostly French oak. Reserve Shiraz was added in 1999 and a Reserve Cabernet has been made since 2000; both are more full-on with more extract and structure. Definitely a producer to watch as this range continues to develop. A Sparkling Shiraz is also made and Pillar Box range, first produced in consultation with Chris RINGLAND in 2004, represents good bang for buck.

- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Reserve★★★★ £F
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Reserve★★★★ £F ● **Shiraz**★★★★ £E

## HENSCHKE Eden Valley [www.henschke.com.au](http://www.henschke.com.au)

*Stephen & Prue Henschke Henschke Road, Keyneton SA 5353*  
*Tel: 08 8564 8223 Fax: 08 8564 8294*

In the mid-to-late 1980s many of these fabulous reds could be bought for a

song but eventually the rest of the world got to taste them and this, added to the explosion in wine prices in the 90s, now usually means making do with something cheaper. Since 1979, Stephen Henschke has been fine-tuning these already well-established single-vineyard-based reds while his wife Prue has maintained and gradually renewed the existing vineyard resources. There are now 115ha of estate vineyards recently converted to biodynamic regime; the largest segment (50ha) in the Eden Valley. Carefully seasoned American oak is favoured and red wine fermentations are now finished in new oak. Fabulous fruit in a full, supple, lushly textured wine is the classic Henschke style, with additional depth and dimension in the top wines. The most celebrated, and necessarily expensive vineyard, the 8-ha Hill of Grace, includes a parcel of vines (Grandfathers Block) that date in part from the 1860s. From close by, Mount Edelstone (the first to be bottled separately in 1952) is arguably more consistent, with more pepper and spice character, if missing the extra majesty of Hill of Grace. Cyril Henschke Cabernet, previously entirely Cabernet Sauvignon, now includes a little Merlot and Cabernet Franc and shows superb pure blackberry, cassis fruit and fine grained tannins. The ageing potential of all 3 top reds is well proven. Abbott's Prayer is based on Merlot but supplemented by both Cabernets and sees only French oak. Like the recently introduced Grenache-dominated blend, Johann's Garden, it is almost immediately drinkable but has real depth and concentration too. Newish Henry's Seven is a stylish blend of Shiraz, Grenache and Viognier. From a start in the early 1990s whites have steadily improved, particularly the intense, taut and concentrated (and ageworthy) Lenswood Croft Chardonnay and Eden Valley Louis Semillon. There's good varietal intensity in Crane's Chardonnay, Julius Riesling and Joseph's Hill Gewürztraminer, all from Eden Valley fruit. A second Riesling, Green's Hill is sourced from the Adelaide Hills as is Littlehampton Pinot Gris (£D). Also made but not tasted are Sauvignon (Coralina - £D) and Pinot Noir (Giles - £E). Tilly's Vineyard is a very gluggable blend of Semillon, Chardonnay and Sauvignon.

- **Shiraz** Hill of Grace★★★★ £H
- **Shiraz** Mount Edelstone★★★★ £F
- **Cabernet** Cyril Henschke★★★★ £F ● **Abbott's Prayer**★★★★ £F
- **Shiraz/Cabernet/Merlot** Keyneton Estate★★★★ £E
- **Grenache/Mourvèdre/Shiraz** Johann's Garden★★★★ £D
- **Henry's Seven**★★★★ £D
- **Semillon** Louis★★★★ £D
- **Chardonnay** Croft★★★★ £E ○ **Chardonnay** Crane's★★★★ £C
- **Riesling** Julius★★★★ £D ○ **Riesling** Green's Hill★★★ £C
- **Gewürztraminer** Joseph's Hill★★★ £D
- **Gewürztraminer** Tilly's Vineyard★★★ £C

## HEWITSON [www.hewitson.com.au](http://www.hewitson.com.au)

*Dean Hewitson 66 London Road, Mile End SA 5041*  
*Tel: 08 8443 6466 Fax: 08 8443 6866*

Dean Hewitson secured long-term contracts for fruit from some remarkable old vineyards in the Barossa, Eden Valley and McLaren Vale. As both a Roseworthy and UC Davis graduate, and with extensive winemaking experience both at PETALUMA and abroad, he also has the know-how to make an accomplished range of wines, especially now he has built a made-to-measure winery. Beyond an intense, powerfully flavoured if broad Riesling are 5 fine reds plus Private Cellar, a blend of "the best and most idiosyncratic from each vintage" (not tasted). Miss Harry Dry Grown & Ancient is from old-vine Barossa Grenache, Shiraz and Mourvèdre (45/40/15 in the 2003) and is flavoursome, balanced and a very drinkable style. Two Shirazes provide a fascinating contrast: the fig, prune and black plum Barossa character of Ned & Henry's is a foil for the more ambitious and extracted McLaren Vale example with its mint, eucalypt and intense berry fruit depth. Good as these are, they are surpassed by a superb Mourvèdre from the Old Garden vineyard probably the oldest vineyard (planted 1853) of this variety in the world. There is a marvellous old-vine, pre-*phylloxera* earth, spice and black fruits complexity to this most individual wine. Fruit for spicy Baby Bush Mourvèdre, first made in 2006, is sourced from Old garden cuttings and readily reveals its heritage. Also made but not tasted is Mermaids Muscadelle, a rare dry varietal version of this grape.

- **Shiraz** Mad hatter McLaren Vale★★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** Ned & Henry's Barossa Valley★★★★ £D
- **Miss Harry** Dry Grown & Ancient★★★ £C
- **Mourvèdre** Old Garden Barossa Valley★★★★ £E
- **Mourvèdre** Baby Bush★★★★ £D
- **Riesling** Eden Valley★★★ £C

# South Australia

## **HOLLICK** Coonawarra [www.hollick.com](http://www.hollick.com)

*Hollick family Cnr Ravenswood Lane & Riddoch Hwy, Coonawarra SA 5263*  
*Tel: 08 8737 2318 Fax: 08 8737 2952*

Now a first-rate producer that shows what Coonawarra is all about across a range of varieties. The Hollicks have 52ha of vineyards in Coonawarra and another 20ha in the emerging Wrattobully region – small amounts by Coonawarra standards. Ian Hollick oversees a diverse range of very well-made wines with good intensity and extra depth in a range of top (Icon) reds that add refinement and complexity with age. All three have a black label; Ravenswood comes from the best parcels of Cabernet Sauvignon, while Wilgha Shiraz and newish Neilson's Block Merlot are site-specific. Ravenswood shows good varietal definition and intelligent use of oak and becomes sleek and stylish with 5 years' age or more. The range also includes whites: Chardonnay (both Unoaked and an expansive, ageworthy oaked Reserve), and a Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon. Other reds include distinctive stylish (and good value) Pinot Noir, Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon (predominantly Shiraz), a Wrattobully Shiraz (not tasted) and regular Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon. This last (around 20% Merlot) shows increased richness in the most recent vintages. From Wrattobully, alternative varieties Tempranillo and Sangiovese, the latter blended with Cabernet and labelled "Hollala", show promise. As well as an intensely berryish Sparkling Merlot, a Pinot Noir/Chardonnay sparkler is produced. An attractive, light sweet wine, The Nectar, is also produced and is composed of around 80% Riesling with the balance from Sauvignon Blanc and/or Semillon.

- Cabernet Sauvignon Ravenswood★★★★ £D
- Cabernet Sauvignon Coonawarra★★★★ £C
- Merlot Neilson's Block★★★ £D
- Shiraz Wilgha★★★★ £E
- Tempranillo Wrattobully★★★ £C
- Sangiovese/Cabernet Sauvignon Wrattobully★★★ £C
- Pinot Noir★★★ £C ● Sparkling Merlot★★ £D
- Chardonnay Reserve★★★ £B
- Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Coonawarra★★ £C

## **JACOB'S CREEK/ORLANDO** Barossa Valley [www.jacobscreek.com.au](http://www.jacobscreek.com.au)

*Pernod-Ricard Barossa Valley Way, Rowland Flat SA 5352*  
*Tel: 08 8521 3000 Fax: 08 8521 3003*

The success of a single brand, namely Jacob's Creek, seems to have swallowed the image of the parent company here. Internationally at least, once-premium Orlando labels are giving way to the expanding Jacob's Creek range. Riesling has long been a strength here and is well suited the house style, which aims for approachable but balanced varietal expressions. Other varieties that stand out in the classic entry level include the Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz Cabernet, Merlot and Tempranillo, the latter probably the best Australian version at this price point. Jacob's Creek Reserves are generally a significant improvement on the basics and 2010 sees the release of single region reserve wines which should deliver added personality. At the top of the tree is the "Heritage" range. It comprises Johann Shiraz Cabernet, a well-structured, deeply concentrated multi regional blend, the rich, quite oaky Reeves Point Chardonnay (also multi-regional) and two single region wines: St Hugo Cabernet Sauvignon from Coonawarra, a medium weight, savoury style and Steingarten Riesling from the Barossa – a complex and ageworthy Riesling with impressive minerality. Relatively inexpensive Jacob's Creek sparkling Chardonnay/Pinot Noir is also made and has recently been joined by a well made Blanc de Blancs. Also relatively new is the well made Three Vines range, which comprises a white and two reds each composed of three varieties, one of which is of Mediterranean provenance. Pitched mid-way between the Jacobs Creek Classic and Reserve ranges, Three Vines offers a point of difference with a little more texture and layer than the single varietal alternatives.

- Shiraz Jacob's Creek Reserve★★ £B
- Shiraz/Cabernet Jacob's Creek Johann★★★★ £F
- Cabernet Sauvignon Jacob's Creek St Hugo★★★★ £E
- Shiraz/Grenache/Mourvedre Jacob's Creek Three Vines★★ £B
- Shiraz/Grenache/Tempranillo Jacob's Creek Three Vines★★ £B
- Cabernet Sauvignon Jacob's Creek Reserve★★ £B
- Chardonnay Reeves Point★★ £B
- Chardonnay Jacob's Creek Reserve★★ £B
- Semillon/Sauvignon/Viognier Jacob's Creek Three Vines★★ £B
- Riesling Steingarten★★★★ £C

- Riesling Jacob's Creek Reserve★★ £B
- Chardonnay Jacob's Creek Blanc de Blancs★ £C
- Riesling Jacob's Creek Three Vines★ £B

## **KALLESKE** Barossa Valley [www.kalleske.com](http://www.kalleske.com)

*Kalleske family PO Box 650, Greenock SA 5360*  
*Tel: 04 0381 1433 Fax: 08 8562 8118*

This relatively new Barossa enterprise but with a deep heritage of grape growing near Greenock. Troy Kalleske working with his brother Tony only made the first wines in 2004 (previously the grapes were sold to the likes of Penfolds) but has already made a huge impact with the quality of the wines. Certified organic, the nearly 50ha of vineyard which is still worked by their father, John, has a high average vine age (around 50 years old). While Shiraz and Grenache dominate there is also a sprinkling of other varieties including Mourvèdre and even Tempranillo and Zinfandel. Already remarkably impressive is the Greenock Shiraz which is fermented in open-top fermenters and basket pressed prior to ageing in a combination of new French and American oak. Concentrated, elegant and old viney it exhibits fabulous style without being the least bit heavy. It is very reasonably priced for the quality. Also made is a tiny amount of Johann Georg Shiraz from vines the first of which were planted in 1875, an Old Vine Grenache which have not yet been tasted, Eduard Shiraz, Moppa Shiraz, all single vineyard wines. Clarry's is a moderately priced Grenache-based blend topped up with Shiraz (20%) which has splendid purity and expression. Other wines include Florentine Chenin Blanc and Rosina Rosé which will be added with further tastings. Finally, Pirathon is a Shiraz made from prime growers' fruit, all sourced from the North West of the barossa, which the Kalleskes rate most highly.

- Shiraz Greenock Barossa Valley★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Eduard Barossa Valley★★★★ £F
- Clarry's Barossa Red GSM★★★★ £C

## **KATNOOK ESTATE** Coonawarra [www.katnookestate.com.au](http://www.katnookestate.com.au)

*Freixenet Riddoch Highway, Coonawarra SA 5263*  
*Tel: 08 8737 2394 Fax: 08 8737 2397*

As part of the Wingara Wine group (which also includes RIDDOKH and Deakin Estate), this Coonawarra stalwart was acquired the Cava giant FREIXENET in 2001. It continues to be directed, however, by Wayne Stehbins, who has made the wine in a 19th-century stone woolshed (used in the region's early vintages) for the past 20-odd years. Much of the grape production has been sold to others but Katnook's reds have been characterised by their intense, concentrated, ripe (often very ripe), sweet fruit and tight structures when young. Whites can show good intensity too but typically lack subtlety and refinement. While the estate Cabernet impresses, limited release Cabernet Sauvignon Odyssey and Shiraz Prodigy are of a different order to the regular Katnook Estate versions. With impressive complexity, depth and sheer class they age beautifully and, in top vintages, will keep 20 years plus. All the Katnook reds need at least 5 years' age; Riesling and Chardonnay are usually better with 3 years. Cabernet is the best of a second label range called Founder's Block. The Caledonian range, Cellar Door only, breaks out of the single varietal straight jacket and comprises small parcels of blended wines.

*Katnook Estate:*

- Cabernet Sauvignon Odyssey★★★★ £F
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★ £D
- Merlot★★ £D
- Shiraz Prodigy★★★★ £F ● Shiraz★★ £D
- Chardonnay★★ £C
- Sauvignon Blanc★★ £C

*Founders Block:*

- Cabernet Sauvignon★★ £C ● Shiraz★★ £C
- Chardonnay★ £B ○ Sauvignon Blanc★ £B

## **KAY BROTHERS** McLaren Vale [www.kaybrothersamerywines.com](http://www.kaybrothersamerywines.com)

*Colin Kay Kays Road, PO Box 19, McLaren Vale SA 5171*  
*Tel: 08 8323 8211 Fax: 08 8323 8201*

Kay Brothers Amery Vineyard is a true Australian original. Founded by Herbert and Frederick Kay in the late 19th century the winery has assumed a legendary status on account of an adherence to tradition and wines of remarkable complexity, structure and impressive longevity. The winery has the feel of a working museum as an original basket press and open-top fermenters continue to be used. Much of the fuss surrounds the scrum for a few bottles of Block 6

Shiraz. Many of the vines from this vineyard date from 1892 and are very low-yielding. After a moderately long-fermentation under a submerged cap the wine is aged for more than 2 years in a mix of new American and Eastern European oak. The wine shows a fabulous old vines complexity, quite unexpected elegance and purity and super intensity and length. Remarkably it can be drunk with just 5 or 6 years age but will keep for 20 or more. If you have to settle for the Hillside Shiraz you won't be missing that much. Concentrated and powerful with very fine crushed blackberry fruit and mineral, licorice nuances, this wine actually needs 10 years or more before it is ready. Readily affordable are the excellent regular Amery Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. The latter is a comparative disappointment after the top Shirazes but still packs a lot of intensity, density for relatively young vines and starts to open up after 4 or 5 years' ageing. A little fortified Muscat is also made.

- Shiraz Block 6★★★★★ £G
- Shiraz Hillside★★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Amery McLaren Vale★★★★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon Amery McLaren Vale★★★★★ £C

## KILIKANOON Clare Valley [www.kilikanoon.com.au](http://www.kilikanoon.com.au)

Kevin Mitchell, Nathan Waks & partners Penna Lane, Penwortham SA 5453  
Tel: 08 8843 4377 Fax: 08 8843 4246

Kilikanoon owns or controls over 500 ha of prime vineyards throughout South Australia but if you want to know what wines from the Clare can taste like try Kevin Mitchell's now outstanding range. Although he lacked his own wine-making facility until 2004, the grapes had always come from 20ha of estate vineyards. Shiraz in particular is a star - very old vine flagship Attunga 1865 (£F) is made only in exceptional years but, at less than half the price, Oracle and Covenant Shiraz command just as much respect, showing off the regional characteristics superbly and, since 02 tremendously concentrated as well. The Oracle has a more floral, berryish accent in contrast to a more classic, smoke, mineral- and earth-imbued intensity in the Covenant. An expressive Blocks Road Cabernet Sauvignon shows both its origins and the style and balance typical of the wines here with added concentrated and depth since 03. Mort's Block Riesling has deep fruit intensity and is very well-structured in the most recent vintages needing at least 3-4 years to show at its best. Even better is the Reserve with exceptional concentration and length, not unlike a top Pfalz *Grosses Gewächs* in style - give the 05 a minimum of 5 years. Another Riesling, Blacket's Vineyard is sourced from Eden Valley. Second Fiddle is a well-balanced, fruity Grenache-based rosé. The latest releases are particularly impressive and still very good value. Made since 01 is Medley, a very stylish blend of Grenache, Shiraz and Mourvèdre and since 02, Parable Shiraz - an intense eucalypt, herb and berryish McLaren Vale expression. Also new are the Killerman's Run wines which include Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and Grenache/Shiraz - the last (the only one tasted) shows superb fruit and good depth. Several other limited production Shiraz are produced by Kevin Mitchell beyond the Clare from very low yielding vines. These include Testament Shiraz, Barossa 'R', Secret Places, Baroota reserve and a Greens Reserve (from the Greens Vineyard) in the Barossa and 'M' Reserve from McLaren Vale. (SA)

### Kilikanoon:

- Shiraz Oracle Clare Valley★★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Covenant Clare Valley★★★★★ £D
- Shiraz Parable McLaren Vale★★★★★ £D
- Grenache Prodigal★★★★★ £D
- Medley★★★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon Blocks Road Clare Valley★★★★★ £C
- Riesling Mort's Block Watervale★★★★ £C
- Riesling Mort's Block Reserve Watervale★★★★★ £D

### Killerman's Run:

- Shiraz/Grenache★★★★ £B
- Shiraz★★★★ £B
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★ £B

## KNAPPSTEIN Clare Valley [www.knappsteinwines.com.au](http://www.knappsteinwines.com.au)

Lion Nathan 2 Pioneer Avenue, Clare SA 5453  
Tel: 08 8842 2600 Fax: 08 8842 3831

An increasingly dependable producer with 100ha of well-established vineyards. Recently the wines have recently been made by Paul Smith and the reliable varieties remain moderately priced and widely available. The premium reds are sold under the Enterprise label, named for the historic former brewery in which the winery is housed. Enterprise Cabernet Sauvignon (which include a

very small percentage of Malbec) is made from the best parcels within the 30-year-old Knappstein Vineyard and Enterprise Shiraz is made from a selection of small plots in Clare Valley. Both show classic Clare fruit with good depth and concentration. New Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is even better. Of the improving whites, Semillon/Sauvignon is at the rich, ripe end of the spectrum. Riesling adds more intensity and is very good indeed including the Hand-Picked Clare Valley version, that labelled Single Vineyard in 04 and a Watervale Ackland Vineyard version from 05, coming from low-yielding unirrigated vines. Gewürztraminer displays a truer varietal character than in the past. An exotic new white called simply Three is based on Gewürztraminer, Riesling with a little Pinot Gris. A sparkling Shiraz, rather unneringly called Chainsaw, has also been introduced.

- Cabernet Sauvignon Single Vineyard★★★★★ £E
- Cabernet Sauvignon Enterprise★★★★ £D
- Shiraz Enterprise★★★★ £E
- Shiraz★★★★ £C
- Cabernet/Merlot★★★★ £C
- Chardonnay★ £B
- Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc★★★★ £B
- Gewürztraminer Dry Style★★★★ £B
- Three★★★★ £B
- Riesling Hand Picked★★★★ £B
- Riesling Watervale Ackland Vineyard★★★★ £C

## LAKE BREEZE Langhorne Creek [www.lakebreeze.com.au](http://www.lakebreeze.com.au)

Follett family Step Road, Langhorne Creek SA 5255  
Tel: 08 8537 3017 Fax: 08 8537 3267

One of the emerging quality producers from Langhorne Creek (on the opposite, eastern side of the Fleurieu Peninsula to McLaren Vale). Greg Follett makes the wines from a portion of his family's large holdings, the Folletts having been grape growers since the 1930s. The reds are very competently made; Bernoota is from Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon (generally equal parts of each) with good complexity and a well-defined palate, Cabernet Sauvignon is of similar quality. Arthur's Reserve, a well composed blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot has been made since 2001. Under a Winemaker's Selection label, both varietal Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz are made in the best years. If more oaky, they are more concentrated too. In 1999, the Follet family established the false Cape vineyard in the cool, maritime climate of Kangaroo Island (wines not tasted).

- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★ £E
- Arthur's Reserve★★★★★ £D
- Cabernet/Shiraz Bernoota★★★★ £D
- Shiraz Winemaker's Selection★★★★★ £E

## LANGMEIL Barossa Valley [www.langmeilwinery.com.au](http://www.langmeilwinery.com.au)

C & R Lindner, C Bitter cnr Para & Langmeil Roads, Tamunda SA 5352  
Tel: 08 8563 2595 Fax: 08 8563 3622

Langmeil is a young enterprising family-owned Barossa operation offering classic succulent, expressive Barossa reds at very reasonable prices. From 14.5ha of vineyards and contract grown fruit Paul Lindner brings out the real character of the Barossa through the use of a basket press and open-fermenters. There is arguably not the sophistication of the likes of Glaetzer yet much of the Barossa *terroir* and old vine style. Both Blacksmith's Cabernet Sauvignon and Valley Floor Shiraz offer good richness as well as depth. Both deserve 5-8 years' ageing although the Shiraz can be drunk sooner. Three Gardens is a soft, supple Shiraz/Grenache/Mourvèdre blend that can be drunk young or with 5 years' age. Similarly approachable is Hangin Snakes Shiraz Viognier, which is juicy with bright cherry and berry fruit, underscored by Barossa minerality. Small quantities of two premium reds are also made - Jackaman's Cabernet Sauvignon and The Freedom Shiraz. The latter comes from a single dry-farmed plot first planted in 1843 and has the same super concentration, formidable depth and terrific length of first division Barossa reds. It is also reasonably priced in this context. Other wines include Orphan Bank Shiraz, Kegelbahn Shiraz/Cabernet, The Fifth Wave Grenache, a sparkling Shiraz and whites Viognier, Chardonnay and Semillon.

- Shiraz The Freedom★★★★★ £G
- Cabernet Sauvignon Blacksmith's★★★★★ £D
- Shiraz Valley Floor★★★★★ £D
- Three Gardens★★★★ £C

## LEABROOK ESTATE Adelaide Hills [www.leabrookestate.com](http://www.leabrookestate.com)

Colin Best 2Corner Greenhill and Reserve Roads Balhannah SA 5242  
Tel/Fax: 08 8398 0421

Here near Lobethal in the Adelaide Hills, is a man inspired by Burgundy. From close-planted high density vineyards and the use of minimal irrigation to the use of high quality French cooperage and a prolonged cold soak for some of the reds, Colin Best has succeeded in producing wines of considerable intensity and depth. The first commercial quantities were only produced in 2000. The Reserve Pinot Noir is deep and complex, almost overwhelming in flavour but balanced and long, needing 6-8 years' age from a vintage like 2002.

Chardonnay has impressive richness and weight in a slightly exaggerated Burgundy style, just missing the refinement and purity that would put it amongst top Meursault. His methods work just as well with other varieties including a dense Cabernet Franc with raspberry and blackcurrant leaf intensity, full-flavoured Pinot Gris, fruit-rich Sauvignon and powerful spicy black-fruited Cabernet/Merlot. Three Region Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon are also Adelaide Hills sourced but include a small component of fruit from the Adelaide Plains and Langhorne Creek. While rich, ripe and intense there is a coarseness of flavour which may owe something to their origins - the Shiraz is much the better of the two with greater purity. Generally a little more purity and expression throughout the range would make it really first-rate. Arguably some of the wines would benefit from a slightly more relaxed, hands-off approach but at least you won't feel short-changed for flavour and substance.

- Chardonnay★★★★ £E
- Sauvignon Blanc★★★★ £D
- Pinot Gris★★★ £D
- Pinot Noir Reserve★★★★ £E
- Cabernet Franc★★★★ £D ● Merlot★★★ £E
- Cabernet/Merlot★★★★ £D
- Cabernet Sauvignon Three Region★★★ £E
- Shiraz Three Region★★★★ £E

## LEASINGHAM Clare Valley [www.leasingham-wines.com.au](http://www.leasingham-wines.com.au)

Constellation Wines 7 Dominic Street, Clare SA 5453  
Tel: 08 8842 2555 Fax: 08 8842 3293

The long-established winery which became Constellation Wines centre for Clare Valley excellence under Kerri Thompson (now making wine under her own label, KT & The Falcon and at Crabtree) has been mothballed and three of its four vineyards sold. Supplemented with bought in fruit the range remains simple and consistent. The Classic Clare wines are the most exciting, high in alcohol but packed full of rich, ripe fruit and abundant new oak; the Shiraz comes from the Schobers Vineyard and the Cabernet from Provis Vineyard. The oak theme continues in very good and reasonably priced Bin 61 Shiraz and Bin 56 Cabernet/Malbec. I suspect few of these reds are drunk with much age but all deserve 4 or 5 years. Mind you, a rich, untamed infusion of fruit and oak might appeal on some occasions. Prices of these dense, bold Classic Clare reds have risen considerably. Riesling is good with excellent limey, mineral intensity to the Bin 7. Classic Clare Riesling is made in a tighter, more ageworthy style.

- Shiraz Classic Clare★★★★ £F ● Shiraz Bin 61★★★ £D
- Cabernet Sauvignon Classic Clare★★★★ £F ● Cabernet/Malbec Bin 56★★ £D
- Riesling Bin 7★★ £C ○ Riesling Magnus★★ £C
- Sparkling Shiraz Classic Clare★★★ £C

## LECONFIELD Coonawarra [www.leconfield.com.au](http://www.leconfield.com.au)

Hamilton Wine Group Riddoch Highway, Coonawarra SA 5263  
Tel: 08 8737 2326 Fax: 08 8737 2385

Leconfield was established by Sydney Hamilton in the early 1970s but sold to his nephew Richard HAMILTON in 1981. The leading wine over more than 2 decades has been the Cabernet, which made a lasting impact with the 1980 vintage. Yet while some vintages have been very impressive with a deep, rich, assertive berry fruit character, other years have been somewhat leafy and unexpectedly light. Still, it delivers plenty of character and Coonawarra typicity for the money. Cabernet includes a little Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot but most other wines are 100% varietal. Of these, a more plummy, berryish, at times slightly herbal Merlot has been more consistent than a Shiraz which has occasionally been slightly lean after a much celebrated 1995. However all have refined structures and show archetypal Coonawarra character and fruit intensity when on form. Recent vintages of Chardonnay have shown more elegance, if not the intensity of the more one-dimensional early vintages. Flavoursome

yet refined Riesling is also made from surviving 1970s vines. The 02 reds and whites show what is possible here.

- Cabernet★★★★ £D ● Shiraz★★★★ £C
- Merlot★★★ £C
- Chardonnay★★★ £C
- Riesling Old Vines★★ £C

## PETER LEHMANN Barossa Valley [www.peterlehmannwines.com.au](http://www.peterlehmannwines.com.au)

Hess group Para Road, Tanunda SA 5352  
Tel: 08 8563 2100 Fax: 08 8563 3402

Peter Lehmann is a Barossa institution and a consistently sound bet for accessible but fruit-rich and well-structured Barossa reds. Production is large with much of the fruit grown under contract under the watchful eye of the Lehmann viticultural team. The numerous small parcels and a relatively limited number of wines put the emphasis on blends. The top wine, Stonewell Shiraz is released with 5 years' age and is based on low-yielding old vines in the Stonewell vineyards but also includes premium fruit from other Barossa districts. Previously aged only in American oak, since 1997 vintage the French component has steadily risen and currently stands at 90%. It shows terrific concentration, depth and intensity and has majestic proportions, just missing the extra refinement for classic status. Eight Songs, made since 1996 and aged only in French oak, has more recently shown greater character and complexity if not yet the refinement suggested by the artistic efforts to which its presentation is linked. Mentor, the premium Cabernet-based blend has also seen only French oak since 1998 and usually includes a significant percentage of Merlot, Malbec and Shiraz. Dense and structured, it is best with at least 6-10 years' age. New (since 2001) licorice, berry and plum The Futures Shiraz is a significant step up from the regular Barossa Valley Shiraz, which nonetheless remains reasonably priced for an impressive mouthful of fruit as does its Cabernet counterpart. Other Barossa-labelled reds are good too, including SGM, a blend of Shiraz, Grenache and Mourvèdre. Seven Surveys is an improving but relatively light version of the same. A powerful, ageworthy Reserve Riesling from Eden Valley now named Wigan after Chief Wine Maker Andrew Wigan is outstanding and easily the best of the whites closely followed by the Reserve Semillon (recently named Margaret in honour of Peter Lehmann's wife): both are only released with 4-5 years' bottle-age and show complex tertiary characteristics. Clancy's red is an everyday Barossa blend of Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc, while Weighbridge is a budget label for Shiraz and Chardonnay. Layer's Red (not tasted), first made in 2008 is a blend of traditional and alternative varieties (Shiraz, Mourvèdre, Grenache, Tempranillo and Carignan).

- Shiraz Stonewell★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Eight Songs★★★★ £E
- Shiraz The Futures★★★ £C ● Shiraz Barossa★★ £C
- Mentor★★★★ £D ● Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa★ £C
- SGM★★ £B ● Grenache Barossa★★ £B
- Grenache/Shiraz Barossa★ £B
- Seven Surveys★ £B ● Clancy's★ £B
- Riesling Reserve Wigan Eden Valley★★★★ £C
- Riesling Eden Valley★★ £B ○ Riesling Barossa★ £B
- Semillon Reserve Margaret Barossa★★★★ £C

## LINDEMANS Coonawarra & Padthaway [www.lindemans.com.au](http://www.lindemans.com.au)

Treasury Wine Estates Coonawarra SA 5263/ Padthaway SA 5271  
Tel: 08 8737 2613 Fax: 08 8737 2959

In Coonawarra, Lindemans (also see Victoria) makes a trio of top reds which can be traced back to the mid-1980s, in the case of Pyrus (a Bordeaux blend), and even longer for St George Cabernet and Limestone Ridge Shiraz/Cabernet. But despite some impressive past vintages these wines don't now stack up against the best from Coonawarra (which includes the premium WYNNS wines from the same stable). An initial fullness and fleshy texture and a pleasing complexity are let down by a lack of fruit intensity on the finish and a stinky, sappy quality that is often apparent. This seems to suggest a mix of good quality fruit and that of more mediocre origins. All 3 wines are significantly cheaper than the Wynns flagship wines but there are many better Coonawarra wines in their price range. By contrast generally good value is to be had in the Padthaway wines, particularly the Reserve Chardonnay with its pronounced barrel-fermentation character and rich fruit.

- Pyrus Coonawarra★★★ £E
- Cabernet Sauvignon St George★★ £E

- **Shiraz/Cabernet** Limestone Ridge★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Padthaway Reserve★★★ £C ● **Shiraz** Padthaway★ £B
- **Chardonnay** Padthaway Reserve★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Limestone Coast★ £B

**MAGLIERI McLaren Vale** www.maglieri.com.au  
*Treasury Wine Estates Douglas Gully Road, McLaren Flat SA 5171*  
 Tel: 08 8383 0177 Fax: 08 8383 0735

Captured in 1999 by Mildara Blass (now BERINGER BLASS), this relatively small McLaren Vale winery had already made a name for itself with premium reds under the direction of Steve Maglieri as for its locally popular 'Lambrusco'. The reds, currently made by Trevor Tucker, generally show intense ripe fruit and well-integrated oak. Shiraz displays classic McLaren Vale character with slightly smoky, eucalyptus, very ripe dark berry/cherry/plum fruit and a hint of earth, building up dark-chocolate flavours with age. The Steve Maglieri version is more structured, extracted and oaky and needs the best part of a decade's ageing. Merlot is soundly made but, like many South Australian examples, is hardly a classic expression of the grape. The Cabernet is more convincing. Semillon and Chardonnay are both well crafted and better than is typical for McLaren Vale. Quality across the range dipped a little in the 1999 vintage (which was poor in McLaren Vale) but premium reds should continue to be a good bet if the fruit sources are retained.

- **Shiraz** Steve Maglieri★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz**★★★ £C ● **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★ £B
- **Merlot**★ £B
- **Chardonnay**★ £B ○ **Semillon**★ £B

**MAJELLA Coonawarra** www.majellawines.com.au  
*Lynn families Lynn Road, Coonawarra SA 5263*  
 Tel: 08 8736 3055 Fax: 08 8736 3057

A label gaining in recognition and importance as more and more of the Cabernet and Shiraz grapes from prime Coonawarra land that were previously sold under contract (the Lynns have been an important supplier to WYNNS since 1980) are now being used for Majella wines. From the late 1960s vines began to compete with sheep for space and the first wines were produced in the early 90s and are today made on site by full-time winemaker, Bruce Gregory. The Cabernet/ Shiraz blend once common to many premium South Australian wines but now mostly seen in budget wines has, since 1996, been the basis of a very impressive flagship, Mallea. Very dense, rich and concentrated fruit takes up the French oak treatment and fine tannins promise a long life. Varietal Shiraz and Cabernet are in a similar mould with potent berry fruit and evident oak but are a little more accessible when young. Significantly cheaper than Mallea and a run below the varietal reds in price, the Musician Cabernet/Shiraz is relatively forward and shows good Coonawarra typicity with a herbal edge to its black berry and currant fruit. Riesling shows a better, tighter structure than is usual in Coonawarra Riesling. Sparkling Shiraz is also a good example with subtle tannins and a berryish finish. Recent additions include a Merlot (since 2007) and Melody, a Shiraz rosé.

- **Mallea**★★★★ £F
- **Cabernet**★★★ £D ● **Shiraz**★★★ £D
- **Cabernet/Shiraz** The Musician★★★ £C
- **Riesling**★ £C ● **Sparkling Shiraz**★★★ £E

**CHARLES MELTON Barossa Valley** www.charlesmeltonwines.com.au  
*Graeme (Charlie) Melton Krondorf Road, Tanunda SA 5352*  
 Tel: 08 8563 3606 Fax: 08 8563 3422

Charlie Melton is one of the saviours of Australian Shiraz along with Rocky O'Callaghan (ROCKFORD), Bob McLean (ST HALLETT) and others. In the late 1980s and early 90s he produced wines of such character and richness from dry-farmed (unirrigated) Barossa old-vine fruit that it rescued the grape from the also-ran category assigned to it in the Cabernet-fixated wine scene that prevailed in Australia at the time. Though Melton is based in the heart of the Barossa, grapes (whether owned, leased or bought-in) are sourced from throughout the area. Both French and American oak are used but the past decade has seen a trend towards the former. Shiraz is arguably the best Melton wine made and he now focuses his energies on Kirsche Vineyard Shiraz from Flinders fruit and two limited releases, Voices of Angels (from the eden Valley) and Grains of Paradise (Barossa Valley). A straight Shiraz and Laura Shiraz are no longer made. One of Australia's best rosés is based on Grenache, while Nine

Popes is a blend of Shiraz, Grenache and Mourvèdre. Cabernet shows the rich, ripe fruit and oak character typical to all the reds. Made by the traditional method and from Cabernet as well as Shiraz, the Sparkling Red is a very good example of its type; it shows a rich plum, berry and chocolate character with a little age. More exotic again is Sotto di Ferro, made from Pedro Ximenez and Muscadelle grapes (90/10) dried 'under the iron' – beneath a corrugated iron roof. It is well-balanced and complex, including roasted nuts, honey, nougat and dried apricot flavours, with real depth and intensity. All the reds benefit from having at least 5 years' age. Also made is Richlieu Grenache. Most recently, not one to rest on his laurels, Melton acquired 73 acres in High Eden in 2008 which has been planted primarily to Shiraz, Grenache together with a small field planting of those Châteauneuf-du-Pape varieties which he has managed to get through quarantine.

- **Nine Popes**★★★★ £E ● **Shiraz** Grains of Paradise★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Voices of Angels★★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★ £E
- **Rose of Virginia**★★★ £D
- **Sparkling Red**★★★ £E ● **Sotto di Ferro**★★★ £F

**GEOFF MERRILL McLaren Vale** www.geoffmerrillwines.com  
*Stratmer Vineyards (G Merrill & A Purbrick) Woodcroft SA 5162*  
 Tel: 08 8381 6877 Fax: 08 8322 2244

Geoff Merrill hardly needs any introduction to many wine consumers as he is one of the most instantly recognisable great characters of the Australian wine scene. The wines, made at the renovated Mount Hurtle winery since 1988, can seem a bit anonymous and simple, apparently at odds with the larger than life personality of their maker. At their best they do achieve a certain elegance and subtlety but more often there isn't the necessary fruit quality there to deliver the regional and varietal expression that is sought. The red Reserves, though showing greater intensity and complexity can want for better balance with an exaggerated cedary oakiness. The super premium Henley Shiraz is sold at a stratospheric price but does have remarkable depth and complexity within a relatively unobtrusive frame. This, like the Reserves (including Chardonnay), is only released with extended bottle-age. Regular varietals under the Wickham Park and Pimpala Road labels, at their best (when fully ripe), are generally soft, supple and attractive, even if they don't have the greatest weight or intensity. Wines under the Mount Hurtle label can have upfront if simple fruit character.

- **Shiraz** Henley★★★★ £H
- **Shiraz** Reserve★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Reserve★★★ £D
- **Chardonnay** Reserve★★★ £C ○ **Chardonnay** Wickham Park★★★ £C

**MITCHELL Clare Valley** www.mitchellwines.com  
*Andrew & Jane Mitchell Hughes Park Road, Sevenhill via Clare SA 5453*  
 Tel: 08 8843 4258 Fax: 08 8843 4340

The Mitchell winery was established in 1975 and is now a medium-sized Clare producer (30,000 cases) with a strong track record for consistent, well-structured reds and whites. Save for a part barrel-fermented well structured Semillon, the whites are made without any oak as is Grenache GSM from old unirrigated bush vines which includes a little Sangiovese and Mourvèdre. Both Peppertree Vineyard Shiraz and Sevenhill Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon show a relatively subdued oak influence. Though the wines sometimes lack a little extra flair they nonetheless show typical Clare characteristics and Cabernet, Shiraz and Riesling are capable of long ageing. After some weaker efforts in the late 90s the Riesling is once again intense and concentrated – an all-too-rare inexpensive wine worth cellaring. McNicol Riesling (not tasted £E) is a single vineyard wine from a later ripening stony quartzite site at 500m. Sparkling Shiraz, from the Peppertree vineyard, is also produced.

- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Sevenhill Vineyard★★★★ £D
- **Shiraz** Peppertree Vineyard★★★ £D
- **Grenache** GSM★★★ £C
- **Riesling** Watervale★★★★ £C
- **Semillon**★★★ £C

**MITOLO McLaren Vale** www.mitolowines.com.au  
*Frank Mitolo cnr Angle Vale & John Road, Virginia SA 5120*  
 Tel: 08 8282 9012 Fax: 08 8380 9062

Mitolo Wines was formed in 2000 after Frank Mitolo decided to expand on early efforts and commercialise his production. Through the winemaking services of Ben Glaetzer a (also a partner in the business) remarkably high standard

has been achieved from the outset. Fermentation is completed in primarily French oak (new) in which the wines are subsequently aged for up to 16 months. Three differing Shirazes are notable for their depth, extract and detailed, complex fruit expressions. The fullest demonstration of fruit and *terroir* is revealed in the potentially outstanding McLaren Vale Savitar Shiraz. All must be given at least 5 years' age. Jester is a second-label Shiraz with good berryish McLaren Vale character. It is attractive but of some substance too. First produced in 2002 is Serpico, a Cabernet Sauvignon made from grapes dried on racks. It is very concentrated and powerful but balanced with black plum and black cherry fruit and avoids any overt raisiny character. Jester rosé from Sangiovese is a gutsy but well-balanced example and is now complemented by Jester Vermentino white. All the wines come complete with a Latin inscription which sheds some light on their names.

- **Shiraz** Savitar McLaren Vale★★★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** G.A.M McLaren Vale★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Reiver Barossa Valley★★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Serpico McLaren Vale★★★★★ £F
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Jester McLaren Vale★★★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Jester McLaren Vale★★★★ £C
- **Jester** Sangiovese Rose★★★ £B

## MT BILLY Barossa Valley [www.mtbillywines.com.au](http://www.mtbillywines.com.au)

*John Edwards 18 Victoria Street, Victor Harbor, SA 5211*  
Tel: 08 8552 7200 Fax: 08 8552 8333

Mt Billy, named for a local hill, is a small property at Victor Harbor in Southern Fleurieu. However, most of the wines are produced from grape purchases in the Barossa. Until recently they have been contract-made by Torbreck but have the services of Peter Schnell and Dan Standish from 2006. The focus is on two Barossa reds, both aged in French oak. Harmony is a blend of Shiraz, Mourvèdre and Grenache and can be slightly baked but has lovely depth with herbs and grilled meats and good balance – south Rhône-like in an overheated sort of way. Antiquity is from very old-vine Barossa Shiraz and is a classic complex expression, a touch overripe but with heather, smoke and dense black plum and prune fruit. It hasn't quite the extra depth or quality of the very best but is a fine example. A little Riesling from Eden and, from the Southern Fleurieu, Chardonnay (dry and sweet), a Shiraz and rosé have also been made.

- **Antiquity Shiraz** Barossa Valley★★★★ £E
- **Harmony** Barossa Valley★★★ £D

## MOUNT HORROCKS Clare Valley [www.mounthorocks.com](http://www.mounthorocks.com)

*Stephanie Toole Curling Street, Auburn SA 5451*  
Tel: 08 8849 2243 Fax: 08 8849 2265

This is a classy range of wines which all have good structure and ripeness, especially now all fruit is 100% estate grown. Winemaker/proprietor Stephanie Toole now owns vineyards which total 10ha across three sites, two in Watervale and one in the warmer Auburn sub-region which is dedicated to Cordon Cut Riesling. Great care is taken in producing the best possible fruit from unirrigated vines and also in their vinification (carried out at Jeffrey GROSSET's winery). Riesling is getting better and better, taut with vibrant fruit (lime and grapefruit with floral notes) and great length. Toole no longer makes a Chardonnay but the waxy, barrel fermented Semillon is much more interesting than most Clare Chardonnays and shows good breadth and weight as well as the firm acidity that gives all the whites a certain austerity when young. Its citrus and mineral notes are not in the least overwhelmed by the oak. Cabernet/ Merlot is what others would call simply Cabernet Sauvignon, as it only contains 5-10% Merlot, and shows a fine cool 'Clare' minerality and a certain supple seductive elegance. Toole is a Rhône fan and the distinctive peppery Shiraz deviates from the fuller bodied norm, showing excellent definition and a similar cool elegance. It deserves to be kept for 6-8 years. A sweet version of Riesling, Cordon Cut, is made by allowing the grapes to dehydrate on the vine by severing the cane from the trunk (the French term is *passerillage*; there is no botrytis but a *passerille* or dried-grape character is achieved). It is one of Australia's finest desert wines - intense, pure, limey and honeyed with sublime balancing acidity.

- **Riesling** Watervale★★★★ £D
- **Semillon** Watervale★★★★ £D
- **Cabernet/Merlot**★★★ £D
- **Shiraz**★★★★ £D
- **Riesling** Cordon Cut★★★★★ £F

## MOUNTADAM Eden Valley [www.mountadam.com.au](http://www.mountadam.com.au)

*David Brown High Eden Road, Eden Valley SA 5235*  
Tel: 08 8564 1900 Fax: 08 8564 1999

A high-profile and often overhyped winery, Mountadam has had some successes but has never been totally convincing as one of South Australia's leading small producers. Established by the late David Wynn on the elevated High Eden Ridge, it was purchased by local businessman David Brown in 2006 who has installed winemaker Con Moshos, formerly Brian Croser's right hand man at PETALUMA. At times many of the wines have lacked real depth and complexity, if managing to wow some wine drinkers with their oak and at times beguiling fruit veneer. The High Eden Chardonnay has some style and structure and has been the most consistent wine but doesn't match the very top Adelaide Hills examples. Eden Valley Riesling can show exquisite fruit flavours and has had better structure of late than previously combined with a stony minerality. The Red is a blend of primarily Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot and if it sometimes exhibits rather leafy, underripe characters, it can also develop a cedary, plummy complexity with age. David Wynn Patriarch Shiraz, now labelled simply DW, is rich, composed and seductive. New are a Barossa range of unwooded Chardonnay, Cabernet/Merlot and Shiraz. Though of only modest depth and concentration, Shiraz in particular shows good expression while the unoaked Barossa Chardonnay's ripe fruit but well balanced acidity reveals its dual sourcing from the Eden Valley and Barossa floor.

- **Shiraz** DW Eden Valley★★★★ £C
- **The Red** Eden Valley★★★ £C
- **Cabernet/Merlot** Barossa★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Eden Valley★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Barossa★ £C
- **Riesling** Eden Valley★★★ £C

## NEAGLES ROCK Clare Valley [www.neaglesrock.com](http://www.neaglesrock.com)

*Jane Willson & Steve Wiblin Main North Road, Clare SA 5453*  
Tel: 08 8843 4020 Fax: 08 8843 4021

A small, young yet already well-established Clare producer. Both Jane Willson and Steve Wiblin had long experience in the corporate world of Australian wine before starting out in 1997 with just 8ha of vineyards. They now have 26ha and a successful vineyard restaurant. The wines are of a consistently high standard and, as with any good Clare producer, bring out much of the minerality and distinctive fruit expression the region offers. The regular Riesling is an excellent style for drinking young while Frisky Filly has intense toast, mineral, lime and ripe citrus fruit and great depth of flavour if broader and less refined in style than the Clare's best. Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon are expressive and complex with a cool-fruited elegance in 2004. Both deserve 5-10 years age but could be drunk sooner. They are also very reasonably priced. Still cheaper is Hope Grenache/Shiraz (previously known as Misery because of the neglected, now nurtured vines from which it is sourced) for more everyday drinking but there is no lack of style to the supple juicy fruit. Other wines include Sangiovese, Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc and One Black Dog Reserve Cabernet/Shiraz.

- **Riesling** Clare Valley★★★ £C
- **Riesling** Reserve Frisky Filly★★★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Clare Valley★★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Clare Valley★★★★ £C
- **Grenache/Shiraz Misery** Clare Valley★★★ £C

## NEPENTHE Adelaide Hills [www.nepenthe.com.au](http://www.nepenthe.com.au)

*Australian Vintage Ltd Jones Road, Balhannah SA 5242*  
Tel: 08 8398 8888 Fax: 08 8388 1100

Much has changed at this Adelaide Hills pioneering winery since founder Ed Tweddell died in 2006. It was acquired by McGuigan Simeon, now known as Australian Vintage Limited in 2007. The winery was closed in 2009 and the wines are now made in the Barossa by Andre Bondar at Yaldara in the Barossa, which brand is also owned by Australian Vintage. Nonetheless, the vineyards located in prime sites in Lenswood, Charleston, Balhannah and Hahndorf remain intact so the new regime seems certain to continue to realise the cool climate potential of a multitude of varieties. Predominantly French oak is used, usually a mix of new and used. All the wines have excellent fruit but good texture and balance too. Pinot Noir is particularly impressive with great breadth and intensity on the palate. The Good Doctor Pinot Noir is in the top tier Pinnacle range, whose reds include Gate Block Shiraz from Balhannah and, with the vine age to

underwrite greater depth of flavour and complexity, the brambly peppery Zinfandel now labelled Sirens. Whites in the Pinnacle range include Ithaca Chardonnay and, from 2009, Petraea Sauvignon Blanc, which is fermented and aged in large oak casks. Pinot Noir also appears in Charleston designation when sourced exclusively from a second, larger vineyard site. The Tempranillo shows good varietal character with a spicy blueberry component and, with vine age, shows a little more depth and structure. The Fugue, a stylish Cabernet/ Merlot blend is no longer made but the Rogue, a vibrant Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz blend remains in the lie up. Intense, expressive whites include a lightly oaked and unwooded Chardonnay, the former under the Altitude label, both nicely composed with good fruit richness. Altitude Pinot Gris is fruity and floral while Altitude lightly oaked Sauvignon is a classic example of the herbal and ripe gooseberry, tropical Adelaide Hills character; Riesling is increasingly fine. Most affordable are unusual blends Tryst red with berry fruit and a leafy component, and white, whose varietal mix changes from year to year.

- Pinot Noir The Good Doctor★★★ £E
- Zinfandel★★★ £E
- Shiraz★★★ £E
- Tempranillo★★ £C
- The Rogue★★ £C ● Tryst★ £B
- Chardonnay Itaca★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay Altitude★★ £C
- Pinot Gris Altitude★★ £C
- Riesling★★★ £C
- Sauvignon Blanc Petraea★★★★ £D
- Sauvignon Blanc Altitude★★ £B ○ Tryst★ £B

**O'LEARY WALKER** Clare Valley [www.olearywalkerwines.com](http://www.olearywalkerwines.com)  
*David O'Leary, Nick Walker Main Road, Leasingham, PO Box 49, Watervale SA 5452*  
*Tel: 08 8843 0022 Fax: 08 8843 0004*

Fantastic progress has been made here in next to no time. David O'Leary and Nick Walker started out in 2001 (02 was the first vintage) but this already has the look and feel of a long-established top Clare producer. Both partners are winemakers and Roseworthy graduates with a long and successful immersion in the Australian industry. Although based in the Clare Valley, they have estate vineyards in the Adelaide Hills and source fruit from other regions with an established reputation for a particular variety. To date the stars are the excellent value Clare Rieslings and some super Clare Shiraz, including a stunning Reserve. The latter has power, depth and classic Clare expression within a sophisticated structure. The regular Shiraz is fruit rich and beautifully delineated with touch of Clare minerality but actually includes 20% McLaren Vale fruit which adds a little lift and spiciness. Adelaide Hills Sauvignon and Pinot Noir are bright and fruit-filled and true to their origins. Hurtle sparkling wine is also sourced from the Adelaide Hills and reveals good breadth and ripe fruit. Most of the wines are remarkably well-priced.

- Riesling Polish Hill★★★★ £B ○ Riesling Watervale★★★★ £B
- Sauvignon Blanc Adelaide Hills★★★★ £B
- Hurtle Pinot Noir/Chardonnay Vintage Adelaide Hills★★★★ £C
- Pinot Noir Adelaide Hills★★★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon Clare Valley★★★★ £C
- Shiraz Reserve Clare Valley★★★★ £F
- Shiraz★★★★ £C

>> **S.C. PANSELL** McLaren Vale/Adelaide Hills [www.pannell.com.au](http://www.pannell.com.au)

*Steve Pannell PO Box 119, Unley BC SA 5061*  
*Tel: 08 8271 7118 Fax: 08 8271 7113*

Steve Pannell's background is as eclectic as his flagship range, which encompasses McLaren Vale stalwarts Grenache, Shiraz and Shiraz/Grenache but also an Adelaide Hills Nebbiolo. Pannell, a Western Australian, is the son of Dr Bill Pannell, founder of Margaret River's MOSS WOOD and PICARDY WINES in Pemberton. However, he has avidly pursued winemaking opportunities elsewhere, notably spending 10 years at HARDYS, where he was chief red winemaker, but also working vintage at Domaine des COMTES LAFON in Burgundy, Château MOUTON ROTHSCHILD in Bordeaux and G.D. VAJRA in Barolo. In 2004, he struck out on his own and has fast established a reputation for wines that skilfully combine ripe fruit and tannins with a sense of place. Careful vineyard selection (Pannell owns neither vineyards nor winery) and hands off winemaking in open top fermenters with natural yeast, hand plunging,

no acidification and minimal use of new oak results in food friendly wines of impeccable balance. The Shiraz Grenache, his strongest suit, is an elegant rendition of the blend with ample spice, ripe but present tannins and impressive freshness, even in difficult years like 2007 and 2008. A floral Grenache without an ounce of fat exemplifies Pannell's take on this variety as "warm climate Pinot Noir." The Shiraz shows similar restraint and line when compared with McLaren Vale's traditional style, which is typified by a generous mid-palate. Though the Nebbiolo is widely regarded as Australia's best, youthful plantings can only take you so far. At this price point while it shows good varietal character, not least quite stern tannins, it lacks the finesse of similarly priced Italian counterparts. Only time will tell if Pannell's carefully selected new clones will reduce the gap. Aptly named entry level Pronto red and white are soft, exuberant but interesting blends, easier on both palate and pocket. In the works, a blend of Touriga Nacional and Tempranillo. (SA)

- Shiraz/Grenache★★★★★ £E
- Shiraz★★★★ £E
- Grenache★★★★★ £E
- Nebbiolo★★★★ £E
- Pronto★★ £B
- Pronto★ £B

## PARKER COONAWARRA ESTATE

*Rathbone family group Riddoch Highway, Coonawarra SA 5263*  
*Tel: 08 8737 3525 Fax: 08 8737 3527*

This singular Coonawarra estate established by John Parker in 1985 produced some great wines during the 1990s, but only very recently added its own wine-making facility. The wines are made by BALNAVE's Peter Bissell. The focus of production is a single premium wine only made in top vintages - a Bordeaux-like approach that is also reflected in the provocative name, Terra Rossa First Growth. In other years (unlike Médoc classed growths) only the second wine, Terra Rossa Cabernet Sauvignon, is released. First Growth is based on Cabernet Sauvignon but also includes Merlot and Cabernet Franc and is aged in 100% new French oak. It is fully ripe and concentrated, if at times a little oaky, with an intense pure fruit core wed to ripe but powerful, textured tannins - it takes the best part of a decade to unfurl. The second wine, which is now aged exclusively in French oak, has recently been only a shade behind, nudging 4 stars. A Merlot is also made but is only available in very small quantities direct from the winery. Entry level wines under the Favourite Son label include a Cabernet Merlot, Shiraz and Chardonnay.

- Terra Rossa First Growth★★★★★ £F
- Cabernet Sauvignon Terra Rossa★★★★★ £D

>> **PAXTON McLaren Vale** [www.paxtonvineyards.com](http://www.paxtonvineyards.com)

*David Paxton Lot 100, Wheaton Road, McLaren Vale SA 5171*  
*Tel: 08 8323 9131 Fax: 08 8323 9131*

Though established in 1979, the first Paxton wine was not released until 2000. The secret to this family-owned producer's rapid success lies in the quality of the biodynamically farmed fruit. David Paxton is one of Australia's leading viticulturists and the family own six vineyards, which puts over 100ha of prime McLaren Vale dirt at their disposal. David's son Michael is in charge of winemaking and produces several estate grown wines, the best of which derive from aged vines. Jones Block Shiraz, Quandong Farm Shiraz and the flagship wine, EJ Shiraz, are concentrated yet exceptionally well balanced single vineyard wines with terrific fruit purity and a sense of place. The latter derives from vines over 100 years old. AAA is a delightfully unshowy, juicy-fruited blend of two vineyards and two varieties (Shiraz and Grenache). Paxton also make a Tempranillo (not tasted). A Syrah Rosé courts popularity with more than a touch of residual sugar but, part barrel-fermented, it has the depth of flavour and freshness to partner food. As for whites, Thomas Block Chardonnay demonstrates that, in the right place (and with sensitive viticulture and winemaking), McLaren Vale can produce classy, poised whites. A Pinot Gris which lacks freshness is the only duff note. (SA)

- Shiraz EJ★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Quandong★★★★ £D
- Shiraz Jones Block★★★★ £E
- Shiraz/Grenache AAA★★ £C
- Chardonnay Thomas Block★★★ £D
- Shiraz Rosé★ £C

# South Australia

## **PENFOLDS Barossa Valley** www.penfolds.com.au

*Treasury Wine Estates Tanunda Road, Nurioopta SA 5355*  
Tel: 08 8568 9290 Fax: 08 8568 9493

The leading Australian brand since the renaissance of Australian wine in the early 1950s, Penfolds remains high in consumers' estimation despite recent upheavals. Grange, Australia's most consistently great wine over 5 decades, is the pinnacle of production. Like all established investment wines, Grange has a crazy price tag but prices of all the top wines here reflect demand as much as production costs or intrinsic quality. Some top Penfolds reds are produced from a wide range of vineyard sources, which can certainly optimise complexity and aid consistency, although on the downside it might be argued there is less individuality. Grange is primarily Barossa and McLaren Vale Shiraz aged in American oak but typically contains around 5% Cabernet (10% in 1992, 93 and 94); while not the most refined expression of Shiraz, it is very powerful and complete, and fabulously complex with age. The RWT is 100% Barossa Shiraz aged in French oak; it has good drive and intensity but is oaky too. Intense Magill Estate is vineyard-specific but can be almost overripe and slightly coarse. St Henri, which includes around 5% Cabernet, is aged in large used oak barrels. The top Cabernet is Bin 707, which includes Coonawarra, Padthaway and Barossa fruit and, like Grange, is aged in American oak; there's terrific flesh and blackberry fruit depth in an uncompromising structure. Bin 407 is based primarily on Coonawarra and Padthaway fruit and aged in both French and American oak. Of the other Bin-labelled reds, the Barossa-sourced Bin 138 Old Vine Shiraz/Grenache/Mourvèdre and long-established Bin 389 stands out, 2009 sees the release of the inaugural Bin 23 pinot Noir, a solid effort (better buys out there). White wines have only taken on real significance here in the last decade. flagship Chardonnay Yattarna has started to fly following a dramatic reduction in the percentage of new oak (down from 100% in 1995 to 35% in 2007), reflecting its 100% cool climate origin (predominantly tasmanian fruit, the balance from Adelaide Hills and Henty). The distinctly Australian style hinges around vivid fruit of lovely purity. A series of Bin-numbered Chardonnays has also been very impressive, especially the showy, oakier and funkier Reserve Bin A. For more affordable reds and whites, the refined Thomas Hyland range delivers good bang for buck. Koonunga Hill and the slightly cheaper Rawson's Retreat brands cover some of the same varieties and dual-variety blends. It must take considerable skill to maintain these these ranges but consistency can make for somewhat uninteresting wines; new release Seventy Six Shiraz Cabernet and Autumn Riesling successfully inject some lifeblood into the Koonunga Hill range.

- Grange★★★★★ £H
- Shiraz RWT★★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Magill Estate★★★★ £G
- Shiraz St Henri★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Bin 28★★★ £C ● Shiraz Bin 128★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon Bin 707★★★★★ £G
- Cabernet Sauvignon Bin 407★★★★ £D
- Shiraz/Grenache/Mourvèdre Bin 138 Old Vine★★★ £C
- Cabernet Shiraz Bin 389★★★ £D
- Shiraz/Mourvèdre Bin 2★ £B
- Chardonnay Yattarna★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay Reserve Bin A★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay Adelaide Hills★★★ £C

## **PENLEY ESTATE Coonawarra** www.penley.com.au

*Kym Tolley McLeans Road, Coonawarra SA 5263*  
Tel: 08 8736 3211 Fax: 08 8736 3124

Kym Tolley's ancestry and past link him to PENFOLDS but since 1991 he has produced a small but consistently high-quality range of wines under his own label. There are more than 90ha of estate plantings including nearly 40ha of Coonawarra Cabernet. The style is for rich, ripe, smooth wines with lush fruit and unobtrusive tannins but with good ageing potential. French oak is favoured for Merlot, with a mix of the two for Cabernet and Shiraz. Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve (the same wine was known simply as Cabernet Sauvignon before 1998) has been consistently impressive while Special Select is a pricey flagship Shiraz, mostly from McLaren Vale fruit, but including 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Phoenix and Hyland are lighter, more forward versions of Cabernet and Shiraz respectively. Chardonnay lacks a little elegance but is not short of richness or flavour. Tolley also makes a sparkling Pinot Noir and a (table wine) Pinot Noir, the latter cellar door only.

- Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve★★★★ £F

- Cabernet Sauvignon Phoenix★★★ £C
- Merlot Gryphon★★★ £D ● Shiraz/Cabernet Conдор★★★ £C
- Shiraz Special Select★★★★ £F ● Shiraz Hyland★★★ £D
- Chardonnay★★★ £D

## **PETALUMA Adelaide Hills** www.petaluma.com.au

*Lion Nathan Spring Gully Road, Piccadilly SA 5151*  
Tel: 08 8339 9300 Fax: 08 8339 9301

Brian Croser is no longer consulting here but the winery remains resolutely focused on the production of estate-grown site-specific wines. Petaluma was purchased by Lion Nathan in 2001, who were themselves bought by Japan-based brewer Kirin Holdings in 2009. The formation of the Petaluma group (also KNAPPSTEIN, MITCHELTON, SMITHBROOK and STONIER) seemed to benefit all participants, at least quality-wise. The Petaluma range has always been small and total production is relatively modest. All the wines are site-specific. Riesling is long-established – an excellent, tightly structured, minerally example (now labelled Hanlin Hill for its Clare Valley origins) which needs a minimum of 2–3 years' age but is capable of much more. The most exceptional white is the brilliant, individual Tiers Chardonnay from the first vineyard planted in the Piccadilly Valley. With great depth, power and a mineral, citrus intensity, its structure and relative austerity when young demand patience. Founder Brian Croser, whose wife owns the Tiers vineyard, retains half of the fruit for his own label, TAPANAPPA Tiers. It is fascinating to compare and contrast the two; Petaluma's version carries more flesh and overt oak. Regular Piccadilly Valley Chardonnay, from other vineyards as well as Tiers also shows a minerally aspect as well as finesse and class that others lack. Again it ages well. Complex berry-fruited Coonawarra (equal parts Cabernet and Merlot in a very good 2001) could use a little more weight in cooler years but always reveals greater concentration with age. Croser is an elegant traditional-method sparkling wine, generally around half Chardonnay and half Pinot Noir, that has been consistently fine for more than a decade. A Late Disgorged version has also been produced. All wines have a structure not seen in many of the more immediate premium Australian sparkling wines and must be drunk with some bottle-age. Relatively recent additions include a promising Shiraz, made since 2001 and including 5% Viognier since 02, in an elegant, expressive style. Viognier, made since 2002 has developed greater intensity with vine age and is an accomplished wine. Both come from the B&V Vineyard on the (warmer) eastern edge of the Adelaide Hills. Sharefarmers wines including a red (Cabernet/Malbec-based) are sourced from one of two Coonawarra vineyards. Also made from time to time are concentrated, honeyed sweet wines such as a fine Botrytis Semillon Essence from Sharefarmers Vineyard in the 99 vintage. Bridgewater Mill Three Districts wines are blended from sites in Clare, Adelaide Hills and Coonawarra and include Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot grigio, a Pinot Noir Rosé and Shiraz.

- Coonawarra★★★★★ £E ● Merlot Coonawarra★★★★★ £D
- Shiraz Adelaide Hills★★★★ £E
- Chardonnay Tiers★★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay Piccadilly Valley★★★★★ £D
- Riesling Hanlin Hill★★★★ £C
- Viognier Adelaide Hills★★★★ £E
- Croser★★★★ £D

## **PEWSEY VALE Eden Valley** www.pewseyvale.com

*Hill Smith family PO Box 10, Angaston SA 5353*  
Tel: 08 8561 3200 Fax: 08 8561 3393

Pewsey Vale is a historic vineyard established in the mid 19th century by Englishman Joseph Gilbert and revived by YALUMBA in 1961. The distinctive contoured vineyard was planted primarily to an old clone of Riesling that continues to be repropagated. During the 1980s the Riesling gained a considerable following as a leading example of Australian Riesling. However for a time during the 90s the wine retained its flavour but little else. Since the late 90s it has been re-invigorated and shows greater intensity and definition in more recent vintages. Yalumba's star winemaker Louisa Rose, who has been particularly successful with whites, has overseen the transformation. A distinctive strongly lime scented wine with ripe citrus and tropical notes, it doesn't have the nuance or structure of good European Rieslings but it is individual as well as ageworthy. For added weight and intensity there is a bold Contours version released only with several years bottle age which hails from the oldest vines and coolest, south-facing slopes. It is well worth the modest uplift in price and will

keep 10 years plus. New in 2007 is Prima Riesling, a classy kabinet style with around 20g/l residual sugar, but more than enough balancing acidity to keep it in line. A little Pinot Gris and Gewürztraminer are also made, both with good varietal character and Eden Valley line; vine age should bring a touch more depth/palate weight.

- **Riesling** The Contours★★★★ £C
- **Riesling** Eden Valley★★★ £C
- **Riesling** Prima Eden Valley★★★ £B
- **Pinot Gris** Eden Valley★★★ £B
- **Gewürztraminer** Eden Valley★★★ £B

**PIKE & JOYCE** Adelaide Hills [www.pikeswines.com.au](http://www.pikeswines.com.au)

*Pike & Joyce families Mawson Road, Lenswood SA 5240*  
*Tel: 08 8843 4370 Fax: 08 8843 4353*

Pike and Joyce is a partnership in which the winemaking expertise of Neil Pike (see PIKES below) is applied to the Joyce family's 13ha of vineyards in the Lenswood zone of the Adelaide Hills. Only 4000 cases are produced but the standard is impressively high. The wines are striking in the way the quality of the fruit is combined good structure and definition. Pinot Gris is amongst the best produced in Australia while Sauvignon Blanc is an excellent example of Adelaide Hills fruit and intensity. Pinot Noir has a lovely purity and depth with refinement and balance missing in more ambitious examples. Only Chardonnay tends to excess in terms of the winemaking influence yet it is deep and concentrated with good ageing potential. The quality to value ratio here is hard to beat.

- **Pinot Gris**★★★ £C ○ **Sauvignon Blanc**★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay**★★★★ £D
- **Pinot Noir**★★★★ £D

**PIKES** Clare Valley [www.pikeswines.com.au](http://www.pikeswines.com.au)

*Neil & Andrew Pike Polish Hill River Rd, Sevenhill via Clare SA 5453*  
*Tel: 08 8843 4370 Fax: 08 8843 4353*

Pikes is a medium-sized producer with 38ha of estate vineyards at Polish Hill River and without doubt one of the most reliable names from Clare Valley. The wines are full and flavoursome with weight and intensity across the range. Both Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon (which includes 5% Cabernet Franc) show good Clare character with a mineral, earth influence in the rich berry fruit aromas and are ripe, plush and well balanced with restrained oak character. Shiraz/ Grenache/Mourvèdre (of varying composition) is a fragrant, nicely textured example of this now-common Australian threesome. Riesling typically shows a floral, toasty and mineral intensity and increasingly good structure especially in a good year. The wines are decent value although occasional very good Reserves including Riesling (Merle) and Shiraz (EWP) are significantly more expensive. Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon is also made, along with Sangiovese (Premio) and, since 2001, a pure, stylish Viognier. Luccio (Italian for pike) red and the Mullet white and red are relatively inexpensive blends. The supple, savoury Luccio red adds Sangiovese to Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The Red Mullet is a ripe but savoury blend of Grenache, Shiraz, Mourvedre and Tempranillo, while the vibrant, well-defined The White Mullet is from Riesling, Viognier, Chenin and Sauvignon Blanc. Luccio white, once a blend, is now 100% Pinot Grigio. Also well composed is The Dogwalk Cabernet/Merlot. See PIKE & JOYCE (above) for Adelaide Hills wines.

- **Riesling**★★★ £C
- **Riesling** Merle★★★★ £E
- **Viognier** Gill's Farm★★★★ £B
- **Pinot Grigio** Luccio★★ £B
- **The White Mullet**★★ £B
- **Shiraz** Eastside★★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** The Hill Block★★★★ £D
- **Cabernet Merlot** The Dog Walk★★★★ £C
- **Shiraz/Grenache/Mourvèdre**★★★★ £C ● **Luccio**★★★ £C
- **The Red Mullet**★★ £B

**PRIMO ESTATE** Adelaide [www.primoestate.com.au](http://www.primoestate.com.au)

*Joe Grilli Old Port Wakefield Road, Virginia SA 5120*  
*Tel: 08 8380 9442 Fax: 08 8380 9696*

From an unpromising location, the hot Adelaide Plains, comes a quite exceptional range of wines, the result of innovation and talent that any wineproducing country would be proud of and which cautious winemak-

ers can only dream of. Joe Grilli was clearly no ordinary Roseworthy graduate and he had both the confidence and ability to go where others are still frightened to follow, building on his Italian heritage and inspired by travels in Italy. He took on the running of his father's vineyard in 1979 and hasn't stopped experimenting since. Estate plantings are now supplemented from vineyards just south of Adelaide and in McLaren Vale proper as well as by bought-in grapes. All premium wines are labelled Joseph. His Cabernet/Merlot (90% Cabernet) uses partially dried grapes mostly from McLaren Vale. Dubbed Moda (Amarone) by Grilli, this is a richly textured, exuberant wine full of ripest cassis, blackberry and black plum fruit with plenty of oak, at its best with 5-10 years' age. La Magia is a late-harvested Riesling with a long history of experimentation; currently it is composed primarily of botrytised Eden Valley fruit and has also included Traminer on occasion. A fleshy, mellow, complex Sparkling Red is produced a unique blend of museum vintages from the last forty years combined with "solera" hogsheads of Moda Cabernet Merlot and Primo Estate Shiraz. Made since the 2001 vintage is ripe, perfumed Pinot Grigio d'Elena, a flavoursome but zippy expression of the variety. Under the Primo Estate label are Il Briccone, Shiraz/Sangiovese (with a little Cabernet, Nebbiolo and Barbera), and a zesty tropical and citrus-fruited La Biondina (mostly Colombard with Riesling and Sauvignon). Also made are a tiny amount of fortified Frontignan (Muscat), Fronti, Shale Stome Shiraz, Zamberlan Cabernet Sangiovese made using the ripasso method, Merlesco Merlot (unoaked) and vintage-dated olive oils and vinegars.

*Joseph:*

- **Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot** Moda★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Angel Gully★★★★ £E ● **Nebbiolo**★★ £E
- **Sparkling Red**★★★★ £F
- **La Magia**★★★★ £D ○ **Pinot Grigio** d'Elena★★ £C

*Primo Estate:*

- **Il Briccone**★★★ £C ○ **La Biondina**★ £B

**REYNELLA/REYNELL** McLaren Vale [www.hardywines.com.au](http://www.hardywines.com.au)

*Constellation Wines Reynell Road, Reynella SA 5161*  
*Tel: 08 8392 2222 Fax: 08 8392 2202*

Reynella or Chateau Reynella is a historic property with its origins dating from 1838 when the nation was still in its infancy (and its story is told in any decent book on Australian wine). Bought by the Thomas Hardy company in 1982, it now serves as the corporate headquarters for the much expanded Constellation Wines empire to which it belongs. Seemingly forever there has been a wealth of old-vine McLaren Vale material and in the 1990s deep, intense, muscular wines were fashioned. Open fermenters and old basket presses are utilised – Basket Pressed is the name that now adorns the reds. These are now wines of great depth, complexity and structure yet with ripe, smooth tannins. The wines are sold in Australia as Reynell.

- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Basket Pressed★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** Basket Pressed★★★ £F

**CHRIS RINGLAND** Barossa Valley

*Chris Ringland*

Chris Ringland's eponymous label (previously known as Three Rivers) is profiled here out of purely academic interest. Chris Ringland, who also makes the wines at LA CORTE in Italy's Puglia region and in Spain at ALTO MONCAYO and EL NIDO, makes minute amounts of Shiraz from unirrigated 100-year-old vines from a single vineyard on the eastern fringe of the Barossa Valley. Grapes cropped at the equivalent of 1 ton/acre are vinified in open fermenters before pressing in a basket press and completion of fermentation in 100% new French oak, where it can remain for more than 3 years. Its reputation is for tremendous richness and concentration. Randall's Hill Shiraz is made from declassified Three Rivers fruit.

**RIPOSTE WINES BY TIM KNAPPSTEIN** Adelaide Hills

*Tim & Annie Knapstein Croft Road, Lenswood SA5240*  
*Tel: 08 8843 4377 Fax: 08 8843 4246*

Tim Knapstein started out in the Clare Valley before founding Lenswood(now T K Wines) in the Adelaide Hills, where he makes wine for a number of labels. In 2002 Tim sold the Lenswood vineyard, but he continues to access its fruit which goes into his latest venture, Riposte,

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which he launched in November 2006. Knappstein's aim with the new label is to make affordable cool climate premium wines. Focusing on strong suits Sauvignon Blanc (not tasted), a just off-dry Traminer and a Pinot Noir, his brief is well met. They may not be as complex or concentrated as the wines he made at Lenswood, but they punch above their weight for the price point.

- **Pinot Noir** The Sabre★★★★ £D
- **Sauvignon Blanc** The Foil★★★★ £C
- **Traminer** The Rapier★★ £C

## ROCKFORD Barossa Valley [www.rockfordwines.com.au](http://www.rockfordwines.com.au)

Robert O'Callaghan *Krondorf Road, Tanunda SA 5352*

Tel: 08 8563 2720 Fax: 08 8563 3787

Rockford wines still taste like true classics. Having been in the vanguard of the Barossa revival, Rocky O'Callaghan seems to have stayed true to the cause better than most. Commercial expansion to fund a fleet of Ferraris has never been the end goal. As a result the wines can be hard to find but they've not been compromised either. Basket Press Shiraz is very concentrated with the essence of old-vine Barossa fruit and should be given time to unfurl (10 years or more). Cabernet Sauvignon is very intense and concentrated too if not overly elegant and needs similar ageing. Ready sooner are Moppa Springs, a very ripe, very flavoursome Grenache-based blend with Shiraz and Mourvèdre, and Rod & Spur (made only since 2000), a savoury, black fruited Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon blend. Whites deliver on flavour and character too; Eden Valley Riesling is picked late with plenty of skin contact giving a very full-flavoured example but at the expense of the finesse and other qualities this grape can deliver. The Sparkling Shiraz is one of the most famous examples going but the difficulty in getting hold of it and its cult status-fuelled price mean there's pain before pleasure.

- **Shiraz** Basket Press★★★★★ £F
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Rifle Range★★★★ £D
- **Moppa Springs**★★★ £C ● **Rod & Spur**★★★ £D
- **Semillon** Local Growers★★★★ £C
- **Riesling** Hand-Picked Eden Valley★★★★ £C
- **Sparkling Shiraz** Black Shiraz★★★★ £F

## ROSEMOUNT (MCLAREN VALE) [www.rosemountestates.com](http://www.rosemountestates.com)

Treasury Wine Estates *Ingoldby Road, McLaren Flat SA 5171*

Tel: 08 8323 8250 Fax: 08 8323 9308

Rosemount makes several of its best red wines at the McLaren Vale winery. Most famous of these is the McLaren Vale Shiraz sold as Balmoral Syrah, a wine with a real harmony of oak, fruit richness and weight as well as an extra dimension most other Australian examples miss. The Show Reserve Cabernet is sourced from Coonawarra and both French and American oak are utilised in its ageing. Show Reserve Shiraz, by contrast, comes from McLaren Vale (predominantly) and Langhorne Creek and like the Balmoral is aged only in American oak. Traditional is a Bordeaux blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, with 20% Merlot and a smaller amount of Petit Verdot, but the oak used is American not French. GSM stands for Grenache/Shiraz/Mourvèdre (typical percentages 50/40/10), and is one of the most high-profile of these now popular blends. Again, in the classic Australian mould, the oak is American. All the wines show lush fruit and oak, good depth and fine tannins, and if there is less refinement in the GSM there is also more character. Any of these reds will keep for up to 10 years but are most rewarding with just 5 or 6 years' age. Also see ROSEMOUNT (under New South Wales & Queensland).

- **Syrah** Balmoral★★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Show Reserve★★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Show Reserve★★★★ £C
- **Traditional**★★★ £C ● **GSM**★★★ £C

## ST HALLETT Barossa Valley [www.sthallett.com.au](http://www.sthallett.com.au)

Lion Nathan *St Hallett's Road, Tanunda SA 5352*

Tel: 08 8563 7000 Fax: 08 8563 7001

A decade ago, powered by Bob McLean, St Hallett was one of the bright new stars of Barossa. Now a successful medium-sized operation, it is perhaps the best-known but compared to Charles MELTON, ROCKFORD and others it has now lost some of its lustre. Sound, with good fruit and supple structures, the wines have lost some of their excitement and individuality. Young blood in the form of Matt Gant, now Toby Barlow has provided an injection of energy and flagship Old Block Shiraz, which was

disappointing from late 90s vintages, has made something of a return to form, while, at the other end of the price spectrum, Poacher's Blend delivers good bang for buck. Blackwell Shiraz offers lots of Barossa character at a more affordable price. An intense, lemony Eden Valley Riesling is rich and weighty in its dotage and can be impressive. Other whites include Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc and from the 2001 vintage, a *barrique*-fermented Blackwell Semillon that is aged on its lees. Biggest volumes come from the blended red and white, called Gamekeeper's Reserve and Poacher's Blend respectively, the former with a dash of Touriga Nacional which brings attractive floral lift. New from 2002 vintage is GST, which includes more Touriga (Nacional) though Grenache and Shiraz are the mainstay.

- **Shiraz** Old Block★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Blackwell★★★★ £D
- **Shiraz** Faith★★★ £C
- **Riesling** Eden Valley★★★ £C

## SALTRAM Barossa Valley [www.saltramwines.com.au](http://www.saltramwines.com.au)

Treasury Wine Estates *Nurioopta Road, Angaston SA 5353*

Tel: 08 8564 3355 Fax: 08 8564 2209

Saltram was once one of the most respected names in Australian wine but commercial growth and a lack of focus on the leading reds meant it wasn't the first name on the lips of the many new foreign converts to high-quality Australian wine in the last decade or so. Between 1992 and 2007 when he retired Nigel Dolan successfully restored some pride to these historic wines. Occasional great bottles from the late 50s, 60s and 70s can still be unearthed from Australian cellars (many made by Nigel's father Brian). BERINGER BLASS took control in 1996, the same year Barossa once again became the sole grape source. The wines, particularly the top two reds, now show great richness and depth; Metala Original Plantings comes from 100-year-old vines. From a top vintage like 1998 they should keep for at least a decade. Mamre Brook now offers good value, at least if the prices hold. Pepperjack is a second label seen in Australia and New Zealand.

- **Shiraz** No. 1 Reserve★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Metala Original Plantings (Black Label)★★★★ £D
- **Shiraz** Mamre Brook★★★ £C
- **Shiraz/Cabernet** Metala (White Label)★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Mamre Brook★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Mamre Brook★ £B

## SEPPELTSFIELD Barossa Valley [www.seppeltsfield.com.au](http://www.seppeltsfield.com.au)

Seppeltsfield Estate Trust *PMB 1 Seppeltsfield, via Nurioopta SA 5355*

Tel: 08 8568 6217 Fax: 08 8562 8333

Seppelt's historic Seppeltsfield winery is the centre of production for some splendid Australian fortified wines labelled Seppeltsfield but they can be difficult to obtain outside Australia, though this is starting to change, at least for the higher volume wines. KILIKANOON bought the estate from Treasury Wine Estates (who retain the Seppelt brand for table and sparkling wines) in August 2007 and have a long term lease for these 'icon' wines. All are very individual but common to each is a marvellous complexity derived from *rancio* flavours and tertiary bottle-aged characters. The intensity and power of the wines (almost all non-vintage) is not for the faint of heart but the spirit integration is finely handled. While some approximate to a Spanish or Portuguese equivalent, flavours and structures are quite different. Outstanding examples include 'sheries' Amontillado DP 116, Show Fino DP 117 (now Flora Palomino) and Show Oloroso DP 38; and Show 'port' Tawny DP 90 (Now called Rare Tawny DP90 NV). Para Liqueur Port is produced in 2 versions, non-vintage and a 100-year-old version (1910 is the most recent release). The 100-year-old version (rating below based on the 1910 release) shows explosive spice box aromas and flavours of almost painful intensity, such is the concentration. From Rutherglen come outstanding Muscat (Show Reserve DP 63) and Tokay (Show Reserve DP 57). Also see SEPPELT GREAT WESTERN (Victoria & Tasmania).

- **Para 100 Year Old Vintage Tawny**★★★★★ £H
- **Para 21 Year Old Vintage Tawny**★★★★★ £F
- **Para Grand Tawny**★★★★★ £D
- **NV DP 90 Rare Tawny**★★★★★ £F
- **Rutherglen Muscat Grand**★★★★★ £D
- **Flora Palomino Extra Dry Fino DP117**★★★★★ £D

## SHAW & SMITH Adelaide Hills [www.shawandsmith.com](http://www.shawandsmith.com)

*M & M Hill Smith, M Shaw Lot 4, Jones Road, Balhannah SA 5242*  
*Tel: 08 8398 0500 Fax: 08 8398 0600*

The warehouse winemaking operation begun by Martin Shaw and Michael Hill Smith in 1989 has evolved into an estate-based (Balhannah and Woodside), small to medium-sized operation with a stunning new winery. Early success was fuelled by a Sauvignon that proved it was possible to make a distinctive and attractive early-drinking example in the Adelaide Hills. The most impressive wine was a deep, complex and ageworthy Reserve Chardonnay, replaced since 2000 by a single-vineyard example. The M3 vineyard at Woodside is named for Martin, Matthew and Michael. The wine is crafted around a core of pristine Adelaide Hills fruit and has excellent texture but is likely to show the greatest expression with around 5 years' age. Unoaked Chardonnay typically shows nicely concentrated fruit but there are better examples. Added with the 2005 vintage was a Pinot Noir. The same is the case with a new Riesling. Also available is a superb Shiraz: which shows mineral, white pepper, concentrated plum and blackberry fruit, excellent structure, flesh and real class.

*Shaw & Smith:*

- Chardonnay M3 Vineyard★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay Unoaked★★ £C
- Sauvignon Blanc Adelaide Hills★★★ £C
- Shiraz Adelaide Hills★★★★ £D
- Pinot Noir Adelaide Hills★★ £E

*Incognito:*

- Riesling★ £B
- Chardonnay★★ £B
- Merlot★ £B

## TAPANAPPA Wrattenbully [www.tapanappawines.com.au](http://www.tapanappawines.com.au)

*B Croser, J-M Cazes, Société Jacques Bollinger PO Box 174, Crafrers SA 5152*  
*Tel: 0419 843 751 Fax: 08 8370 8374*

Brian Croser's new project is a partnership with Bordeaux's Jean-Michel Cazes (Ch. LYNCH-BAGES) and BOLLINGER - who were a former partner with Croser at PETALUMA. Tapanappa acquired the Koppamurra Vineyard prior to 2003 and have restructured the vines and renamed the site the Whalebone Vineyard. The Wrattenbully region has similar but older weathered limestone (*Terra Rossa/Terra Rosa*) soils to those found in Coonawarra. It is also slightly warmer. The grapes are hand-picked, a cold soak is employed and following malolactic fermentation in barriques the wine is aged in new French oak for 20 months. The first Cabernet Shiraz (mostly Cabernet Sauvignon) was made in 03. In addition Croser's now celebrated Tiers Chardonnay is being produced under the Tapanappa label - and is once again a wine of remarkable structure, intensity and mineral purity. Look for older vintages of Tiers under the Petaluma label. The opulent Whalebone Vineyard, Wrattenbully Merlot is probably Australia's best expression of this variety. Tapanappa's portfolio also now encompasses Foggy Hill Pinot Noirmade from vines planted in 2003 on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

- Cabernet Shiraz Whalebone Vineyard★★★★ £F
- Merlot Whalebone Vineyard★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir Foggy Hill★★★ £E
- Chardonnay Tiers★★★★ £F

## THE LANE WINE COMPANY Adelaide Hills [www.thelane.com.au](http://www.thelane.com.au)

*John Edwards Ravenswood Lane, Hahndorf SA 5245*  
*Tel: 08 8388 1250 Fax: 08 8388 7233*

John Edwards' estate wines (previously known as Ravenswood Lane) come from 28ha near Hahndorf in the central part of the Adelaide Hills. Much effort has gone into the packaging and image, and fortunately into the wines too, all vivid in expression and intensity. An exciting lush, peppery, fleshy Shiraz has real potential and does reflect something of the South Australia/Rhône hybrid style claimed for these wines. There is potential too in an intense, lemony Chardonnay that reveals the depth and dimension of a serious Côte de Beaune example. Pending the release of two new Heritage wines (RG Chardonnay 2009 and JC Shiraz 2007), the top tier wines comprise the Black Label range, while the entry level tier (once called Starvedog Lane) bears a white label and, going forward, most wines will also feature a Block Series number. The Lane Sauvignon (which includes Semillon) is barrelfermented and adds more breadth without losing its razor sharp focus. Pinot Grigio/Pinot Gris is another strong suit,

bouncy with floral lift and spice at both price points, the Black Label showing more texture and finesse. A Shiraz Viognier shows earth and pepper to its sweet core of fruit. An unwooded 'No Oak' Chardonnay, Black Label Viognier, dessert wine and a traditional-method sparkling Chardonnay/Pinot Noir/Pinot Meunier are also made. There are no bargains here but nicely textured interesting wines at prices commensurate to quality. Though originally made in collaboration with Hardys, since 2005, all wines are estate grown and made on site at the Edwards' new small batch facility.

*Black Label:*

- Shiraz Reunion★★★★ £E
- Cabernet Sauvignon 19th Meeting★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Viognier★★★ £C
- Sauvignon Blanc Semillon Gathering★★★ £D
- Chardonnay RG★★★★ £E
- Chardonnay Beginning★★★ £D
- Pinot Grigio★★ £D

*Block Series/White Label:*

- Chardonnay★★ £C
- Pinot Gris★★ £C

## TIN SHED Eden Valley [www.tinshedwines.com](http://www.tinshedwines.com)

*Peter & Anne Clarke PO Box 504, Tanunda, SA 5352*  
*Tel: 08 8563 3669 Fax: 08 8563 3669*

This new small Eden/Barossa operation, originally a joint venture between viticulturalist Andrew Wardlaw and the owner/chef of the renowned Vintners Bar & Grill in the Barossa, Peter Clarke is now wholly owned by Clarke and his wife. Their wines are made without added yeasts, enzymes or acidity. Indeed the wines are vibrant, fruit-intense and expressive in stark contrast with some of the more 'made', manipulated styles emanating from the Barossa. Wild Bunch Riesling, while only modestly structured, has exaggerated limey, toasty aromas and bursts with flavour and real fruit intensity. The stylish Melting Pot Shiraz, which includes some Mourvèdre and Grenache, has exuberant very berryish fruit intensity and good depth and length. Single Wire Shiraz, from Barossa and Eden Valley fruit, is foot-trodden before ageing in French oak. There is fabulous fruit expression, well-integrated oak and impressive depth and length if not the dimension on the palate to put it amongst the very best. Also made but not tasted is Three Vines Mataro Shiraz & Grenache and All Day Barossa Rosé.

- Shiraz Single Wire★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Melting Pot★★★ £C
- Riesling Wild Bunch Eden Valley★★ £C

## TORBRECK Barossa Valley [www.torbreck.com](http://www.torbreck.com)

*David Powell Lot 51, Roennfeldt Road, Marananga SA 5360*  
*Tel: 08 8562 4155 Fax: 08 8562 4195*

Established in the mid-1990s, Torbreck became one of the most raved-about Barossa wineries by the turn of the century and is one of the few which produces genuinely outstanding wines that match some of the hype. David Powell manages to buy small parcels of fruit from very old unirrigated, low-yielding vineyards and turns into them wine with great aroma, deep fruit, structure and balance. All the reds have highish but balanced alcohol levels and a breadth and extract many other Barossa/Clare/McLaren Vale blockbusters lack. Runrig, the top wine first made in 1995, is Shiraz with a little Viognier (3%); the fruit here is sensational. As well as great depth and class, this wine has the sort of dimension and structure only encountered in the very best Côte-Rôties and needs 8-10 years' ageing. In 2005, Powell got hold of Shiraz from Malcolm and Joylene Seppelt's old Gnadenfrei vineyard which he had coveted, regarding it as even "head and shoulders" above the Runrig components (Torbreck had made wine for the Seppelts). The result is The Laird, which is aged in extra thick staved French oak for 3 years and sadly not tasted!

Descendant (a vineyard established from Runrig cuttings) includes 7 or 8% Viognier, which contributes to its more open, perfumed character, but it has good extract and intensity too. The Factor, made since 1998 from 100% Shiraz from old unirrigated vines, is tighter, more compact and less expressive yet promises to have the greater ageing potential. The Struie, new since 2001, is a super, stylish blend of equal parts Barossa and Eden Valley fruit, while Juveniles and The Steading are southern Rhône-style blends of Grenache, Shiraz and Mourvèdre (60/20/20 in recent vintages). Both of the latter pair are perfumed with lovely fruit and are supple and long; The Steading, aged in used and large

oak, shows the better structure, but not the vibrancy or purity of Juveniles. A new white, VMR (Viognier/Marsanne/Roussanne; 60/20/20 in 2002) keeps to the Rhône theme. Woodcutters red (Shiraz) and white (Semillon) are the more affordable basics and offer good fruit. Torbreck also make The Pict, (Greenock Mataro), Les Amis (Seppeltsfield Grenache), The Gask (Eden Valley Shiraz), Saignée, a bone dry Mataro rosé and The Bothie, a sweet Muscat.

- **Runrig**★★★★★ LH ● **The Factor**★★★★★ EF
- **Descendant**★★★★ EF ● **The Struie**★★★★ EF
- **The Steading**★★★★ EF ● **Juveniles**★★★★ ED
- **Woodcutter's Red**★★ LC ○ **Woodcutter's White**★ LC

## DOMAINE TOURNON Mount Benson

*Chapoutier Limestone Coast Road, Mount Benson via Robe SA5276*  
Tel: 08 8768 5076 Fax: 08 8768 5073

The prestigious Rhône Valley producer CHAPOUTIER has made a sizeable financial commitment to Australia, including developing this 50-ha outpost at Mount Benson. Much of it is being planted to Shiraz as might be expected but there is also a significant percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon and some Marsanne, Viognier and Sauvignon Blanc. Viticultural practices model those in the Rhône and progress has been made towards a fully biodynamic regime. Already the reds show a fine fruit intensity and structure and are improving with each successive vintage, adding more refinement and depth. Chapoutier is also involved with Anthony J Terlato, who owns the SANFORD winery on California's Central Coast, at Domaine Terlato & Chapoutier in a new venture in Victoria. The duo make a Shiraz-Viognier negocié wine and Lieu dit Malakoff Shiraz from their jointly owned 22 ha single vineyard of that name in the Victorian Pyrenees. More recently, Domaine Tournon has been extended to include a Western Victorian negocié wine "Shiraz or Syrah" and Chapoutier has acquired 34 ha in Victoria (Landsborough Estate and Shays Flat) for the Domaine Tournon label from which the maiden vintage was 2009.

- **Shiraz** Mount Benson★★★★ ED
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Mount Benson★★ EF
- **Shiraz** South Australia★★★★ LC
- **Shiraz or Syrah** Victoria★★★★ ED
- **Dom Terlato & Chapoutier Shiraz-Viognier** Victoria★★★★ ED
- **Dom Terlato & Chapoutier Lieu dit Malakoff** Victorian Pyrenees★★★★ EF

## TURKEY FLAT Barossa www.turkeyflat.com.au

*Peter & Christie Schulz Bethany Road, Tanunda SA 5352*  
Tel: 08 8563 2851 Fax: 08 8563 3610

Turkey Flat has a priceless resource of old-vine Barossa fruit. The Schulzes have had the good fortune to have the vines in the family since 1865 (some planted in the 1840s!) though have only been making their own wines since 1990. A decade later they added their own winery but in the interim established their credentials particularly with Shiraz but also Grenache, Semillon and Cabernet. Shiraz is easily the best wine – succulent and full of old-viney fruit without being overwhelmed by oak. Grenache is even more approachable but lacks a little richness and depth by comparison. A Mourvedre shows good meaty depth, saddle soap and sinewy tannins. Butcher's Block is named for a vineyard planted to Mourvèdre, Shiraz and Grenache and although an attractive, perfumed wine it misses the interest and intensity of better examples. Cabernet is powerful but accessible and fleshy with good intensity to its earthy, slightly coarse berry fruit character. Few rosés are worth seeking out but Turkey Flat's fragrant cherry and berry-fruited off-dry example (from Grenache, Cabernet, Shiraz and Dolcetto) is delicious, fresh and balanced if drunk very young. The Butcher's Block white is a blend of Marsanne Viognier and Roussanne, still finding its feet, but promising. Marsanne also finds its way into The Last Straw, a vin de paille and the estate also produces two fortified sweet wines, Shiraz VP and a Pedro Ximenez which, while powerful, is more citrus and caramel inflected than its Spanish counterparts – no bad thing. The line up is completed by a sparkling Shiraz and Eden Valley sparkling Chardonnay (not tasted).

- **Shiraz**★★★★ EF ● **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★★ EF
- **Grenache**★★★ LC
- **Mourvedre**★★★★ LC
- **Butchers Block**★★★ EF
- **Rosé**★★ LC ○ **Butchers Block**★ LC
- **Pedro Ximenez**★★★ EF

## TWO HANDS www.twohandswines.com

*Michael Twelftree & Richard Mintz Neldner Road, Marananga SA 5355*  
Tel: 08 8562 4566 Fax: 08 8562 4744

There have been a lot of changes here since the initial (and justified) hype quickly turned this into a sought-after label. Grape sources, winemaker and production levels have all changed – the latter significantly with a profusion of limited-production labels – since the first vintage in 2000. The winemaker is Matt Wenk with consultancy from Rolf BINDER, where the wines used to be made until 2004. The standard of the reds is generally very high, most with both style and a sense of place allied to an intense, super-concentrated fruit expression. These are not wines for the feint hearted though, at best, balance and use of oak are good. Lily's Garden McLaren Vale Shiraz is arguably the most consistently fine of the reds and is made in a blockbuster style; Gnarly Dudes shows fine balance and structure and represents good value. A very intensely flavoured Riesling, The Wolf, wants for better definition and structure. Better is Brilliant Disguise Moscato (in the style of Moscato d'Asti) which, light and fluffy, could not be more different from the blockbuster reds. Tiny amounts of flagship Shiraz, Ares, have been made since 01.

- **Shiraz** Lily's Garden McLaren Vale★★★★ EF
- **Shiraz** Angel's Share McLaren Vale★★★★ LC
- **Shiraz** Bad Impersonator Single Vineyard Barossa Valley★★★★ EF
- **Shiraz/Grenache** Brave Faces Barossa Valley★★★★ ED
- **Shiraz** Gnarly Dudes Barossa Valley★★★★ LC
- **Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon** The Bull and the Bear Barossa Valley★★★★ EF
- **Riesling** The Wolf Clare Valley★★ EF
- **Moscato** Brilliant Disguise barossa Valley★★ EF

## ULITHORNE McLaren Vale www.ullithorne.com.au

*Sam Harrison & Rose Kentish PO Box 487, McLaren Vale, SA 5171*  
Tel: 08 8382 5528 Fax: 08 8382 5528

In 1997, a 12-ha McLaren Vale vineyard (planted in 1971 to Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon) was revived by artist Sam Harrison and Rose Kentish. A further 15ha were subsequently added (including some Merlot) and Rose made a single wine, Frux Frugis Shiraz, in late 2006, the couple sold the vineyard but not the brand; Rose continues to make wine under the label from the Ulithorne vineyard and lately has made a Cabernet Shiraz blend called Paternus.

- **Shiraz** Frux Frugis★★★★ EF

## WAKEFIELD Clare Valley www.wakefieldwines.com.au

*Taylor family Taylors Road, Auburn, SA 5451*  
Tel: 08 8849 2008 Fax: 08 8849 2240

Established in 1969, Taylor's, as it is known in Australia (if not on export markets due to a certain port that's been around for a little longer), is still family-owned. It is also the Clare Valley's biggest producer with 500ha of vineyards but don't let that put you off as there are some good wines here. Best are the premium St Andrew's varieties. Intense toasty, limey Riesling has splendid depth and complexity with 5 years' age or more while Chardonnay is full, complex and oaky but with a good backbone of citric acidity to balance. Shiraz (American oaked) has a classic Clare berry/mineral stamp but Cabernet Sauvignon (aged in French oak) is at least as good with terrific complexity and dimension, and no lack of class. Estate reds are simpler and lighter but ripe with plenty of fruit intensity, best with at least 3–4 years' age. All estate and St Andrew's wines come from Clare Valley fruit. Also made under the Taylor's label are Jaraman varieties which combine fruit from different regions. A Clare Valley/Eden Valley Riesling has plenty of push and pull – very flavoursome and complete. A budget range of varieties are produced under the Eight Acres (LB) and Promised Land labels (LC).

- **Riesling** St Andrews★★★★ EF ○ **Riesling** Estate★★ EF
- **Riesling** Jaraman★★★★ EF
- **Chardonnay** St Andrews★★★★ EF ○ **Chardonnay** Estate★ LC
- **Shiraz** St Andrews★★★★ EF ● **Shiraz** Estate★★ EF
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** St Andrews★★★★ EF
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Estate★★ EF
- **Merlot** Estate★★ EF

## GEOFF WEAVER Adelaide Hills www.geoffweaver.com.au

*Geoff Weaver 2 Gilpin Lane, Mitcham SA 5062*  
Tel: 08 8272 2105 Fax: 08 8271 0177

From 11ha of Lenswood vineyards established in the mid-1980s and at over 500m elevation, Geoff Weaver (ex HARDYS) makes a modest amount of

intensely flavoured, finely honed wine. Whites are best and benefit from time in bottle. An intensely flavoured and ageworthy Chardonnay vies with an intense toasty, limey and even more cellarworthy Riesling as the best of these. A stylish Sauvignon with ripe gooseberry fruit and a hint of smoke and blackcurrant leaf is also ageworthy. ferus Sauvignon (not tasted), made only in top years, is naturally fermented and aged on the lees for around a year in second use oak. Cabernet/Merlot (typically more than 80% Cabernet) needs a warm year like 98 or 02 really to succeed; otherwise cooler leafy, sappy characters become too dominant and the texture too lean; it seems to have fallen by the wayside. Pinot Noir, on the other hand shows good texture, depth and better structure than previously.

- Chardonnay★★★★ £E
- Riesling★★★★ £C
- Sauvignon Blanc★★ £C
- Pinot Noir★★ £E

## WENDOUREE Clare Valley

*Tony & Lita Brady Wendouree Road, Clare SA 5453*  
Tel: 08 8842 2896

This Clare Valley producer maintains a cult following by sticking rigidly to a formula of maximising the extraordinary fruit produced from 12ha of vines. The winery dates from 1895 and little seems to have changed in the 100 years or so since. The reds are massive and uncompromising, extracted and tannic yet with dense, earthy impenetrable fruit when young. Balance and ripeness are nearly always there, ensuring these wines will, after 20 years or more, be complex and compelling. Shiraz/Mataro (Mourvèdre) and Shiraz/Malbec are predominantly Shiraz-based and, together with the varietal Shiraz, are perhaps more consistent than the Cabernet-based reds. None of the wines are made in much more than 500-case lots, so total production remains tiny. The prices are reasonable for the quality, given the considerable demand. Above all they are a cellaring investment for wine drinkers with patience.

- Shiraz★★★★ £F
- Shiraz/Mataro★★★★ £F ● Shiraz/Malbec★★★★ £F
- Cabernet/Malbec★★★★ £F ● Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★ £F

## WIRRA WIRRA McLaren Vale www.wirra.com.au

*R G & R T Trott Pty McMurtrie Road, McLaren Vale SA 5171*  
Tel: 08 8323 8414 Fax: 08 8323 8596

Wirra Wirra is a substantial operation (especially with the acquisition of the Rayners vineyard in 2007, formerly the source of Brokenwood's Rayner Shiraz) with a long-established reputation. In recent years it has recruited expert help from the likes of Dr Tony Jordan and Tim James (from HARDYS) but the most recent accolades have deservedly gone to senior winemaker Samantha Connew who is now succeeded by her right hand man Paul Smith, who is himself succeeded as Assistant Winemaker by recently crowned McLaren Vale Bush King Paul Carpenter. Quality is uniformly very high and the top reds will repay keeping for 10 years' or more. Powerful, complex flagship reds are Cabernet Sauvignon, The Angelus / Dead Ringer (now labelled as the latter outside of Australia due to possible confusion with the famous Bordeaux chateau with the same name and Shiraz, RSW). In addition occasional Vineyard Series reds have been released from exceptional vintages including a particularly impressive 98 Penley Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon and Chook Block McLaren Vale Shiraz (in 98, 02 and now 2006) as well as a straight Grenache (Allawah). Also very impressive is the regular McLaren Vale Shiraz now called Woodhenge. At a more everyday level, Church Block is a long-standing blend of Cabernet, Shiraz and Merlot. Wirra Wirra whites are flavoursome but do not match the reds for quality. Adelaide Hills wines are on the up, the Sauvignon Blanc (Hiding Hills) now picked early showing good line and intensity as does Lost Block; 12th Man Chardonnay is also much improved. The Scrubby Rise brand includes both a red and a white blend as well as Shiraz and Chardonnay. Sparkling wines are also made, both The Cousins from Pinot Noir and Chardonnay and The Anthem, a Sparkling Shiraz. For fortifieds there's VP Vintage Fortified Shiraz.

- Cabernet Sauvignon The Angelus/Dead Ringer★★★★ £F
- Shiraz RSW★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Woodhenge McLaren Vale★★★★ £E
- Grenache McLaren Vale★★★★ £C
- Cabernet/Shiraz/Merlot Church Block★★ £C
- Chardonnay Adelaide Hills★★★★ £C
- Riesling Hand Picked★★ £B

## WOODSTOCK McLaren Vale www.woodstockwine.com.au

*Scott & Anne Collett Douglas Gully Road, McLaren Flat SA 5171*  
Tel: 08 8383 0156 Fax: 08 8383 0437

Woodstock is one of McLaren Vale's well-established wineries able to draw on its own vineyards for a solid, reasonably priced range of wines. As well as 22ha in McLaren Flat, 33ha of vineyards are located in Langhorne Creek (Angas Vineyard) and a further 27ha in Limestone Coast (Wirrega Vineyard). The leading variety unsurprisingly is Shiraz, particularly The Stocks, the flagship wine made since 1991. The fruit from very old vines stands up very well to the new American oak in which it is aged. Regular Shiraz and a Cabernet Sauvignon are both rich, ripe and concentrated if lacking a little flair. More straightforward are a berryish Grenache and Five Feet, an improving blend of Cabernet, Petit Verdot, Merlot and Shiraz. Whites include Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, Verdelho, and Chardonnay. All show attractive, ripe, generous flavours but only the latter two can stand a bit of age. Botrytis Sweet White is a blend of Chenin Blanc, Riesling and Semillon and is ripe and intense if not that refined. A small amount of fortified wine is also made.

- Shiraz The Stocks★★★★ £E ● Shiraz★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★ £C
- Five Feet★ £B
- Chardonnay★ £B ○ Semillon Sauvignon★ £C
- Verdelho★ £B ○ Botrytis Sweet White★ £C

## WYNNS Coonawarra www.wynns.com.au

*Treasury Wine Estates Memorial Drive, Coonawarra SA 5263*  
Tel: 08 8736 2225 Fax: 08 8736 2228

The most famous producer name in Coonawarra is a veritable colossus with 900ha, around a third of the terra rossa soils. The oldest vines dating back to the 60s underwent a nerve-wracking renovation in the late 90s, during which time Wynns did not make flagship reds John Riddoch Cabernet Sauvignon for four years or Michael Shiraz between 1998 and 2003. After cutting back the build up of dead wood, not all the vines bounced back but winemaker Sue Hodder believes those that did are now producing wines with "added freshness and ripeness". It shows in a brighter fruit quality and more supple tannins with better integrated wood. John Riddoch Cabernet is a magnificent rich, powerful rendition of Cabernet that makes no apology to any other great Cabernet region and needs to be drunk with 10 years' age or more. Michael Shiraz is the Shiraz equivalent of John Riddoch it is equally rich and powerful. Both Michael and John Riddoch wines now use only a fraction of the very best fruit available. The famous estate-based Black Label Cabernet is now a big-volume wine but is still relatively inexpensive with the same intense blackcurrant/blackberry fruit, oak and tannin balance it has always had. Shiraz is often at least as good and from a top vintage can add the little extra richness that makes it an excellent buy. Cabernet/Shiraz/Merlot includes only a little Merlot and the Cabernet and Shiraz components invariably merge for a ripe, supple, fruity red. Chardonnay delivers fine fruit and real complexity, a far cry from some of the overoaked earlier efforts. Riesling can be one of Australia's best bargain whites, consistently delivering a floral, limey, fruit-driven intensity. Despite its size, Wynns stands out thanks to its remarkable viticultural resources.

- Cabernet Sauvignon John Riddoch★★★★ £F
- Cabernet Sauvignon Black Label★★★★ £C
- Shiraz Michael★★★★ £F ● Shiraz★★ £C
- Cabernet/Shiraz/Merlot★ £C
- Chardonnay★★ £B
- Riesling★ £B

## YALUMBA Barossa Valley www.yalumba.com

*Hill Smith family Eden Valley Road, Angaston SA 5353*  
Tel: 08 8561 3200 Fax: 08 8561 3393

Yalumba is the only big Australian wine company still to be family-owned and, founded in 1849, is Australia's oldest family-owned company at that. Winemaking, led by Brian Walsh since the late 1980s, is now headed by the talented Louisa Rose. With more than 650ha of vines from diverse sources, the range is necessarily large and continually evolving and, though some wines have a long history, there is no shortage of innovation here. Indeed, for such a large operation, the company is remarkably fleet of foot. It is at the vanguard of environmentally sustainable practices, pioneered Viognier Down Under and has been bang on trend with its recent introduction of several single vineyard reds, designed to showcase old vine fruit from different Barossa sub-zones. Ageworthy premium

# South Australia

Barossa reds are traditional in the sense that they are full bodied with ripe, powerful tannins and no shortage of oak. But there is also a terrific concentration, purity and animation to the fruit, especially in recent years. Premium wines begin with The Reserve, a very limited-production Cabernet Sauvignon/ Shiraz blend made in 1990, 92, 96, 98, 2001 and 2002. Others produced on a more regular basis include Octavius, an expensive, richly oaky old-vine Barossa Shiraz (recently joined by plummy junior Barossa Shiraz, Patchwork), and The Signature (two-thirds Barossa Cabernet, one-third Barossa Shiraz), a suave, flattering blend streaked with vanilla in which the Cabernet lends gravitas to the more exuberant Shiraz. Yalumba's faith in this blend is underlined by the re-introduction of the super-intense FDR1A Cabernet Shiraz (reviving a label first used in 1974) and The Scribbler, a new junior tier, this one more forward, with Shiraz the dominant partner. Coonawarra is the source of The Menzies range, a Cabernet, Merlot and Cabernet/Shiraz. New to the Coonawarra range is The Cigar, a glossy, more approachable young vine Cabernet with impressive concentration. Also Coonawarra-derived is Mawson's, which adds Shiraz and a little Merlot to Cabernet. MGS

(Mourvèdre/Grenache/Shiraz) from the Hand-Picked range is a ripe, spicy berry-fruited example of this style of Barossa red. Other reds in this range include an expressive, floral Bush Vine Grenache, velvety Shiraz Viognier and an innovative Tempranillo Grenache Viogner blend (not tasted). There is also an Adelaide Hills Chardonnay, FDW (Fine Dry White) sourced from select growers. It shows some of the stylish complexity and subtlety typical of the best examples. Much has been made of Yalumba's efforts with Viognier (it pioneered plantings of the variety in South Australia) and vine age, the introduction of new clones together with a more oxidative approach to winemaking is paying dividends. With ripe, but not overripe, apricot and increasingly savoury lees nuances, top tier Virgilius can give Condrieu a run for its money producers, while the mid-priced Eden Valley wine shows good fruit purity and balance, representing good value for money. Late-harvested/botrytis styles now include Riesling, Semillon and Viognier under a Noble Pick label. Dolcetto, Nebbiolo and other varieties have also been released locally under the Vinnovation Collection label. Y is a series of relatively inexpensive varieties including an unwooded Chardonnay, Riesling, Viognier, Pinot Grigio, Merlot and Shiraz; for a small premium, certified organic versions of the Y Series Shiraz and Viognier are now available. Even cheaper are the simple, innocuous wines of budget brand, Oxford Landing, produced from Riverlands fruit. Other wineries owned by the family include the Eden Valley estates of PEWSEY VALE and Heggies as well as JANSZ from the Pipers River area of northern Tasmania. A very impressive Mesh Riesling, made in collaboration with Jeffrey GROSSET, shows a touch more fruit weight and punchier acidity than other Eden Valley examples, gravitating towards the Clare Valley in this respect. The Heggies wines are made by Peter Gambetta and include Riesling (occasionally also made in a botrytised version) with a pure citrus and mineral character, improving Viognier and elegant, complex Chardonnay. The only red is a variable yet sometimes stylish Merlot. Smith & Hooper wines come from Wrattontully fruit and include an ambitious Limited Edition Merlot.

## Yalumba:

- Shiraz The Octavius★★★★ £F
- Shiraz The Reserve Barossa★★★★ £F
- Shiraz/Viognier Handpicked★★★★ £D
- Cabernet Sauvignon Coonawarra The Menzies★★★★ £E
- Cabernet Sauvignon Coonawarra The Cigar★★★★ £C
- Cabernet/Shiraz The Signature★★★★ £E
- Cabernet/Shiraz FDR Barossa★★★★ £D
- Cabernet/Shiraz The Scribbler Barossa★★★★ £C
- Cabernet/Shiraz/Merlot Mawson's★★ £B
- Grenache Handpicked Tri-centenary Vines★★★★ £D
- Grenache Barossa Bush Vine★★★★ £C
- Grenache Habermann Vineyard Bethany Barossa★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Patchwork Barossa★★ £C
- Shiraz Hahn Farm Vineyard Light Pass Barossa★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Fromm Vineyard Lyndoch Barossa★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Swingbridge Vineyard Craneford Eden Valley★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay FDW Adelaide Hills★★★★ £C
- Chardonnay Eden Valley★★ £C
- Viognier Virgilius★★★★ £E

- Viognier Eden Valley★★ £C
- Viognier Y★ £B
- Viognier Y Organic★★ £B
- Muscat Museum Release★★★★ £E
- Sparkling Cabernet/Shiraz 'D' Black★ £C

## Heggies:

- Chardonnay Eden Valley★★ £C
- Riesling Eden Valley★★ £B
- Viognier Eden Valley★★ £C
- Merlot Eden Valley★★ £C

## Grosset - Hill-Smith:

- Riesling Mesh★★★★ £D

## Smith & Hooper:

- Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot★★ £B
- Merlot Limited Edition★★★ £D

## ZEMA ESTATE Coonawarra [www.zema.com.au](http://www.zema.com.au)

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Nearly 50ha of estate vineyards were built up in Coonawarra by this family during the 1980s and early 90s, the core being in the very heart of the region. The wines express much of the best of Coonawarra with dense, powerful fruit lent a little more structure from oak-ageing. However, the oak is restrained, making for less obvious, slightly firmer wines that really benefit from at least 3-5 years' bottle-age. The oak is more in evidence, but not overdone, in the lush Family Selection Cabernet Sauvignon. Harvesting is mechanical as in most vineyards in Coonawarra but the vines are still hand-pruned, which arguably makes a positive impact on quality. If slightly less good in cooler years, the wines really shine from good to great years. Cluny, a somewhat lighter, softer Bordeaux blend (adding Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec to Cabernet Sauvignon) is the most accessible. A Family Selection Shiraz is also made. New in 2006 (for 2011 release) is Saluti, a Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz blend with considerable concentration, but not at the expense of finesse. Greg Clayfield (ex-Lindemans) has now replaced long-term winemaker Tom Simons.

- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★ £E
- Cabernet Sauvignon Family Selection★★★★ £E
- Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz Saluti★★★★ £F
- Shiraz★★★★ £E
- Cluny★★ £D

## OTHER WINES OF NOTE

- ANGAS THE BULL ● Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★ £C
- ARRIVO (Adelaide Hills) ○ Nebbiolo Rosato di Nebbiolo★★ £C
- AUSTRALIAN DOMAINE WINES
- The Hatrick (Shiraz/Grenache/Cabernet)★★★★ £E
- BATTLE OF BOSWORTH ● Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★ £C
- Shiraz★★★★ £C
- BETHANY (Barossa Valley) ● Shiraz★★ £C
- Cabernet/Merlot★ £C
- Semillon★★ £B
- BIRD IN HAND (Adelaide Hills)
- Shiraz Two in the Bush★★ £B
- Shiraz Bird in Hand★★★★ £C
- Merlot Adelaide Hills★★★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon Nest Egg★★★★ £C
- BLEWITT SPRINGS/HILLSVIEW
- Chardonnay Coonawarra★★ £C
- Shiraz Adelaide★★★★ £C
- Malbec Langhorne Creek★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon Langhorne Creek★★ £C
- BRAND'S LAIRA OF COONAWARRA
- Shiraz Stentford's Reserve Old Vine★★★★ £F
- BROTHERS IN ARMS (Langhorne Creek) ● Shiraz★★★★ £C
- LEO BURING ○ Riesling Leonay Eden Valley★★★★ £E
- Riesling Watervale★★★★ £D
- CAPE JAFFA (Mount Benson) ● Shiraz Mount Benson★★★★ £C
- CERAVOLO (Adelaide Plains) ● Shiraz★★★★ £C

- **Petit Verdot**★★★ £C
- **Sangiovese**★★ £C
- CLAYMORE (Clare Valley)** ○ **Riesling** Joshua Tree★★★ £B
- **Shiraz** Dark Side of the Moon★★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Walk on the Wild Side★★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Reserve Nirvana★★★★ £D
- CREED (Barossa Valley)**
- **Riesling** Wild Child★★★★ £C
- **The Pretty Miss (Shiraz/Cabernet Franc/Viognier)**★★★ £D
- DOG RIDGE (McLaren Vale)**
- **Sauvignon Blanc** McLaren Vale★★ £B
- **Cabernet/Merlot** The Pup★★ £B
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** DV3 McLaren Vale★★★ £D
- **Shiraz** DV7 McLaren Vale★★★★ £D
- LINDA DOMAS** ○ **Viognier/Chardonnay** Vis à Vis★★★★ £B
- **Sauvignon Blanc** Saliency★★★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Egidio McLaren Vale★★ £D
- EDEN SPRINGS (Eden Valley)** ○ **Riesling** High Eden★★★★ £C
- FIRST DROP** ● **Shiraz** Mothers Milk Barossa★★★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Minchia Montepuciano Adelaide Hills★★★★ £C
- FIVE GEESE (McLaren Vale)** ● **Shiraz**★★★★ £C
- **grenache/Shiraz** Old Vine★★★ £C
- FOX GORDON** ● **Shiraz** Eight Uncles Barossa Valley★★★ £C
- GALAH** ● **Cabernet/Malbec/Shiraz** Clare Valley★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Clare Valley★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Clare Valley★★ £C
- GIBSON WINES (BAROSSA Valley)**
- **Wilfreda (Shiraz/Mourvedre/Grenache)**★★★ £D
- GOD'S HILL/ SCALZI ESTATE (Barossa Valley)**
- **Shiraz** Menzel★★★★ £F
- TIM GRAMP (Clare Valley)** ○ **Riesling** Watervale★★ £B
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Watervale★★ £B
- **Shiraz** McLaren Vale★★★ £D
- **Shiraz** Mount Lofty Ranges★★★★ £C
- HAAN WINES (Barossa Valley)** ○ **Viognier**★★ £C
- **Merlot** Prestige★★★ £D
- **Wilhelmus** (Cab Sauv/Merlot/Cab Franc/Malbec/Petit Verdot)★★★★ £E
- HAHNDORF HILL WINERY (Adelaide Hills)**
- **Sauvignon Blanc**★★★★ £C
- HENTLEY FARM (Barossa Valley)**
- **Shiraz** Mount Lofty Ranges★★★★ £C
- HERITAGE WINES/STEPHEN HOFF** ● **Shiraz** Barossa★★ £B
- **Cabernet/Malbec**★★ £C
- HILLSTOWE (Adelaide Hills)** ● **Shiraz** Buxton★★ £B
- **Shiraz** Mary's Hundred★★★★ £C
- **Pinot Noir** Udy's Mill★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Udy's Mill★★ £C
- HOBBS (Barossa Ranges)** ○ **Viognier** Single Vineyard★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Gregor (Late Harvest)★★★★ £F
- **Grenache** (Dessert Wine)★★★★ £F
- HUGO (McLaren Vale)** ● **Shiraz**★★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay**★★ £B
- IRVINE (Eden Valley)**
- **Merlot** Grand Eden Valley★★★★ £F
- **Merlot** Spring Hill Eden Valley★★★ £C
- **Zinfandel** Reserve Eden Valley★★★★ £E
- **The Baroness** (Merlot/Cab Franc/Cab Sauv)★★★★ £E
- **Merlot Cabernet** Barossa★★ £C
- JEANNERET (Clare Valley)** ● **Shiraz** Rank and File★★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Curly Red★★★ £C
- **Riesling** Doozie★★★ £E
- STEPHEN JOHN (Clare Valley)** ○ **Riesling** Watervale★★ £C
- TREVOR JONES (Barossa Valley)**
- **Shiraz** Dry Grown★★★ £F
- **Chardonnay** Virgin★★★★ £C
- KT & THE FALCON (Clare Valley)** ○ **Riesling** Peglidis Watervale★★★★ £D
- **Riesling** Melva Watervale★★★★ £D
- KAESLER (Barossa Valley)**
- **Shiraz** Stonehorse★★★ £E
- KOPPAROSSA** ● **Cabernet Merlot** Coonawarra★★★ £C
- KURTZ FAMILY/SIEBENSCHLAFER**
- **Seven Sleepers** Barossa (Malbec/Cab Sauv/Merlot/other)★★★★ £C
- LARRIKIN'S GHOST** ● **Shiraz** McLaren Vale★★★ £C
- LENGS & COOTER** ● **Shiraz** Old Vines Clare Valley★★★ £C
- LONGVIEW (Adelaide Hills)** ○ **Viognier** Beau Sea★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Blue Cow Unwooded★ £C
- **Riesling** Iron Knob★ £C
- **Sauvignon Blanc** Whippet★ £C
- **Shiraz** Yakka★★★ £D
- **Nebbiolo** Black Crow★ £C
- McLEAN'S FARM (Barossa Valley)**
- **Barossa Reserve** (Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon)★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Trinity Corner Barossa Valley★★★ £C
- **Riesling** (Eden Valley)★★★ £C
- MASSENA (Barossa Valley)**
- **The Eleventh Hour** (Shiraz)★★★★ £E
- MAXWELL (McLaren Vale)**
- **Shiraz** Reserve★★★ £C
- **Shiraz** The Looting Duke★★★ £F
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Reserve Lime Cave★★★ £C
- **Verdelho** Verdelho★★ £B
- MOLLYDOOKER** ● **Shiraz** The Boxer★★★ £D
- **Two Left Feet** (Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot)★★★★ £D
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Maître d'★★★★ £D
- MORAMBRO CREEK (Padthaway)**
- **Shiraz** Padthaway★★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Padthaway★★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Jip Jip Rocks Limestone Coast★★★ £B
- NOON (McLaren Vale)** ● **Shiraz/Grenache** Eclipse★★★★ £E
- NORFOLK RISE VINEYARD (Mount Benson)**
- **Shiraz** Noolook★★★ £D
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Noolook★★★ £C
- **Merlot** Mount Benson★★★ £C
- PAULETT (Clare Valley)** ○ **Riesling** Polish Hill River★★ £B
- **Riesling** Antonina★★★★ £F
- **Riesling** Trillains Sparkling★★ £B
- **Chardonnay** Polish Hill River★★ £B
- **Cabernet/Merlot** Polish Hill River★★ £D
- **Shiraz** Polish Hill River★★★ £D
- PERTARINGA (McLaren Vale)**
- **Sauvignon Blanc** Scarecrow★ £B
- **The Full Front Blanc Frontignac Fortified**★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Undercover★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Over the top★★ £E
- **Grenache** Two Gentlemens★★★★ £D
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Understudy★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Rifle and Hunt★★ £E
- PIRRAMIMMA (McLaren Vale)**
- **Petit Verdot** Reserve★★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Reserve★★★ £C
- POSSUMS VINEYARD (McLaren Vale)**
- **Shiraz** McLaren Vale★★★ £C
- PUNTERS CORNER (Coonawarra)**
- **Shiraz**★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★ £D
- PYCNANTHA HILL (Clare Valley)**
- **Shiraz**★★★ £C
- QUATTRO MANO (Barossa Valley)**
- **Duende**★★★★ £C
- **Le Reto Tempranillo**★★★★ £D
- RBJ VINTNERS** ● **Theologicum** (Mourvèdre/Grenache)★★ £C
- REDHEADS STUDIO (McLaren Vale)**
- **Red Heads Tomahawk Shiraz**★★ £B
- **The Good Doctor Tannat, Cabernet & Shiraz**★★★★ £E
- RESCHKE (Coonawarra)** ○ **Sauvignon Blanc** Fume★★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Vitalus★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Bos★★★★ £D
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Empyrean★★★★ £F
- ROOKERY (Kangaroo Island)** ● **Sangiovese**★★★ £C
- RUSDEN (Barossa Valley)** ○ **Chenin Blanc** Christina★★★ £D
- **Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz** Ripper Creek Barossa Valley★★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Boundaries Barossa Valley★★★★ £F
- RYMILL (Coonawarra)** ● **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★ £C
- **Shiraz**★★ £C
- **MC2** (Merlot/Cab Sauv/Cab Franc)★★ £B
- SCHILD ESTATE (Barossa Valley)**
- **Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc**★★★ £C
- **GMS** (Grenache/Mourvedre/Shiraz)★★★ £C

# South Australia

- Shiraz Barossa Valley★★★ £D
- Shiraz Reserve Barossa Valley★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Moorooroo Barossa Valley★★★★ £F
- SETANTA (Adelaide Hills) ○ Chardonnay Emer★★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon Black Sanglain★★★★ £C
- SEVENHILL CELLARS (Clare Valley)
- Riesling Clare Valley★★ £B
- Riesling St Aloysius Clare Valley★★★ £D
- Shiraz Clare Valley★★★★ £C
- Grenache★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★ £C
- SHINGLEBACK (McLaren Vale)
- Shiraz McLaren Vale Block Reserve★★★★ £D
- SHIRVINGTON (McLaren Vale)
- Shiraz★★★ £F
- SKILLOGALEE (Clare Valley)
- Riesling Clare Valley★★★ £C
- Riesling Trevarrick Single Contour Clare Valley★★★★ £D
- Gewürztraminer Clare Valley★★★ £C
- Shiraz Basket Press Clare Valley★★★ £C
- SPINIFEX (Barossa Valley)
- Esprit (Grenache/Shiraz/Mourvedre/Cinsault)★★★★ £D
- Rosé Barossa Valley (Grenache/Cinsault)★★★ £B
- STANDISH WINE CO ● Shiraz The Standish★★★★ £F
- STRINGY BRAE (Clare Valley) ○ Riesling Clare Valley★★★ £C
- TEUSNER ● Joshua (Grenache/Shiraz/Mourvedre)★★ £D
- Avatar (Grenache/Shiraz/Mourvedre)★★ £E
- The Riebke Ebenezer Road (Shiraz)★★★★ £E
- WAYNE THOMAS (McLaren Vale)
- Petit Verdot McLaren Vale★★★★ £D
- THORN-CLARKE (Barossa Valley)
- Shiraz Shotgun Ridge★★★ £C
- Shiraz William Randall★★★ £F
- Quartage (Cabernets, Merlot, Petit Verdot)★★ £C
- TORZI MATTHEWS (Eden Valley)
- Shiraz Frost Dodger★★★★ £E
- VIKING (Barossa Valley) ● Grand Shiraz★★★ £F
- ULEYBURY WINES (Mount Lofty)
- Primitivo BAP Pipicella Reserve★★★ £E
- Semillon Show Reserve★★★★ £E
- THE WILLOWS VINEYARD (Barossa Valley)
- Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa★★ £C
- Shiraz Barossa★★★ £D
- Semillon Barossa★★ £C
- WILLUNGA 100 (McLaren Vale)
- Grenache★★ £B
- Shiraz Barossa★★ £B
- Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz★★ £B
- Viognier★★ £B
- WILSON VINEYARD (Clare Valley)
- Riesling Gallery Series★★ £B
- YANGARRA ESTATE (McLaren Vale)
- Grenache Old Vine McLaren Vale★★★★ £D
- Grenache High Sands McLaren Vale★★★★ £F
- Shiraz McLaren Vale★★★★ £D
- Cadenzia (Grenache/Shiraz/Mourvedre)★★★★ £D

## Work in progress!!

### Producers under consideration for the next edition

- ANVERS WINES (ADELAIDE HILLS)
- BRINI ESTATE WINES (MCLAREN VALE)
- EDEN HALL (EDEN VALLEY)
- FOGGO WINES (MCLAREN VALE)
- RADFORD WINES (EDEN VALLEY)
- SALOMON ESTATE (CURRENCY CREEK)
- SCHUBERT ESTATE (BAROSSA VALLEY)
- SHOBBROOK (EDEN VALLEY)
- SOME YOUNG PUNKS (SOUTH AUSTRALIA)
- TAIT WINES (BAROSSA VALLEY)

## Author's choice

### Powerful Barossa/Eden Valley Shiraz-based reds

- BAROSSA VALLEY ESTATE ● Shiraz E&E Black Pepper
- GRANT BURGE ● Shiraz Meschach
- BURGE FAMILY ● Shiraz Draycott
- DUTSCHKE ● Shiraz Oscar Semmler
- JOHN DUVAL ● Shiraz Entity
- GLAETZER ● Shiraz Amon-Ra
- GREENOCK CREEK ● Shiraz Seven Acre
- HENSCHKE ● Shiraz Mount Edlestone
- KALLESKE ● Shiraz Greenock
- PETER LEHMANN ● Shiraz Stonewell
- CHARLES MELTON ● Shiraz Voices of Angels
- MT BILLY ● Shiraz Antiquity
- ROCKFORD ● Shiraz Basket Press
- ROLF BINDER ● Shiraz Hanisch
- ST HALLETT ● Shiraz Old Block
- TORBRECK ● Shiraz The Factor
- YALUMBA ● Shiraz Swingbridge Vineyard Craneford

### Other top Shiraz

- TIM ADAMS ● Shiraz Clare Valley Aberfeldy
- JIM BARRY ● Shiraz Clare Valley The Armagh
- BOWEN ESTATE ● Shiraz Coonawarra
- CORIOLE ● Shiraz McLaren Vale Lloyd Rserve
- D'ARENBERG ● Shiraz McLaren Vale Dead Arm
- GEMTREE ● Shiraz Obsidian
- KATNOOK ● Shiraz The Prodigy
- KAY BROTHERS ● Shiraz Block 6
- KILIKANOON ● Shiraz Clare Valley Covenant
- MITOLO ● Shiraz McLaren Vale Savitar
- PAXTON ● Shiraz E
- SC PANNELL ● Shiraz
- REYNELLA ● Shiraz McLaren Vale Basket Pressed
- WENDOUREE ● Shiraz Clare Valley

### Leading Cabernet-based reds

- D'ARENBERG ● Cabernet Sauvignon Coppermine Road
- GROSSET ● Gaia
- HENSCHKE ● Cabernet Sauvignon Cyril Henschke
- HOLLICK ● Cabernet Sauvignon Ravenswood
- KATNOOK ● Cabernet Sauvignon The Odyssey
- LECONFIELD ● Cabernet Coonawarra
- MITOLO ● Cabernet Sauvignon Serpico
- PARKER COONAWARRA ● Terra Rossa First Growth
- PENFOLDS ● Cabernet Sauvignon Bin 707
- PENFOLDS ● Cabernet Sauvignon Bin 389
- PENLEY ESTATE ● Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve
- PRIMO ESTATE ● Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot Joseph
- WENDOUREE ● Cabernet Sauvignon/Malbec Clare Valley
- WYNNS ● Cabernet Sauvignon John Riddoch
- WYNNS ● Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz Signature
- ZEMA ESTATE ● Cabernet Sauvignon/ Shiraz Saluti Coonawarra

### Ageworthy whites

- TIM ADAMS ○ Semillon Clare Valley
- BARRATT ○ Chardonnay Piccadilly Valley
- JIM BARRY ○ Riesling The Florita
- GROSSET ○ Chardonnay Piccadilly
- GROSSET ○ Riesling Polish Hill
- PETER LEHMANN ○ Riesling Wigan
- MOUNT HORROCKS ○ Riesling Watervale
- PETALUMA ○ Chardonnay Tiers
- PEWSEY VALE ○ Riesling The Contours
- SHAW & SMITH ○ Chardonnay M3 Vineyard
- TAPANAPPA ○ Chardonnay Tiers
- ULEYBURY ○ Show Reserve Semillo

### Best buys

- TIM ADAMS ● The Fergus
- ANNIE'S LANE ○ Shiraz Clare Valley
- D'ARENBERG ○ Roussanne Money Spider
- FIVE GEESE ● Old Vine Grenache/Shiraz
- TIM GRAMP ○ Riesling Watervale

KILIKANOON ○ **Riesling** Clare Valley Morts Block

MITOLO ● **Shiraz** Jester

PENFOLDS ● **Cabernet Sauvignon** Thomas Hyland

PENFOLDS ○ **Chardonnay** Thomas Hyland

QUATRO MANO ● **Duende**

TAYLORS/WAKEFIELD CELLARS ● **Shiraz** Clare Valley

TORBRECK ● **Woodcutters Red**

WYNNS ● **Cabernet Sauvignon** Coonawarra

YALUMBA ○ **The Cigar** Y

# Victoria & Tasmania

*Viticulture was more important in Victoria than in either South Australia or New South Wales in the 19th century but the arrival of phylloxera triggered a decline for much of the state. In the late 1960s the first steps were taken towards a revival that has rapidly gained pace since the early 1980s. Victoria offers a diversity of site and climate permutations arguably unequalled in Australia, while much more is being made of Tasmania's cool climatic conditions. As an example of an increasing regionality, Heathcote Shiraz and Tasmanian Pinot Noir – which previously only boasted isolated successes – are now emerging as two potentially outstanding regional styles following a mini-explosion in quality. For Pinot Noir, Mornington Peninsula is also emerging as one of the country's finest regions for the variety while in the more established Yarra Valley, producers are exploring sub-regionality with interesting results. Other regions such as Henty, Gippsland or Macedon Ranges also seem set to gain wider recognition amongst consumers of quality wines.*

## North-West Victoria

The most productive area of Victoria, its regions of **Murray Darling** and **Swan Hill** are shared with the Big Rivers zone of New South Wales. It makes a significant contribution to Australia's big volume brand production from highly mechanized viticulture and winemaking. While the grapes from these high-yielding irrigated vineyards are never going to produce wines of real quality, they can be sound as well as inexpensive and are usually much better than the equivalent from most other bulk wine producing areas around the world.

## North-East Victoria

Around the towns of **Rutherglen** and **Glenrowan** is the most significant area of Victoria viticulture to have survived its fall. Unique, intensely sweet fortified wines made from raisined Muscat and Muscadelle (once labelled Tokay but now being sold as Topaque) grapes are often subject to long ageing in hot conditions. A classification of the Rutherglen wines has recently been introduced. Beyond a basic Rutherglen category, in ascending order, are the Classic, Grand and Rare quality levels. Robust, earthy reds are also made from Shiraz, Durif and Cabernet Sauvignon. The heat of Rutherglen is in contrast to the cooler areas to the south-east. **Beechworth** has forged a reputation for fine Chardonnay and Pinot Noir thanks to Giaconda, but Rhône varieties are exciting too, especially at Castagna. Meanwhile, in the **Alpine Valleys** (including Ovens Valley) and **King Valley**, vineyards extend from the heat of Milawa into the lower reaches of the Australian Alps, part of the Great Dividing Range, where altitude is critical to cooler-climate viticulture in New South Wales. A wide range of grapes is grown but an unusual development is the propagation of Italian varieties.

## Western Victoria

One of the strengths of Victoria is the great diversity of Shiraz styles, with top-class examples from Henty, Grampians, Pyrenees and Bendigo, the latter in Central Victoria. **Grampians** (or Great Western as it used to be known), another survivor of Victoria's 19th-century viticulture, has long been famous for its Shiraz including one of Australia's very best from Mount Langhi Ghiran. Elevation makes it cooler than might otherwise be expected, as is the case with the rolling hills of **Pyrenees** where both Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon are made, to very high standards in the case of Dalwhinnie and now Michel Chapoutier and Anthony J. Terlato. Chardonnay can also be impressive. The **Henty** region is still little known but encompasses a large area in the south-west corner of Victoria. There are climatic and soil similarities with the Limestone Coast (in South Australia) which lies but a short distance to the west. As Drumborg, it is more familiar as the source of the fine sparkling wines produced by the region's pioneer, Seppelt. Riesling and Pinot Noir also show much promise.

## Central Victoria

**Bendigo** is now synonymous with great Shiraz, particularly the examples from the now separate region of **Heathcote**. In fact, Bendigo achieved fame for its Shiraz in the 19th century and this is once again a very exciting area with a recent surge of new wines set to challenge the leading estate of Jasper Hill. In **Goulburn Valley** another pocket of Victoria's wine production has been maintained. The region is vast, but the best producers are concentrated in the south,

in the subregion of **Nagambie Lakes**, an area not a great distance east of Heathcote. Shiraz is brilliant from its leading producers, Tahbilk and Mitchelton, but Cabernet Sauvignon and Riesling as well as Marsanne and other white and red Rhône varieties are beginning to excel. Vineyards in the **Upper Goulburn** and **Strathbogie Ranges** are most suited to aromatic white varieties.

## Port Phillip

The leading region among those lying close to the state capital of Melbourne is the **Yarra Valley**. First developed in the 19th century, its modern revival dates from the 1960s. Within its substantial confines there exist any number of mesoclimates but it is generally cool and damp by Australian standards. The Yarra Valley provides great examples of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay but also fine Bordeaux blends, though there can be a struggle for ripeness in cooler vintages. Shiraz is less important but of high quality from the likes of Yarra Yering. The best wines are fruit-rich but softly textured and stylishly complex, though there is a trend in favour of more restrained, medium bodied wines designed better to showcase vineyard character. There is also fine fizz although most examples include grapes sourced from outside the region. The Port Phillip zone also includes Geelong, Sunbury and the Mornington Peninsula. **Geelong**, thanks mostly to Gary Farr, formerly of Bannockburn, now of By Farr, has a reputation for intense, powerful Shiraz, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. The same theme is echoed in the cool **Mornington Peninsula** whose many small producers, though focusing on Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, now among the country's best, can produce elegant, stylish Shiraz too. Similarly in **Sunbury** but more especially the higher-altitude **Macedon Ranges**, quality from Chardonnay and Pinot Noir can be outstanding. Bindi is the star but others are challenging. Other reds are at the margins for achieving full ripeness yet wines such as Craiglee's Shiraz or the Virgin Hills Cabernet Sauvignon-based blend can be super in the warmest vintages.

## Gippsland

Gippsland is a vast, cool zone in the south-east of Victoria with some exceptional isolated pockets of vineyards, but its marginal climate is always likely to deter all but a mad few. Yet quality can be very high even if quantities are scarce. Try to find the Pinot Noirs of Bass Phillip and young Turk William Downie who also makes Pinot Noirs from the Yarra and Mornington Peninsula.

## Tasmania

Across Bass Strait in Tasmania, the cooler, wetter climate has deterred the industry giants from invasion and its modern development has only really taken off in the past decade. The once dominant Pipers Brook group is no longer the only sizeable player given Tamar Ridge's rapid expansion. What is more, Constellation's investment in Bay of Fires and the recent acquisition of Tamar Ridge by Brown Brothers signals that major mainland producers are no longer content solely to source grapes from the island. Nonetheless, there are now dozens of tiny holdings from which tiny quantities of increasingly fine Pinot Noir are produced by a just a few talented winemakers. Riesling and Chardonnay are also successful, the latter important (with Pinot Noir) in the island's flourishing premium sparkling wine production. There is also a greater focus on aromatic white varieties other than Riesling, especially Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris/Grigio.



- 1 Murray Darling
- 2 Swan Hill
- 3 Rutherglen
- 4 Glenrowan
- 5 Beechworth
- 6 Alpine Valleys
- 7 King Valley
- 8 Henty
- 9 Grampians
- 10 Pyrenees
- 11 Bendigo
- 12 Heathcote

- 13 Goulburn Valley
- 14 Nagambie Lakes
- 15 Strathbogie Ranges
- 16 Upper Goulburn
- 17 Yarra Valley
- 18 Mornington Peninsula
- 19 Geelong
- 20 Sunbury
- 21 Macedon Ranges



# Victoria & Tasmania

## A-Z of producers by region

### Rutherglen & Glenrowan

ALL SAINTS  
BAILEYS OF GLENROWAN  
R L BULLER & SON  
CAMPBELLS  
CHAMBERS ROSEWOOD  
MORRIS  
STANTON & KILLEEN

Beechworth  
CASTAGNA  
GIACONDA

Grampians  
ARMSTRONG VINEYARDS  
BEST'S  
MOUNT LANGI GHIRAN  
SEPPELT GREAT WESTERN

Pyrenees  
DALWHINNIE  
SUMMERFIELD

### TALTARNI

Henty  
CRAWFORD RIVER

Bendigo  
BALGOWNIE  
PONDALOWIE

Heathcote  
HEATHCOTE WINERY  
JASPER HILL  
WILD DUCK CREEK

Nagambie Lakes (Goulburn Valley)  
MITCHELTON  
TAHBILK

Upper Goulburn  
DELATITE

Yarra Valley  
COLDSTREAM HILLS  
DE BORTOLI (VICTORIA)  
DIAMOND VALLEY  
GIANT STEPS  
GREEN POINT/DOM. CHANDON

MAC FORBES  
METIER WINES  
MOUNT MARY  
PHI  
SEVILLE ESTATE  
TARRAWARRA  
YARRA BURN  
YARRA YARRA  
YARRA YERING  
YERING STATION/YARRABANK  
YERINGBERG

Mornington Peninsula  
DROMAÑA ESTATE  
ELDRIDGE ESTATE  
KOOYONG  
MAIN RIDGE  
MOORODUC ESTATE  
PARINGA ESTATE  
PORT PHILLIP ESTATE  
STONIER  
TEN MINUTES BY TRACTOR

Geelong  
BANNOCKBURN  
BY FARR  
SCOTCHMANS HILL  
SHADOWFAX

Sunbury  
CRAIGLÉE

Macedon Ranges  
BINDI  
COBAW RIDGE  
CURLY FLAT  
HANGING ROCK  
VIRGIN HILLS

Gippsland  
BASS PHILLIP

Tasmania  
BAY OF FIRES  
CLOVER HILL  
DOMAINE A  
HOUSE OF ARRAS  
LALLA GULLY  
STEFANO LUBIANA  
MOORILLA ESTATE  
PIPERS BROOK  
PIRIE TASMANIA  
TAMAR RIDGE

Victoria  
WILLIAM DOWNIE

## Victoria & Tasmania vintages

The generalised Vintage charts below cover some of the most ageworthy styles and will prove most useful when taken together with comments on style and ageing within individual producer entries. Many powerful, full-bodied red can be drunk young but an increasing number will not be at their best for at least five years. Top-quality Chardonnay and Pinot Noir are likely to show at their best only with three to six years' ageing. In terms of longer-term cellaring potential, great premium Victorian Shiraz or Cabernet-based reds can improve for at least a decade. Both the vintage ratings and when to drink assessments generally only apply to the top rated examples (3-star or higher).

### Recent vintages

**2010** Rainfall in winter and spring returned to more typical levels after a series of drought years which, the previous year, culminated in the tinder box conditions that led to Black Saturday. For some, rainfall at harvest required producers to hold their nerve but fortune smiled on the Yarra Valley, which experienced an excellent vintage, especially for the reds, as did other leading regions like Heathcote and Mornington Peninsula.

**2009** A cool, late vintage in Tasmania resulted in excellent quality. Conversely, on the mainland, a record heat wave on 27-31 January resulted in scorching, sunburn and major crop loss. Worse followed. On Black Saturday, 7 February, bush fires ravaged Victoria, the North West of the Yarra Valley taking the brunt. About 25% of the region was directly impacted by fire. Elsewhere in the Yarra and in several other regions, smoke taint affected later ripening varieties. Regions that fared well include the Mornington Peninsula, Alpine Valley and Pyrenees, the Pyrenees, Heathcote and Macedon Ranges.

**2008** Drought was a major problem and the heat spike in early March resulted in many varieties maturing at the same time which gave the wineries fermentation problems. Those who made an early start and harvested during February's cooler conditions fared better and quality is good. In Tasmania, warmer than normal temperatures throughout the growing season and an early harvest was good for quality.

**2007** Victoria looks the worst affected of Australia's major wine producing states. Drought conditions resulting in a much smaller harvest and chronic water shortages were compounded by bushfires in the King and Alpine Valleys. The extent and duration of these fires will spoil fruit further afield too. However prospects for quality are good in some of the cool climate areas. Tasmania produced an early, relatively healthy crop.

**2006** looks to be another good quality vintage in both Victoria and Tasmania with an early harvest in most regions and success with both Pinot Noir and Shiraz. Tasmania was particularly early with substantially lowered yields and increased concentration in both reds and whites.

**2005** in Victoria was a plentiful harvest (a record crop in Australia) with a mild

summer followed by hot conditions in early March. Many producers are confident of a high quality vintage including those in Tasmania.

**2004** in Victoria, as with the other eastern states, saw quantity bounce back after the small, drought-affected early harvest of 03. Quality-wise, 04 was very good in the Yarra Valley which although generally cool (suited Chardonnay) early warmth facilitated full ripening in Bordeaux varieties. Pinot Noir was less good here but very promising from Mornington Peninsula. Shiraz from Central and Western Victoria has concentrated ripe fruit from those vineyards that avoided excessive heat stress. In Tasmania cool weather meant a much prolonged season (into June for some) with a struggle for ripeness and healthy fruit. Yet wines from producers who achieved full ripeness are very good – with good acidities and flavour complexity.

## Victoria & Tasmania vintage chart

	Bendigo/ Heathcote Shiraz	Grampians/ Pyrenees Shiraz	Yarra Valley/ Pinot Noir	Tasmanian Pinot Noir
2010	★★★★☆ A	★★★★☆ A	★★★★☆ A	★★★★ A
2009	★★★★ A	★★★★ A	★★ to ★★★ A	★★★★☆ A
2008	★★★★ A	★★★★ A	★★★★ A	★★★★☆ A
2007	★★★★ A	★★★★ A	★★★ B	★★★★ B
2006	★★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★★ B
2005	★★★★☆ B	★★★★☆ B	★★★★☆ B	★★★★☆ B
2004	★★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★ B	★★ to ★★★★ B
2003	★★★★☆ B	★★★★ B	★★★★☆ B	★★★★ B
2002	★★★★☆ B	★★★★☆ B	★★★★☆ B	★★★★☆ B
2001	★★★★☆ B	★★★★☆ B	★★★★ B	★★★★ B
2000	★★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★★☆ B	★★★★ B
1999	★★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★ C	★★★★ C
1998	★★★★☆ B	★★★★☆ B	★★★★☆ C	★★★★☆ C
1997	★★★★☆ B	★★★★ C	★★★★☆ C	★★★★ C
1996	★★★★ C	★★★★☆ C		
1995	★★★ C	★★★★ C		
1994	★★★★ C	★★★★ C		
1992	★★★ C	★★★★ C		
1991	★★★★☆ C	★★★★☆ C		

## A-Z of producers

**ALL SAINTS** Rutherglen & Glenrowan [www.allsaintswine.com.au](http://www.allsaintswine.com.au)  
*Eliza, Andrew & Nicolas Brown All Saints Road, Wāhgunyah, VIC 3687*  
 Tel: 02 6035 2222 Fax: 02 6035 2200

The late Peter Brown bought this high-quality producer of Rutherglen Muscat and Tokay from his family (BROWN BROTHERS) in 1999. The estate is run by his children. The fortifieds already have quite a reputation while the table wines are rapidly improving. The Classic-level versions are relatively youthful and raisiny, the Grand add more richness and complexity, but Rare examples are that much more refined with terrific length of flavour. As overwhelming as these wines can be, Rare is a good place to start. Otherwise there's rich, characterful Shiraz and Durif if you're looking for something muscular and meaty. The Shiraz needs at least 5 years' ageing, the Durif needs 10 or more.

- **Rutherglen Muscat** Rare★★★★ £G
- **Rutherglen Muscat** Grand★★★★ £F
- **Rutherglen Muscat** Classic★★★ £C
- **Rutherglen Tokay** Rare★★★★★ £G
- **Rutherglen Tokay** Grand★★★★ £F
- **Rutherglen Tokay** Classic★★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Family Cellar★★ £E
- **Durif** Family Cellar★★ £F

**ARMSTRONG VINEYARDS** Grampians

*Tony Royal Lot 1, Military Road, Armstrong, VIC 3381*  
 Tel: 08 8277 6073 Fax: 08 8277 6035

This is the project of Tony Royal who runs the Portavin bottling and packaging plant in Adelaide. Grapes from 5ha of well-established, low-yielding vines are given a prolonged cold soak (pre-fermentation maceration) before being vinified in small open fermenters. Aged in 70% new oak, Armstrong is very much in the powerful blockbuster mould with the real essence of very ripe, concentrated Great Western Shiraz. In 2003 a second, more forward, expressive example was made with 5–6% Viognier and herbal, mineral, berryish fruit. With good texture, plenty of extract and fine tannins it should be at its best with 5–8 years' age.

- **Armstrong** Great Western★★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz Viognier** Great Western★★★★ £D

**BAILEYS OF GLENROWAN** Glenrowan [www.baileysofglenrowan.com.au](http://www.baileysofglenrowan.com.au)

*Foster's Wine Estates Tamimick Gap Road, Glenrowan, VIC 3675*  
 Tel: 03 5766 2392 Fax: 03 5766 2596

In acquiring Baileys in 1996, Mildara Blass (now BERINGER BLASS) added some rich, original fortified Australian Muscat and Tokay to its portfolio. Apart from these sometimes outstanding fortified wines, Baileys was known for one of Victoria's most robust and gutsy Shirazes. However, in the most recent vintages the Shiraz has taken on more refinement with finer structure, yet retaining good fruit intensity. 1904 Block and 1920 Block Shiraz are named for when the vineyards on which they are based were planted. The fortifieds are particularly rich, sweet examples, lacking the elegance or refinement of others but with plenty of power and flavour. The finest versions are Winemaker's Selection but these are made only in tiny quantities and are difficult to obtain.

- **Shiraz** 1904 Block★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** 1920 Block★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★ £C
- **Liqueur Tokay** Founder★★★★ £D
- **Liqueur Muscat** Founder★★★ £D

**BALGOWNIE** Bendigo [www.balgownie.com](http://www.balgownie.com)

*Forrester family Hermitage Road, Maiden Gully, VIC 3551*  
 Tel: 03 5449 6222 Fax: 03 5449 6506

After a long period of ownership by Mildara Blass Balgownie is finally returning to the form it originally showed under its founder Stuart Anderson. Major vineyard expansion has extended plantings to 35ha and the quality of recent releases of Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon in particular has been generally very good. A small amount of single vineyard Chardonnay and Pinot Noir for cellar door release only Maiden Gully is the new second label, producing fresh, fruit-driven Cabernet/Shiraz and Chardonnay. In 2003, Balgownie planted 7ha of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir in the Yarra Valley to (not tasted), where the family have also established a cellar door and spa hotel.

- **Shiraz**★★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★★ £E
- **Pinot Noir**★ £E

○ **Chardonnay**★★ £E**BANNOCKBURN** Geelong [www.bannockburnvineyards.com](http://www.bannockburnvineyards.com)

*Hooper family Midland Highway, Bannockburn, VIC 3331*  
 Tel: 03 5281 1363 Fax: 03 5281 1349

Original winemaker Gary Farr's achievement is all the more remarkable given the relatively low profile of Geelong as a wine-producing region. Having established a considerable reputation by the mid-1980s he managed to keep the quality and the profile of Bannockburn among the country's leaders. New winemaker Michael Glover seeks to do the same. Cabernet was the fashionable variety and Pinot Noir almost unheard of in Australia when a deep, rich extracted example was first produced by Farr. Many of Farr's practices for handling Pinot Noir, both in terms of viticulture (including high-density planting) and winemaking (part whole-bunch pressing), were modelled on Domaine DUJAC in Burgundy. The wine's deep spice, plum and savoury, undergrowth (at times, stemmy) character has always been individual; never noted for finesse, it is complex, ageworthy and impressively structured. Serré, S.R.H, Range and and Stuart are all recently added and special vineyard and barrel selections of the grape. Shiraz also has superb texture and complexity and the concentrated Chardonnay can be very impressive, the SRH savoury. Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling are also made. The new wines from Gary Farr's own vineyards (BY FARR) or indeed those of his son Nicholas (FARR RISING) make for an interesting comparison.

- **Shiraz**★★★★ £E
- **Pinot Noir**★★★★ £F
- **Chardonnay**★★★★ £F
- **Chardonnay** SRH★★★★ £F

**BASS PHILLIP** Gippsland

*Phillip Jones Hunts Road, Leongatha South, VIC 3953*  
 Tel: 03 5664 3341 Fax: 03 5664 3209

Phillip Jones has gone out on a limb, opting for the vast, cool expanse of Gippsland for his winemaking venture. There are other notable wine producers here but they are as remote from each other as from other regions. Leongatha is further south and east than Mornington Peninsula and not far from Wilson's promontory, the mainland's most southerly point. The downside is variable vintage conditions, producing very ripe fruit on occasions, but just as often the vines can struggle for ripeness. From very closely spaced vineyards (at least in Australian terms) he has produced Pinot Noir of a quality that puts it among the very best in Australia. Early vintages, in the mid- to late 1980s, were made in minuscule quantities but the vineyard area has been gradually increased. The quality of the wines shows in the structure and length on the palate and the purity of the fruit. Only grapes of the requisite standard make the successive levels, from the most forward yet still serious regular Pinot through more intense, complex Premium to a deep, structured Reserve that needs at least 5 years' age. A tiny amount of Chardonnay and Gamay are also made. The wines are very expensive, in part due to their cult status. Two slightly less expensive versions of Pinot Noir, the Crown Prince and the Village, have also recently been produced.

- **Pinot Noir** Reserve★★★★ £H
- **Pinot Noir** Premium★★★★ £G
- **Pinot Noir**★★★★ £F

>> **BAY OF FIRES** Tasmania [www.bayoffires.com](http://www.bayoffires.com)

*Constellation 40 Baxters Rd, Pipers River, TAS 7252*  
 Tel: 03 6382 7622

The draw of Australia's coolest climate proved too hard to resist for Constellation who established the winery at Bay of Fires in the north eastern corner of Tasmania in 2002. Fruit is sourced from the property's 23ha of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris and Riesling, which is supplemented with additional fruit from across Tasmania. Under winemaker Fran Austin, it has fast established a reputation for its wines which combine good fruit weight with cool climate brightness and definition. The top Pinot Noir shows extra depth and finesse. (SA)

- **Pinot Noir**★★★★ £C
- **Pinot Noir** Tigris★★★ £C
- **Sauvignon Blanc**★★★★ £E
- **Pinot Gris**★★ £E
- **Riesling**★★★★ £E
- **Sparkling Cuvee Brut**★★ £E
- **Sparkling Cuvee Rosé**★★ £E

## **BEST'S Grampians** www.bestswines.com

*Thomson family 111 Best's Road, Great Western, VIC 3377*  
*Tel: 03 5356 2250 Fax: 03 5356 2430*

Best's had its beginnings in 1866 under Henry Best and a family tradition of grape growing and winemaking has been continued by the Thomson family since 1920. Viv Thomson is the current incumbent, ably assisted by Adam Wadewitz, with Thomson's eldest son Ben in charge of the vineyards, which have among the country's oldest vines. The Concongella vineyards particularly favour medium bodied yet intense styles of Shiraz, which can be very good indeed, whether the approachable Bin 1, consistently deep, super-spicy and peppery Bin O or a very limited-release and pricey Thomson Family version, which needs time to unfurl. An idiosyncratic old vine Pinot Meunier is intense and spicy. Riesling is very good too, floral yet focused and long; Wadewitz is experimenting with an off dry style, The House Block Riesling, which looks promising. Recent Chardonnays show nicely defined varietal character. Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Pinot Noir and a flavoursome Late Harvest Muscat are also made. Museum Releases can be pretty special too if rarely encountered. Best's budget Victoria range comes from a separate estate, St Andrews, at Lake Boga (Swan Hill), and includes a decent Shiraz.

- Shiraz Bin Thomson Family Great Western★★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Bin O Great Western★★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Bin I Great Western★★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Victoria★★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon Great Western★★★ £D
- Pinot Meunier Great Western★★★★★ £E
- Chardonnay Great Western★★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay Victoria★★★★★ £C
- Riesling Great Western★★★★★ £C ○ Riesling Victoria★★★ £B
- Late Harvest Muscat Victoria★★★ £C

## **BINDI Macedon Ranges** www.bindiwin.com.au

*Dhillon family 343 Melton Road, Gisborne, VIC 3437*  
*Tel: 03 5428 2564 Fax: 03 5428 2564*

Bindi is the leading producer in the Macedon Ranges and one of Australia's best boutique growers. Michael Dhillon makes very small quantities of outstanding *cuvées* of both Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. The vineyards are at 500m with differences in soil type and exposure between the 3 different Pinot Noir vineyards, Original Vineyard, the most recent elevated Block K, quartz-laden Composition 8 and the more sheltered Block 5. Very low yields and a relatively low percentage of new French oak contribute to supremely rich and concentrated wines with excellent balance (without the high alcohol often associated with top-end Australian or North American examples) and an intense fruit-filled finish, particularly in the Chardonnays. Both Chardonnays and Original and Composition Vineyard Pinot Noir deserve to be drunk with at least 5–10 years' age but can easily be approached much sooner. Block 5 Pinot, made in minute quantities, has not been tasted. Also made is Pyrette Shiraz from Heathcote fruit and a little sparkling wine, which shows tremendous drive combined with bright creamy fruit.

- Pinot Noir Original Vineyard★★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay Quartz★★★★★ £F ○ Chardonnay Composition★★★★★ £E
- Sparkling Chardonnay/Pinot Noir★★★★★ £E

## **R L BULLER & SON Rutherglen** www.buller.com.au

*Buller family Calliope, Three Chain Road, Rutherglen, VIC 3685*  
*Tel: 02 6032 9660 Fax: 02 6032 8005*

The Buller family operations include both fortified and table wines from wineries in Rutherglen (Calliope) and Beverford in the Swan Hill region. Most exceptional are the outstanding (Rare) Tokay and Muscat from unirrigated Rutherglen vineyards. Made only in very small quantities, there is splendid complexity and superb flavour length as well as sheer age in both. The Premium Fine Old (or Premium Fine) examples are also made in a solera system and have great intensity, complexity and length as well as surprising elegance for the style. Another premium fortified, Premium Fine Old Tawny, more in the style of an aged Tawny Port, has not been tasted. Powerful, robust Calliope Shiraz is also made and other Limited Release reds include Durif and blends styled on the Rhône and Bordeaux. Prices for the fortifieds are keener than for most Rutherglen examples and represent exceptional value.

- Rutherglen Tokay Premium Fine Old★★★★★ £C
- Rutherglen Tokay Calliope Rare★★★★★ £H

○ Rutherglen Muscat Premium Fine Old★★★★★ £C

○ Rutherglen Muscat Calliope Rare★★★★★ £H

## **CAMPBELLS Rutherglen & Glenrowan** www.campbellswines.com.au

*Campbell family Murray Valley Highway, Rutherglen, VIC 3685*  
*Tel: 02 6032 9458 Fax: 02 6032 9870*

As always in Rutherglen the reputation of this producer depends on the quality of the fortified wines, and here they are consistently good. Impressively flavour-some in the cheaper examples, there is marvellous complexity, intensity and refinement in the Rare-level Isabella Tokay and Merchant Prince Muscat.

Campbells reds, in particular The Barkly Durif, can show real intensity in a robust, gutsy style. Alcohol levels have been pared back especially for the Bobbie Burns Shiraz which represents good value.

- Rutherglen Tokay Rare Isabella○○○○○○ £H
- Rutherglen Tokay Grand★★★★★ £G
- Rutherglen Tokay Classic★★★★★ £E ○ Rutherglen Tokay★★★ £D
- Rutherglen Muscat Rare Merchant Prince★★★★★ £H
- Rutherglen Muscat Grand★★★★★ £G
- Rutherglen Muscat Classic★★★★★ £E ○ Rutherglen Muscat★★★ £D
- Shiraz Bobbie Burns★ £C ● Durif The Barkly★★★ £E

## **CASTAGNA Beechworth** www.castagna.com.au

*Julian Castagna Ransom Lane, Beechworth, VIC 3747*  
*Tel: 03 5728 2888 Fax: 03 5728 2898*

There are few biodynamic estates in Australia but this is already the most important. The small estate is based just outside Beechworth at 500m elevation and benefits from hot days and cool nights. The Beechworth region has been slow to take off despite the reputation of GIACONDA but as Castagna and others become better known this seems certain to change. Julian Castagna has decided to concentrate on Syrah and Viognier with some Sangiovese in contrast to the mostly Burgundian orientated Giaconda. Given the biodynamic stance, he also relies only on indigenous yeasts, again unusual in Australia, running counter to mainstream thinking in the industry. The top two wines are the Genesis Syrah which is intense, dense example with lots of extract and Un Segreto, a beautifully weighted, intense blend of Sangiovese and Shiraz with lifted incense spice and liquorice. Both are relatively cool, individual and highly expressive examples of Shiraz/Syrah and Sangiovese. In order to show its full potential Genesis Shiraz needs to be given 10 years, while Un Segreto just starts to hit straps at five years and will keep going 10 years plus. A second Shiraz, Sauvage offers some of the same wild black and red fruits intensity along with a mineral, licorice aspect, if not the same concentration or extra depth and complexity but this too needs some time - at least 5 years. A bold and powerful rosé Allegro also comes from Shiraz but is less interesting than La Chiave from Sangiovese which is sleek, stylish and almost certainly the best yet made in Australia. Viognier, bottled as Ingénue, rounds out the range and has decent structure and an elegance rarely seen in this variety 'down under'. The wines are bottled unfiltered. Adam's Rib White and Red (not tasted) are the entry level wines.

- Syrah Genesis★★★★★ £F
- Sauvage★★★★★ £E
- Un Segreto★★★★★ £F
- La Chiave★★★★★ £F
- Ingénue★★★★★ £F
- Allegro★★★ £D

## **CHAMBERS ROSEWOOD Rutherglen & Glenrowan**

*Chambers family Barkley Street, Rutherglen, VIC 3685*  
*Tel: 02 6032 8641 Fax: 02 6032 8101*

Many of the great fortified-wine producers of North-West Victoria have their beginnings in late-Victorian times; Chambers goes as far back as 1858. It is the stocks of extremely old wines that contribute not only to the incredible concentration and intensity of the Rare versions of Rutherglen Muscat and Tokay, the latter now labelled Topaque Muscadelle (previously sold simply as Old Liqueur Tokay and Old Liqueur Muscat) but also their remarkable texture and extraordinary flavour complexity. The tea-leaf elegance of the Tokay contrasts with the more dried-fruits, raisiny character of the Muscat. The Special bottlings, now classified Grand, are also very fine, although at the regular, if relatively inexpensive level, there is good richness but the balance and flavours are much less inspiring. Table wines are also made. Prices below are based on a 75cl bottle, though they are sold in halves.

- Rutherglen Tokay Rare○○○○○○ £H

- **Rutherglen Tokay** Grand★★★★★ £H ○ **Rutherglen Tokay**★★★ £E
- **Rutherglen Muscat** Rare○○○○○○ £H
- **Rutherglen Muscat** Grand★★★★ £H ○ **Rutherglen Muscat**★★ £E

**>> COBAW RIDGE** Macedon Ranges [www.cobawridge.com.au](http://www.cobawridge.com.au)

*Alan & Nelly Cooper 31 Perc Boyers Lane, East Pastoria Vic 3444*  
*Tel: 03 95423 5227 Fax: 03 95423 5227*

Established in 1985, the Cooper's Macedon Ranges six hectare vineyard is planted at 610 metres where, it transpires, Northern Italian Sadtiroil variety Lagrein flourishes. However, the less than successful Vermentino was removed after five years having yielded a grand total of about 15 kg! A vertical of the inky Lagrein, Australia's first commercial quantities of the variety, showed great consistency and typicity with sappy, sour plum and cherry fruit underscored by ripe but present tannins. An aromatic, spicy, finely honed Shiraz co-fermented with a dash of Viognier showcases the region's cool climate credentials too. The Coopers are also renowned for Chardonnay, while Pinot Noir (the smallest production wine) is now building a following (neither tasted). Certified organic in 2009, all wines are 100% estate grown and neither filtered nor fined. Additions are kept to the bare minimum so as not to interfere with vineyard expression and the wines have distinctly unforced feel about them. (SA)

- **Chardonnay**★★★ £D ● **Pinot Noir**★★★ £F ● **Lagrein**★★★ £E
- **Shiraz**★★★ £F

**COLDSTREAM HILLS** Yarra Valley [www.coldstreamhills.com.au](http://www.coldstreamhills.com.au)

*Foster's Wine Estates 31 Maddens Lane, Coldstream, VIC 3770*  
*Tel: 03 5964 9410 Fax: 03 5964 9389*

This high-profile Yarra Valley winery, founded in 1985 by wine critic James Halliday, is now part of the Treasury Wine Estates portfolio of small to medium-sized wineries. Production has risen from a little under 500 cases in the first vintage to over 30,000 cases while now the company owns or manages vineyard holdings totalling some 100ha across five sites in the Upper and Lower Yarra. The wines are made by Andrew Fleming with consultancy from Halliday. Reserves are made from the best fruit and see a greater percentage of new French oak. Burgundy is the inspiration for both Pinot Noir and Chardonnay that are ageworthy but nevertheless emphasise attractive youthful fruit. Whole bunches are used in vinifying the Pinot Noir while Chardonnay undergoes a cool fermentation (and only a small amount of malolactic fermentation) as well as extensive lees contact. Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon shows good texture and intensity. Shiraz (including a Reserve), Sauvignon Blanc and Sparkling wines are also made.

- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Reserve★★★ £F
- **Merlot**★★ £D
- **Pinot Noir** Reserve★★★ £F
- **Pinot Noir**★★ £D
- **Chardonnay** Reserve★★★ £F ○ **Chardonnay**★★ £D

**CRAIGLEE** Sunbury [www.craiglee.com.au](http://www.craiglee.com.au)

*Carmody family Sunbury Road, Sunbury, VIC 3429*  
*Tel: 03 9744 4489 Fax: 03 9744 4489*

Craiglee is a tiny cool-climate winery and vineyard an hour or so north of Melbourne. In 1976 Pat Carmody replanted vines on the site of 19th-century vineyards. He and his family continue to make small quantities of wines in the original winery building. The emphasis here is on structured, elegant, well-crafted wines with a real capacity to age. Chardonnay is marked by a restrained melon character, with well-judged, subtle use of oak. Like nearby VIRGIN HILLS with its Cabernet Sauvignon, the Shiraz here is at the extreme margin for achieving full ripeness. Certainly in the warmer years, it is one of the best in the state. In cooler or more variable vintages the classic pepper and spice character can be slightly overwhelmed by an intense minty/spearmint influence. Very small amounts of Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc are also made.

- **Shiraz**★★★ £E ○ **Chardonnay**★★★ £D

**CRAWFORD RIVER** Henty [www.crawfordriverwines.com](http://www.crawfordriverwines.com)

*John Thomson Hotspur Upper Road, Condah, VIC 3303*  
*Tel: 03 5578 2267 Fax: 03 5578 2240*

A long-established boutique operation, John Thomson's winery in the still little-known Henty region remains small but is making better wines than ever. Riesling is consistently the best variety with impressive depth, intensity and

concentration. Long and stylish, it sometimes lacks the extra structure and tautness to rival top European examples. However, a beautifully balanced Reserve is even better with the weight, expression and minerality to rival at top example from Germany's Pfalz (try from 03). Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc has real style and length too, with vivid herb and ripe citrus fruit. Cabernet Sauvignon comes from old vines and is much less consistent but can be superb in a warm year like 2000 (for which the rating is given). With floral, berry and herbal complexity, it is taut, intense and complex with ripe tannins. Also made is a Cabernet/Merlot and elegant, moderately sweet white, Nektar.

- **Riesling**★★★★ £D ○ **Riesling** Reserve★★★★★ £E
- **Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc**★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★ £E

**CURLY FLAT** Macedon Ranges [www.curlyflat.com](http://www.curlyflat.com)

*Phillip & Jeni Moraghan Collivers Road, Lancefield, VIC 3435*  
*Tel: 03 5429 1956 Fax: 03 5429 2256*

Curly Flat is one of a small but growing band of high-quality producers located in the Macedon Ranges. Phillip and Jeni Moraghan's 14ha of vineyards are at 575m and planted predominantly to Pinot Noir. Experience gained in North America has been supplemented by help from Gary Farr and the wines have been made in their own winery since 2002. Both Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are both complex and well balanced, with well-defined cool climate fruit and, picked on acid not sugar, have good underlying freshness. Declassified fruit goes into a second label, Williams Crossing. As well as a sparkling wine, Pinot Grigio and rosé have also been added to the range. In recent years there has been a shift towards farming biodynamically.

- **Pinot Noir**★★★★★ £F ○ **Chardonnay**★★★★★ £E

**DALWHINNIE** Pyrenees [www.dalwhinnie.com.au](http://www.dalwhinnie.com.au)

*David & Jenny Jones Forest Hut Rd, Moonambel, VIC 3478*  
*Tel: 03 5467 2388 Fax: 03 5467 2237*

This is the best winery in the Pyrenees region and one of the best both in the state and Australia. The 18ha of organically tended vineyards are planted in granite soils at a higher altitude than many of the neighbouring estates and produce wines of real structure and finesse. With an established reputation for outstanding Shiraz and Chardonnay, the Jones have enlisted outside consultancy and the quality of the wines continues to improve. A small amount of Eagle Series Shiraz is made from a tiny 1.2-ha vineyard which is very intense, classy and complete but needs 10 years' ageing. Chardonnay is deep yet restrained with real intensity and structured for medium-term cellaring. Both the Moonambel Cabernet and Moonambel Shiraz will improve in bottle for 5, often 10 years.

- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Moonambel★★★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** Pyrenees Eagle Series★★★★★ £G
- **Shiraz** Moonambel★★★★★ £F
- **Pinot Noir** Moonambel★★★★ £F
- **Chardonnay** Moonambel★★★★★ £F

**DE BORTOLI (VICTORIA)** Yarra Valley [www.debortoli.com.au](http://www.debortoli.com.au)

*De Bortoli family Pinnacle Lane, Dixon's Creek, VIC 3775*  
*Tel: 03 5965 2271 Fax: 03 5965 2464*

De Bortoli is well-known for its big-volume inexpensive blends and varieties from Riverina but the better wines (the sweet Noble One excepted – see De Bortoli, New South Wales) are made in and, for the most part, sourced from the Yarra Valley. The winemaking is headed by Stephen Webber whose wife Leanne De Bortoli directs operations. Stylish Chardonnay, intense, dark cherry and plum Pinot Noir, and increasingly stylish, intense spicy Shiraz (including very limited quantities of a denser, more complex Reserve) appear under the Yarra Valley label, but the regular Pinot Noir and Chardonnay can lack the depth and expression of better examples. Reserves are however much more impressive - concentrated, complex and ripe if still not especially expressive of the Yarra. There has been a sea change with leading varieties Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, which are now picked at lower ripeness in pursuit of more elegant, terroir driven styles with fresh natural acidity. In the winery, natural yeasts and malolactic fermentations prevail. There is also a shift away from new oak, especially with the Chardonnays. This, together with techniques aimed at introducing a subtle phenolic character has resulted in greater complexity and layers of texture. In consequence, the wines benefit from a little more time in bottle. The flagship Melba Reserve, primarily from Cabernet Sauvignon is made in small quantities and released

with several years' bottle age. Melba Lucia is an intense, well structured blend of Cabernet and Sangiovese. Gulf Station wines are less expensive but also sourced from the Yarra Valley. The Shiraz and Chardonnay stand out and provide good value, though other Gulf Station varietals can sometimes be surpassed by the cheaper Windy Peak wines, which include fruit from wider sources. The silky Windy Peak Pinot Noir (£B) is a case in point. New King Valley sourced innovative red and white blends under the Sero label show promise. And innovation is also the watchword with the textured, off-dry Yarra Valley Reserve Release Riesling made by acclaimed Assistant Winemaker Sarah Fagan following a vintage at Leitz in the Rheingau.

*De Bortoli Yarra Valley:*

- Chardonnay★★★ £C ○ Chardonnay Reserve★★★★ £D
- Riesling Reserve★★★★ £C
- Pinot Noir★★★★ £D ● Pinot Noir Reserve Release★★★★ £E
- Shiraz/Viognier★★★ £C ● Syrah Reserve Release★★★★ £E
- Melba Reserve★★★★ £E

*Sero:*

- Merlot/Sangiovese King Valley★★★ £B
- Syrah/Tempranillo King Valley★★★ £B

*Gulf Station:*

- Chardonnay★ £C ● Shiraz★ £C

**DELATITE** Upper Goulburn www.delatitewinery.com.au

*David Ritchie Stoneys Road, Mansfield, VIC 3722*

*Tel: 03 5775 2922 Fax: 03 5775 2911*

Mansfield in the Central High Country of Victoria is one of the state's many cool outposts to be exploited. Wines have been made from these steep slopes with views across to the alpine retreat of Mount Buller since 1982. The wines are lighter and exhibit cooler flavours than the majority of Australian wines but have impressive fruit intensity. Aromatic white varieties are a forte. There's an aromatic, very floral Riesling that is intense and characterful. Even better is a wonderfully expressive Gewürztraminer which has good richness and depth and great length. Both only miss a little extra structure. The range now features some impressive new Kabinett and late harvest styles. Floral Sylvia Riesling, made in a Kabinett style, is pretty but there is no shortage of rapier-like acidity to its candied citrus fruit. A waxy Pinot Gris is also made in a euro-centric style, with nutty, spicy notes to its pear fruit, as is the delightful, sweet late harvest Catherine Gewürztraminer. Chardonnay shows some style too, though it lacks a little depth. Reds are markedly cool and minty in style but do increasingly achieve ripe tannins in the Cabernet or Cabernet-based Devil's River, a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Shiraz. Dungeon Gully (Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz) too, though very minty can be supple with soft tannins. A number of other varietals are made including Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Nebbiolo, Tempranillo and Shiraz. Some sparkling wine, Delmelza Pinot/Chardonnay and Polly Gewürztraminer, is also made.

- Gewürztraminer Catherine★★★★ £E
- Gewürztraminer Dead Mans Hill★★★★ £C
- Riesling Sylvia★★ £E ○ Riesling★★ £C
- Chardonnay★★ £C ○ Pinot Gris★★ £C
- Devil's River★★ £D ● Dungeon Gully★★ £C

**DIAMOND VALLEY** Yarra Valley www.diamondvalley.com.au

*David Lance 2130 Kinglake Road, St Andrews, VIC 3761*

*Tel: 03 9710 1484 Fax: 03 9710 1369*

Small winery established in 1982 producing around 7,000 cases a year. In 2005 the brand was sold to Graeme Rathbone but the wines are still made by David Lance who retains ownership of the vineyard and winery. While the Yarra Valley Blue Label range is well crafted with good varietal fruit, it is the White Label Estate wines, in particular the superb Pinot Noir, which stand out. The Chardonnay is rich and lightly tropical with well-judged oak, while the Estate Pinot is marked by concentrated – almost gamey – forward plum and black fruit, all underpinned by a not inconsiderable oak influence. Showy in its youth but with real structure too, it will be all the better for 5 years' ageing.

- Cabernet Merlot Estate★★★★ £F
- Cabernet Merlot★★ £C
- Pinot Noir Estate★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir★★ £C
- Chardonnay Estate★★★★ £E
- Chardonnay★★ £C

**DOMAINE A** Tasmania www.domaine-a.com.au

*Peter & Ruth Althaus Teatree Road, Campania, TAS 7026*

*Tel: 03 6260 4174 Fax: 03 6260 4390*

Peter and Ruth Althaus' Stoney Vineyard is but a short distance from Tasmania's capital Hobart in the Coal River Valley. Something of the viticultural and winemaking philosophy echoes that of many small producers in similarly marginal vine-growing regions in Europe. 11ha of a 20ha estate are planted at relatively high densities and both pruning and harvesting are carried out by hand. Domaine A is the top selection, Stoney Vineyard effectively a second label. Cabernet Sauvignon is a particularly good example of cool-grown elegance and much better than many underperforming classed growth Médocs. Domaine A Pinot Noir shows rich plum and cherry fruit and has length and style if missing a little extra depth or dimension to fully justify the price tag. The structure of Lady A, a barrel-fermented and aged Sauvignon is impressive too if the oak influence can teeter on being overdone. The Stoney Vineyard varietals are cool and elegant, generally with sufficient ripeness in fruit and tannins in the Cabernet. All in all an estate deserving of attention.

*Domaine A:*

- Fumé Blanc Lady A★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir★★★★ £F
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★ £F

*Stoney Vineyard:*

- Sauvignon Blanc★★ £D
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★ £D

**>> WILLIAM DOWNIE** Victoria www.williamdownie.com.au

*William Downie 121 Yarragon South Road, Yarragon, VIC 3823*

*Tel: 03 5634 2216 Fax: 03 5634 2216*

William (Bill) Downie established his eponymous label in 2003. His passion is Pinot Noir and he makes no less than three from the Yarra Valley, Mornington Peninsula and Gippsland in Victoria, where he is planting his own high density (11,000 vines/ha) biodynamic vineyard. Meantime, fruit is rigorously sourced, where possible from vineyards farmed organically or biodynamically. Downie's love of Pinot stems from working for BASS PHILLIP, then DE BORTOLI in the Yarra Valley. Whilst at De Bortoli he oversaw their investment in Burgundy from 2001 until 2005. He brings a hands off approach to winemaking which is readily apparent in the delicate hue and subtle flavour profile of his intense Pinots. Fruit is de-stemmed and, after a natural cold soak for a few days, fermentation is in open-topped wooden fermenters. The wines are not plunged until dryness and are then aged in barrel for about 15 months. The Gippsland Pinot Noir is the funkier of the three, while the Mornington Peninsula wines show the brightest fruit. The Yarra Valley Pinot lies somewhere in between. But all three share great length and persistence thanks to fruit that is intense, but not in the least overbearing. Animated acidity and fine but present tannins complete the package and provide the structure for ageing. These are wines that benefit from four to five years in bottle to really start hitting their straps.

- Pinot Noir Yarra Valley★★★★ £F ● Pinot Noir Morning Peninsula★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir Gippsland★★★★ £F

**DROMANA ESTATE** Mornington Peninsula www.dromanaestate.com.au

*Dromana Estate Ltd Old Moorooduc Road, Tuerong, VIC 3915*

*Tel: 03 5974 4400 Fax: 03 9600 3245*

Established by Garry Crittenden in 1982, whose son Rollo for some time made the wines, the estate is now majority-owned by investors. The premium label is Dromana Estate for wines from estate-grown fruit. The focus is on Pinot Noir and Chardonnay but also includes a somewhat leafy but increasingly ripe, spicy berry-fruited Cabernet/Merlot and a stylish, cool but ripe Shiraz. Both Chardonnay and Pinot Noir are good examples but the relatively restrained, complex Reserves offer much more. Mornington Estate wines come from a separate 20ha vineyard on the peninsula but much of the interest in Dromana comes from the production of Italian varietals, all sold under the "i" label. Current winemaker Duncan Duchanan has worked several vintages in Northern Italy and the range is generally attractive and well made. The Arneis, and a Pinot Grigio from Mornington Peninsula really come close to the intensity and character of good Italian examples while a Nebbiolo and Sangiovese from Heathcote shows increasingly fine fruit and tannins. The group has also expanded into the Yarra Valley with wines from Yarra fruit labelled as Yarra

Valley Hills. Also under the same ownership is David Traeger of Nagambie Lakes.

*Dromana Estate:*

- Pinot Noir★★★ £D
- Chardonnay★★★ £D

*i label:*

- Sangiovese★ £B ● Nebbiolo★ £B
- Arneis★★ £B ○ Pinot Grigio★★ £B

**>> ELDRIDGE ESTATE** [www.eldridge-estate.com.au](http://www.eldridge-estate.com.au)

Gary Farr Midland Highway, Bannockburn, VIC 3331

Tel: 03 5281 1979 Fax: 03 5281 1979

In 1995, David & Wendy Lloyd acquired Eldridge Estate. The vineyard, originally planted in 1984, is located on a north facing slope at 225 metres above sea level on rich terra rossa volcanic loam. Protected from harsh winds by natural land forms, the ripening period is long and cool. With a latitude of 38 22' 16" and longitude 145 1' 11", in altitude and climate, it is similar to Burgundy. Unsurprisingly, the focal point of the range is three Chardonnays and three Pinot Noirs (during their tenure, the Lloyds have grafted the vineyard over to the latest clones: six of Pinot Noir, five of Chardonnay). The Lloyds also make a sparkling wine (using all three Champagne varieties), an oaked Sauvignon Blanc and a Gamay. One hundred percent focused on the business, they work the seven acre vineyard and make the wines themselves. Production is small (between 800 and 1000 cases a year), but then the wines, all estate grown and bottled, are perfectly formed. Long and intense, the Estate and Clonal Blend Pinot Noirs are particularly refined, lifted and silky. The Estate Chardonnay shows the region's classic fleshy white peach, deftly balanced by a long thread of citrus acidity. (SA)

- Pinot Noir★★★★ £F ● Pinot Noir Clonal Blend★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay★★★★ £F

**BY FARR** Geelong

Gary Farr Midland Highway, Bannockburn, VIC 3331

Tel: 03 5281 1979 Fax: 03 5281 1979

In 1999 Gary Farr released four new varieties from 4.8ha of his own vineyards adjacent to BANNOCKBURN. Initially the wines were known as Bannockburn by Farr but are now simply By Farr. The wines are made in a purpose built winery but, coming from new clones on differing soil types and aspects, the wines are distinctly different. Shiraz, Chardonnay and no less than three cuvees of Pinot Noir (Farrside, Sangrel and Tout Pres, the latter almost twice the price and not tasted) all show a little more elegance and refined varietal character. Viognier is the major point of difference and seems set to show the hallmark Bannockburn weight and structure and therefore eclipse the high-alcohol but structure-deficient character of many Australian examples of this variety.

- Pinot Noir Farrside★★★★ £F ● Pinot Noir Sangrel★★★★ £F
- Shiraz★★★ £F ○ Chardonnay★★★★ £F ○ Viognier★★★★ £F

**GIACONDA** Beechworth [www.giaconda.com.au](http://www.giaconda.com.au)

Rick Kinzbrunner McClay Rd, Beechworth, VIC 3747

Tel: 03 5727 0246 Fax: 03 5727 0246

Production here remains small at around 2,500 cases per year, although the 3ha vineyards planted in the 1980s have now doubled in size thanks to more recent plantings. A small amount of wine is exported but most of it is accounted for by a dedicated mailing list. Rick Kinzbrunner's Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are Australian cool-climate classics, almost Burgundian in style with an approach to vinification that mirrors the best of the Côte d'Or. Kinzbrunner has now even created a vast underground cellar in which to age the wines. The Pinot Noir is expansive and classy, the Chardonnay structured and immensely refined: it requires a minimum of 5 years' ageing to fully unfurl but is nearly always amongst Australia's finest examples. Cabernet is a classic Bordeaux blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. More recently the range has been extended to include: Nantua Les Deux, a full-on blend of Chardonnay with a small amount of Roussanne; Aeolia, a rich powerful and exotic varietal Roussanne; and a richly textured, stylish Shiraz with a dash of Roussanne for aromatic complexity from the neighbouring Warner vineyard. A Nebbiolo remains in the wings (or at least in barrel). Another new project is a joint venture with Michel CHAPOUTIER, Ergo Sum Shiraz which comes from the Nantua Vineyard. All the wines age very

well. Prices reflect both quality and demand.

- Cabernet★★★★ £F ● Pinot Noir Nantua Vineyard★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Warner Vineyard★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay★★★★ £F ○ Aeolia★★★★ £F
- Nantua Les Deux★★★★ £F

**GIANT STEPS** Yarra Valley [www.giant-steps.com.au](http://www.giant-steps.com.au)

Sexton family 336 Maroondah Highway, PO Box 1479, Healesville VIC 3777

Tel: 03 5962 6111 Fax: 03 5962 6199

Phil Sexton it seems has a thing about Chardonnay. More than 20 years ago he established Devil's Lair in the Margaret River and soon produced a leading example. In 1997 he and his family took an almighty leap eastwards and took root again in the Yarra Valley. Of a range of impressive single vineyard wines now made those from one variety are the most thrilling: Chardonnay. Seven different Chardonnay clones are planted and the wines are made as naturally as possible with hand harvesting, whole bunch pressing, no added yeasts, and minimal use of sulphur. Sexton Vineyard Chardonnay has real dimension, weight and a slightly Chassagne-like fruit and style. Tarraford vineyard is slightly more Puligny-like with its intensity and drive. Both wines can lose a little definition in a very warm vintage but otherwise do consistently well. well. Arthur's Creek Chardonnay lies somewhere between the too, tight yet with a rich, intense core of fruit. Pinots, derived from five clones, are also among the better examples made in the Yarra Valley with good expression and a certain elegance but need at least 5-6 years' age to open out fully. Still more can be expected as the vines age. Shiraz is also made - in the slightly exotic, succulent Miller vineyard example, a small amount of Viognier was fermented together with the Shiraz. Tiny amounts of Jones Block Shiraz are produced from very old McLaren Vale vines for a very dense and concentrated style that needs plenty of time. Harry's Monster, made from equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot is a fleshy, affable character only missing a little depth and refinement. Innocent Bystander wines are soundly made range from mostly bought-in fruit.

*Giant Steps:*

- Chardonnay Sexton Vineyard★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay Tarraford Vineyard★★★★ £E
- Chardonnay Arthur's Creek Vineyard★★★★ £E
- Pinot Noir Sexton Vineyard★★★★ £D
- Pinot Noir Tarraford Vineyard★★★★ £E
- Pinot Noir Gladysdale Vineyard★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Miller Vineyard★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Jones Block★★★★ £E
- Merlot Giant Steps Vineyard★★★★ £C
- Harry's Monster Sexton Vineyard★★★★ £E

*Innocent Bystander:*

- Pinot Gris★★ £B ○ Pink Moscato★★ £C
- Chardonnay★★ £B
- Pinot Noir★★ £B

**GREEN POINT/DOM. CHANDON** [www.greenpointwines.com.au](http://www.greenpointwines.com.au)

LVMH Maroondah Highway, Coldstream, VIC 3770

Tel: 03 9739 1110 Fax: 03 9739 1095

The prestigious Yarra Valley operation is one of the most important of the Moët-Hennessy foreign investments. It could probably survive on the tourists alone but, with renewed consultancy from Dr Tony Jordan (ex-CEO CAPE MENTELLE, CLOUDY BAY), an increasing number of still and sparkling wines are made to a high standard. Still and sparkling Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are characterised by clarity, intensity and good breadth. Reserve Chardonnay adds a little depth and more lavish if sophisticated oak treatment; a Reserve Pinot Noir shows concentrated plummy fruit and a powerful structure. Shiraz is good too, the widely-sourced regular example includes a little Viognier; the Reserve is deep and stylish. Of the sparkling wines the Vintage Brut (roughly half Pinot Noir, half Chardonnay) is the quality standard bearer but a little Blanc de Blancs, Blanc de Noirs (Pinot Noir Brut) and Brut Rosé are also made. All show fine texture, ripe fruit and good richness and improve with a little age. A Non-Vintage blend is not of the same order yet a decent sparkler, far better than much basic Champagne. Recently released is a new premium bottling Cuvée Prestige in a richer, late-disgorged (with 6 years on its lees) style - its first vintage is 1995. Newish ZD Blanc de Blanc (zero dosage) is dry and yeasty and promises to develop well. It is also unusual in being closed with a crown seal.

○ Non-Vintage★★ EC ○ Vintage Brut★★★★ E£

○ Vintage Blanc de Blancs★★★★ E£

○ Vintage Blanc de Noirs★★ E£

○ ZD Blanc de Blancs★★★★ E£

○ Chardonnay Barrel Selection★★★★ E£

○ Chardonnay★★ E£

● Pinot Noir Barrel Selection★★★★ E£

● Pinot Noir★ E£

● Shiraz Barrel Selection★★★★ E£ ● Shiraz Heathcote★★ E£

**HANGING ROCK** Macedon Ranges www.hangingrock.com.au

John and Ann Ellis 88 Jim Road, Newham, VIC 3422

Tel: 03 5427 0542 Fax: 03 5427 0310

Both John and Ann (née Tyrrell, daughter of the late Murray TYRRELL) are steeped in winemaking experience, having been involved with some of the country's leading producers before securing their own property in 1985. Their vineyards on the Jim Jim, an extinct volcano, are as cool as any in Australia and are planted predominantly to Pinot Noir and Chardonnay for one of Australia's top sparkling wines, Macedon Cuvée. A blend of vintages, the current release (XI) is 60% Pinot to 40% Chardonnay. Consistency for a very rich, intense style is maintained by drawing from a substantial resource of reserve wines for each successive release. The flagship rich, intense Shiraz is from the warmer Heathcote region. Production resumed in 1997, after a break of 5 years, from new vineyards (chiefly Athol's Paddock and Colbinabbin Estate) and has been a powerful expression of fruit and oak in every vintage since. A second premium Shiraz, Cambrian Rise is also from Heathcote and is cooler but stylish. Other premium wines include a cool, crisp well-structured Sauvignon Blanc from the Jim Jim vineyards and a fresh and grapey late harvest Riesling. Yellow label wines come from diverse sources including cool, supple Cabernet Sauvignon Turners Crossing, Rock is the budget label.

● Shiraz Heathcote★★★★ E£

● Shiraz Cambrian Rise★★★★ E£

● Cabernet Sauvignon Turners Crossing★★ E£

○ Sauvignon Blanc Jim Jim★★ E£

○ Macedon Cuvée XI Non-Vintage★★★★ E£

**>> HEATHCOTE WINERY** Heathcote www.heathcotewinery.com.au

S. Wilkins & consortium 183-5 High St, PO Box 142, Heathcote VIC 3523

Tel: 03 5433 2595 Fax: 03 5433 3081

Established in 1978, Heathcote Winery was among the first wave of commercial wineries in Heathcote, its first vintage in 1983. In 1997 the winery was purchased by an independent group of wine enthusiasts led by lawyer Stephen Wilkins. Significant investment has reaped dividends. Impressively layered and structured, the estate grown Curagee Shiraz (sourced from the 14ha Newlans Lane Vineyard) has built a loyal following. The plusher, more overtly fruity Mail Coach Shiraz is predominantly estate grown and, like the Curagee, features a subtle splash of Viognier. In 2000, Heathcote Winery acquired the four hectare The Slaughterhouse Paddock vineyard (the region's second oldest), from which comes a third premium Shiraz (not tasted). Heathcote Winery also produces Cravens Place MCV White, a blend of Viognier, Marsanne and Chardonnay. (SA)

● Shiraz Curagee★★★★ E£

● Shiraz Mail Coach★★★★ E£

**>> HOUSE OF ARRAS** Tasmania www.houseofarras.com.au

Constellation 40 Baxters Road, Pipers River, TAS 7252

Tel: 03 6382 7622 Fax: 03 6382 7225

Though House of Arras wines are made at HARDYS' McLaren Vale winery, where Constellation's sparkling wine supremo Edd Carr is based, the fruit for Constellation's flagship sparkling brand is rigorously sourced from Tasmania, latterly exclusively from Eastern Tasmania. Carr draws on a range of techniques to forge a supple yet sophisticated range a world away from the fruit-focused sparkling wines of old. All wines feature 100% malolactic fermentation (well balanced by Tasmania's ample acidity) and an element of oak ageing (whether for the base wine itself or dosage liqueur). Time on lees extends up to 10 years for the remarkably fresh and focused EJ Carr Late Disgorged Chardonnay / Pinot Noir. (SA)

○ EJ Carr Late Disgorged Chardonnay/Pinot Noir/Vintage★★★★ E£

○ Grand Vintage Chardonnay/Pinot Noir★★★★ E£

○ Blanc de Blancs Vintage Chardonnay★★★★ E£

○ Brut Elite Cuvée NV Pinot Noir/Chardonnay★★★★ E£

**JASPER HILL** Heathcote www.jasperhill.com

Ron Laughton Drummonds Lane, Heathcote VIC 3523

Tel: 03 5433 2528 Fax: 03 5433 3143

The production here is small at around 3,500 cases per year and the wines can be very difficult to track down but it is worth the effort. As with the finest producers in the northern Rhône, the approach is one of minimal intervention: no irrigation, minimal vineyard treatments and virtually sulphur-free reds. Yields are tiny from the sparse, granite-based soils, between 1 and 2 tons to the acre. The two Shirazes are remarkable: both rich, concentrated and full of exotic dark berry fruit and spice, with a marvellous supple texture underpinning them. The Georgia's Paddock is slightly more opulent while a dash of Cabernet Franc in Emily's Paddock brings aromatic lift. They are amongst Australia's very finest. While they will easily age for 20 years or more they can be broached with just a few years in the cellar. While a dash of Cabernet Franc in Emily's Paddock brings aromatic lift. For long just one white was also produced, a powerful structured Riesling, full of subtle citrus but minerally and toasty with 3 or 4 years' ageing. Very small quantities of Nebbiolo have been made since 2001. In 2009, Laughton made a Viognier, Emily's Paddock (not tasted) and a Semillon is in the works. Also new is Pleiade Shiraz (known as Cluster M45 in the USA), a joint venture with Michel CHAPOUTIER.

● Shiraz Georgia's Paddock★★★★ E£

● Shiraz/Cabernet Franc Emily's Paddock★★★★ E£

● Grenache Cornella Vineyard★★★★ E£

○ Riesling Georgia's Paddock★★★★ E£



**KOONYONG** Mornington Peninsula www.kooyong.com

Giorgio & Dianne Gjergja PO Box 153, Red Hill South, VIC 3937

Tel: 03 5989 7355 Fax: 03 5989 7677

This newish Mornington Peninsula winery, located in the warmer north of the peninsula on low vigour sandy clay soils, is one of its largest with 34ha of vineyard to draw on. The wines are the work of Australian-trained winemaker Sandro Mosele who also makes wine at sister estate, PORT PHILLIP ESTATE which is home to the cellar door and a new bottling line and barrel hall, though the wines are made at Kooyong. Though Kooyong grows a small amount of Pinot Gris and Viognier, the focus here is on and he is making an expanding range of single-vineyard Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. For Massale Pinot Noir and Clonale Chardonnay, estate grown fruit is supplemented by bought in fruit; brighter and breezier than the estate wines nonetheless, these are elegant wines with no little finesse. A regular The Estate Pinot Noir is structured, powerful and dense with immaculate concentrated ripe cherry/berry fruit and five spice. The Estate Chardonnay is similarly powerful but with good depth and structure as well as a touch of minerality, and will improve for at least 4-5 years'. Single-vineyard examples are even more impressively structured, the Pinot Noirs showing more backbone and savoury layers, especially Ferrous and Meres; they benefit from a few years bottle age before broaching. Chardonnay from the Faultline and Farrago Vineyard vineyards is tight knit and mineral, the former racier; again both promise to develop for several years, especially now the white wines are bottled under screwcap.

● Pinot Noir★★★★ E£

● Pinot Noir Estate★★★★ E£

● Pinot Noir Massale★★★★ E£

○ Chardonnay★★★★ E£

○ Chardonnay Faultline★★★★ E£

○ Chardonnay Estate★★★★ E£

○ Chardonnay Clonale★★★★ E£

○ Pinot Gris Kooyong Buerrot★★ E£

**STEFANO LUBIANA** Tasmania www.slv.com.au

Steve & Monique Lubiana 60 Rowbottoms Road, Granton, TAS 7030

Tel: 03 6263 7457 Fax: 03 6263 7430

This small Tasmanian operation is a veritable giant compared to some of the micro-boutique operations that make just a few hundred cases. The 5.6ha of vineyard at Granton, lying above the Derwent River, form part of a much larger property but produce Pinot Noir and Chardonnay of a persuasive style and refinement, the former rich and velvety with attractive spice. The fruit in each is very pure and intense, the wines elegant and vibrant and capable of at least 3 or 4 years' age. Sasso (not tasted) is the ultra-premium Pinot Noir. As well as a premium Chardonnay Collina and lower priced versions of both Chardonnay

and Pinot Noir (Primavera), Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Grigio are made. The fresh, appley non-vintage Brut sparkling wine is based on Pinot Noir with a little Chardonnay, while the vintage is taut, textured and characterful.

- Pinot Noir★★★★ £F ● Merlot★★ £C
- Chardonnay★★★ £F ○ Riesling★★★★ £C
- Brut Vintage★★★★ £F ○ Brut Non-Vintage★★★★ £E



## >> MAC FORBES Yarra Valley/Strathbogie Ranges

*Mac Forbes 3 Osborne Court, Hawthorn, Vic 3122*

*Tel: 03 9818 8099 Fax: 03 9818 8299*

Before setting up his eponymous label, Mac Forbes' CV included stints in the Yarra Valley at Mount Mary and in Europe, including Austria, where he still makes wine. Unsurprising then that his approach is terroir-driven. Sourcing fruit under long term contract from several vineyards in the Yarra Valley and Strathbogie Ranges, Forbes has a foot in two cutting edge camps. He is at the vanguard of producers seeking to express the Yarra's sub-regionality, also those crafting off-dry Riesling. At the time of writing, in addition to a generic Yarra Pinot Noir (not tasted) he makes five single vineyard Pinot Noirs of differing structure and intensity, depending on site - Coldstream, Woori Yallock, Gruyere, Dixon's Creek (not tasted) and Yarra Glen. From a cool, elevated site at 600m, Forbes' off-dry Strathbogie Ranges Riesling is perhaps Australia's most deftly balanced example of this niche but growing style, with ample line and tension despite over 30 grams of residual sugar (Rieslings are labelled by reference to the amount of residual sugar). In the winery, hands off rather than ultra-protective winemaking favours site over fruit, making for particularly subtle, complex Pinot Noir and Riesling, the latter finding particularly funky, mineral expression in Tradition Riesling, which sees three months skin contact. These aromatic, relatively delicate varieties from cool climate sites seem to suit Forbes' ripe but crunchy low alcohol style better than his slightly lean Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon (Syrah not tasted) or "Project Wines," a King Valley Barbera and Yarra Valley Arneis. They also bode well for his next project in Strathbogie Ranges: planting the currently quarantined Grüner Veltliner for which he has sourced cuttings from his Austrian (Carnuntum) project. As of the 2007 vintage, Hugh Cabernet has metamorphosed into a Bordeaux blend which should soften its edges. (SA)

- Coldstream Pinot Noir★★★★ £E
- Woori Yallock Pinot Noir★★★★ £E
- Gruyere Pinot Noir★★★★ £E
- Yarra Glen Pinot Noir★★★★ £E
- Hugh Cabernet Sauvignon★★ £D
- Off-dry Riesling★★★★ £D
- Dry Riesling★★★ £D
- Tradition Riesling★★★ £E
- Woori Yallock Chardonnay★★★ £D

## MAIN RIDGE Mornington Peninsula [www.mre.com.au](http://www.mre.com.au)

*Nat & Rosalie White 80 William Road, Red Hill, VIC 3937*

*Tel: 03 5989 2686 Fax: 03 5931 0000*

Tiny Mornington Peninsula estate dedicated to Chardonnay and Pinot Noir established back in 1975. In contrast to other pioneering operations such as STONIER and DROMANA ESTATE, Main Ridge has chosen to remain small and artisanal in its production. Nat White, who owns the property with his wife Rosalie, continues to make the wines in a traditional, hands off manner. Although they can show some vintage variation, at best they are elegant and classy yet with plenty of drive and personality. Prices are high but not dissimilar to those of their neighbours. Pinot Noir comes in two versions, a regular example, labelled The Acre and a Reserve, Half Acre, made from a vineyard with shallow topsoil which is more structured.

- Pinot Noir The Acre★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir Half Acre★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay★★★ £F

## MÉTIER WINES Yarra Valley [www.metierwines.com.au](http://www.metierwines.com.au)

*Martin Williams Healesville Road, Yarra Glen VIC 3775*

*Tel: 0419 678 918 Fax: 03 5962 2194*

Métier is a small but gradually expanding premium wine operation. Owner and winemaker Martin Williams is also a partner in Master Winemakers,

which provides contract winemaking facilities. Métier's Tarraford Vineyard Chardonnay (from a 2-ha Yarra Valley site) is extremely well crafted with subtle use of oak and lees. Pinot Noir from the same vineyard has a fine texture but is more variable in its fruit quality and ageing potential. Yarra Valley Pinot Noir and Chardonnay have also been made from the 1.4-ha Schoolhouse Vineyard. A tiny amount of Viognier is produced from the high-altitude Kanumbra Vineyard in the Upper Goulburn. Also sourced from this region (since the 2000 vintage) is Manytrees Shiraz/ Viognier. A second range, Milkwood, includes Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Shiraz.

○ Chardonnay Schoolhouse Vineyard★★★★ £E

○ Chardonnay Tarraford Vineyard★★★★ £D

● Pinot Noir Schoolhouse Vineyard★★★ £E

● Pinot Noir Tarraford Vineyard★★★ £D

## MITCHELTON [www.mitchelton.com.au](http://www.mitchelton.com.au)

*Lion Nathan Mitchellstown Road, Nagambie, VIC 3608*

*Tel: 03 5736 2222 Fax: 03 5736 2266*

Located on the banks of the Goulburn River in the Nagambie Lakes region, Mitchelton is part of a prestigious grouping that includes PETALUMA, KNAPPSTEIN and STONIER. A well-established portfolio of wines established over nearly three decades by the highly respected winemaker Don Lewis who retired in 2004 has been developed and maintained by promising young winemaker Ben Haines. The top red, Print Shiraz, can exude a class and finesse not seen in the Barossa blockbuster styles. French oak is favoured for reds and a concerted move to lower yields since the mid-90s has brought increased concentration to many of the wines. Parish is Shiraz with 10% Viognier, perhaps making it a touch too exotic. Many of the whites combine citrusy flavours with more exotic, tropical notes, together with both vigour and good acidity; the wines are increasingly textural too. The intense floral and lime-scented Blackwood Park Riesling is also made in a Botrytis version. The Blackwood Park range has recently been extended to Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Mitchelton was also one of the first to develop red and white Rhône blends, once known as Mitchelton III but now as Airstrip white, comprising Marsanne, Roussanne and Viognier, and Crescent red from Shiraz, Mourvèdre and Grenache. Varietal Marsanne is a speciality with intense honey-suckle aromas and flavours and has even been made in a *vin de paille* version. Central Victoria or Preece-labelled varieties can sometimes prove very good value for money.

● Shiraz Print★★★★ £F ● Shiraz Central Victoria★★ £C

● Shiraz/Viognier Parish★★ £C

● Shiraz/Mourvèdre/Grenache Crescent★★★ £C

○ Chardonnay Central Victoria★ £C

○ Viognier Central Victoria★ £C

○ Marsanne/Roussanne/Viognier Airstrip★★ £C

○ Marsanne★★★ £C

○ Riesling Blackwood Park★★★ £C

## MOORILLA ESTATE Tasmania [www.moorilla.com.au](http://www.moorilla.com.au)

*Moorilla Estate Trust 655 Main Road, Berriedale, TAS 7011*

*Tel: 03 6277 9900 Fax: 03 6249 4093*

The impressive new Moorilla museum of antiquities appears likely to become more of a magnet for visitors than the wines. Yet this long-surviving Tasmania winery, though no longer family-owned, was resurgent under Alain Rousseau who has been succeeded by Michael Glover. Since 2007, the wines have been made by Conor van der Reest. The top wines are labelled Muse, while the Praxis wines offer a more approachable fruit driven style. Good cool, citrusy whites include a tight, mineral, appley Praxis Riesling. A Muse Pinot Noir of increasing ripeness and richness, but with impressive texture and complexity too, is one of a growing number of fine Tasmanian Pinots – difficult as they are to acquire. Sourced from the warmer Tamar Valley, the Muse Series Cabernet/Merlot might once have tasted rather tough and unripe but in recent good vintages the wines have been ripe and concentrated. Dense, powerful Syrah also shows much promise. (SA)

● Pinot Noir Muse Series★★★★ £E

● Pinot Noir Praxis Series★★★★ £D

● Cabernet/Merlot Muse Series★★★ £E

○ Chardonnay Praxis Series★★★★ £D

○ Riesling Praxis Series★★★ £C

○ Vintage Brut Muse Series★★★ £E

## >> MOOROODUC ESTATE [www.eldridge-estate.com.au](http://www.eldridge-estate.com.au)

Gary Farr *Midland Highway, Bannockburn, VIC 3331*  
Tel: 03 5281 1979 Fax: 03 5281 1979

Moorooduc Estate in northerly Mornington Peninsula was established in 1981 by Richard and Jill McIntyre, who planted the McIntyre vineyard in 1983, mainly to Pinot Noir and Chardonnay (with a small amount of Shiraz). In recent years, Bernard clones of Pinot Noir have been planted (sometimes grafted onto original plantings). Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris are also sourced from three nearby vineyards, the Robinson vineyard (which is owned by Moorooduc's viticulturist, Hugh Robinson), the Garden Vineyard (which is leased) and the Osborn Vineyard (which is managed with input from Robinson and forms the basis of the entry level Devil Bend Creek wines). Richard McIntyre, a practising surgeon, makes the wines, also those of TEN BY TRACTOR at Moorooduc's winery.

Though McIntyre is a cerebral winemaker, winemaking has become increasingly hands off in order to showcase the broad palette with which McIntyre works. Three subtly different cuvées of each of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir express the different aspects, soils types and clones to which he has access. Less new oak is used than in the early days and, after successful experimentation with the Chardonnay, McIntyre practices spontaneous wild yeast ferments across the range. The Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays (which undergo malolactic fermentation) are relatively weighty (especially the flagship The Moorooduc Chardonnay and Pinot Noir), but with great texture and complexity, they are sensual wines with no shortage of finesse. (SA)

- Pinot Noir The Moorooduc★★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir Robinson Vineyard★★★★★ £E
- Pinot Noir McIntyre Vineyard★★★★★ £E
- Shiraz McIntyre Vineyard★★★★★ £E
- Chardonnay The Moorooduc★★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay Robinson Vineyard★★★★★ £E
- Chardonnay McIntyre Vineyard★★★★★ £E

## MORRIS Rutherglen & Glenrowan [www.morriswines.com](http://www.morriswines.com)

Orlando Wynndham group (Pernod-Ricard) *Rutherglen VIC 3685*  
Tel: 02 6026 7303 Fax: 02 6026 7445

Although owned by Orlando since 1970, the tradition of family winemaking, producing some of Australia's excellent fortified wines, continues here – David Morris having taken over from his famous father Mick Morris in 1993. There is great age in these intelligently blended wines, particularly in the Old Premium versions of fortified Muscat and Tokay (Muscadelle). The regular Liqueur Muscat, tasting of intense, rich, slightly toffeed sweet raisins, is very typical of the style, but with a measure of delicacy, even fragrance. The Old Premium version of Muscat offers similar intensity and fragrance but more complexity and length, while in the spice-fuelled Old Premium Tokay there is excellent richness, depth and layer but arguably less of the classic Tokay flavours of other examples. Nonetheless the quality, richness and complexity in all the Liqueur Muscat and Liqueur Tokay wines can't be disputed. Old Premium 'Amontillado' and 'Tawny Port' are also made, the latter showing the complex rancio quality of aged components which creates an impression of dryness to the finish. Red wines including Shiraz and Durif can be sound but lack refinement.

- Liqueur Muscat Old Premium★★★★★ £G
- Liqueur Muscat★★★★ £C
- Liqueur Tokay Old Premium★★★★★ £G
- Liqueur Tokay★★★★★ £C

## MOUNT LANGI GHIRAN Grampians [www.langi.com.au](http://www.langi.com.au)

Rathbone family group *Warrak Road, Buangor, VIC 3375*  
Tel: 03 5354 3207 Fax: 03 5354 3277

This dynamic, go-ahead organic vineyard (now totalling 90ha) and winery operation owes its reputation to winemaker Trevor Mast. It has recently come under the same ownership as top Yarra Valley producer YERING STATION and the wines are now made by Dan Buckle, who is sensitively stamping his own mark. Most celebrated is a remarkable and stylish famously peppery Shiraz, among Australia's top half-dozen examples of the variety. It is made from over 45-year-old vines and, under Buckle's watch, the fruit is flying, thanks to French oak and a significant element of whole bunch fermentation. A richly textured Cabernet comes from estate vineyards. A second Shiraz, Cliff Edge, first made in 1999, is chasing on the

Langi's heels, while the reasonably priced Billi Billi (now straight Shiraz from contract grown fruit but initially including some Grenache and Cabernet) has plenty of style if not the greatest depth. Also made is Moyston Hills Shiraz from an organic vineyard on sandy loam with quartz and a clay subsoil, which shows more dried herbs as well as pepper and Nowhere Creek Shiraz which has a whiff of Eucalyptus to its rich, sweet but bright fruit. Whites are well fashioned including a popular, fruit-driven Cliff Edge Pinot Gris, while Rieslings have become a speciality, with classic dry styles Langi and Cliff Edge (though even here, Buckle is using natural yeasts and lees stirring to build weight and texture), a fruity but delicate off-dry aperitif wine (Cliff Edge No. 2) and The Gap, a tooth-somely sweet, very pure passito Riesling. A Pinot Noir, Bradach Vineyard is also made.

- Shiraz Langi★★★★★ £F ● Shiraz Cliff Edge★★★★ £D
- Shiraz Moyston Hills★★★★ £D ● Shiraz Nowhere Creek★★★ £D
- Shiraz Billi Billi★★★ £B
- Cabernet Sauvignon Langi★★★★ £D
- Sangiovese Nut Tree Hill★★★ £C
- Riesling Langi★★★★ £D ○ Riesling Cliff Edge★★★ £C
- Pinot Gris Cliff Edge★★★ £C

## MOUNT MARY Yarra Valley [www.mountmary.com.au](http://www.mountmary.com.au)

John Middleton *22-24 Coldstream West Road, Lilydale, VIC 3140*  
Tel: 03 9739 1761 Fax: 03 9739 0137

John Middleton's Mount Mary is one of Victoria's holiest of holies, where the quality is whispered about by devotees, in complete contrast to the ballyhoo that emanates from South Australia's big guns. Quantities are small and grapes come from the estate's unirrigated vineyards. Quintet (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot) is graceful and refined with intense berry and cassis flavours, a wine that will easily keep for 20 years from a good vintage. The Pinot Noir can age for about half as long, starting out deceptively light but building on its pure fruit core with age. Two whites, a Chardonnay and Triolet (a blend of Sauvignon, Semillon and Muscadelle) show restrained fruit and oak but can age well too.

- Quintet★★★★★ £G
- Pinot Noir★★★★ £G
- Triolet★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay★★★★ £F

## PARINGA ESTATE Mornington Peninsula [www.paringaestate.com.au](http://www.paringaestate.com.au)

Lindsay & Margaret McCall *44 Paringa Rd, Red Hill South, VIC 3937*  
Tel: 03 5989 2669 Fax: 03 5931 0135

Top-notch small estate producing around 6,500 cases annually. McCall is a Burgundy fan and aims to make well structured, ageworthy wines. What is most remarkable about Paringa is not only the quality of the Chardonnay and Pinot Noir but also its Shiraz. Certainly this tends to work best in warmer years but when vintage conditions are benign the wine benefits from an unusually long ripening period. Powerful yet refined, especially the Reserve which easily soaks up its new oak, it is savoury with dried herbs and pepper. The Peninsula label is from a combination of bought-in fruit and younger Paringa vines. The flagship Paringa Chardonnay and Reserve Pinot Noir and Shiraz are from the best performing vines and offer greater concentration of fruit, complexity and later, well supported by supple acidity and well structured tannins respectively. These are keepers.

- Chardonnay The Paringa★★★★ £E ○ Chardonnay★★★★ £E
- Chardonnay Peninsula★★★ £C ○ Pinot Gris★★★ £D
- Riesling★★★★ £C
- Pinot Noir Reserve★★★★★ £F ● Pinot Noir★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir Peninsula★★★ £C
- Shiraz Reserve★★★★★ £F ● Shiraz★★★★ £E

## >> PHI Yarra Valley [www.phiwines.com](http://www.phiwines.com)

De Bortoli & Shelmerdine families *Owens Road, Woori Yallock, VIC 3139*  
Tel: 03 5964 6070

Derived from the 21st letter of the ancient Greek alphabet, PHI symbolises perfect balance and harmony. This unusual joint venture between the De Bortoli and Shelmerdine has not only been harmonious, but has also been at the vanguard of cutting edge developments in the Yarra Valley. Production is focused on specific vine rows from a single vineyard, the densely planted Lusatia Park Vineyard, which is owned by Shelmerdine

and was established in 1985. The wines, made by Steve Webber at De Bortoli, are fermented naturally with as little intervention as possible. Restraint is the watchword. In consequence, they are true ambassadors of their elevated, relatively cool, maritime influenced site, textured with elegant layers of fruit, aromatic lift and a savoury undertow. This makes the Sauvignon Blanc among Australia's most interesting expressions of the variety and a welcome antidote to the New Zealand wannabes. (SA)

- Pinot Noir★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay★★★★ £D
- Sauvignon Blanc★★★ £D

## PIPERS BROOK Tasmania [www.kreglingerwineestates.com](http://www.kreglingerwineestates.com)

*Kreglinger Wine Estates 1216 Pipers Brook Road, Pipers Brook, TAS 7254*  
Tel: 03 6382 7527 Fax: 03 6382 7226

Dr Andrew Pirie founded this winery back in 1974 and it has since risen to become the dominant force in the tiny Tasmanian wine industry with more than 200ha of vineyards. The majority of shares is now held by Kreglinger Australia, part of the Belgian de Moor family's Kreglinger group, which has also established a new venture in South Australia's Mount Benson region. Early 2003 saw the sudden departure of Andrew Pirie (now working on the developing TAMAR RIDGE and his own PIRIE project) but the focus has always rightly been on cool-climate varieties, in particular Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Riesling. The wines generally show lovely varietal fruit character with extra nuance and richness as well as oak in the Reserve wines. Sparkling wine has also been a strength since the much-heralded launch of Pirie, now presented as Kreglinger Vintage Brut. The wines don't offer exceptional value but are fairly priced for the quality compared to other Australian examples or equivalent Burgundian quality in Pinot or Chardonnay. With the 1999 vintage a small amount of single-site Pinot Noir (The Blackwood and The Lyre from sections of the Heemskerk Vineyard) joined a Chardonnay (The Summit) made since 1997 from 2ha. Ninth Island is a separate entity drawing largely from the former Rochecombe vineyards; as well as very creditable Chardonnay and Pinot Noir the range includes several other varietals and a non-vintage Brut.

*Pipers Brook:*

- Pinot Noir Reserve★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir Estate★★ £D
- Chardonnay Reserve★★★ £E
- Chardonnay Estate★★ £D
- Riesling Estate★★ £C
- Gewürztraminer Estate★★ £C
- Kreglinger Vintage Brut★★★★ £E
- ◎ Kreglinger Vintage Brut Rosé★★★★ £E

*Ninth Island:*

- Pinot Noir★ £C
- Chardonnay★ £C

## >> PIRIE TASMANIA Tasmania [www.pirietasmania.com.au](http://www.pirietasmania.com.au)

*Andrew Pirie 1a Waldorn Drive Corner, Rosevears, TAS 7277*  
Tel: 03 6330 0300 Fax: 03 6330 1810489

Founder Dr Andrew Pirie has played a pivotal role in Tasmania's modern wine industry. First when he established PIPERS BROOK in 1973, then as CEO at TAMAR RIDGE where, following its acquisition by BROWN BROTHERS in 2010, he remains actively involved. Pirie's own operation, Pirie Tasmania, was launched in 2004 and is head quartered at Rosevears Vineyard overlooking the River Tamar in the Tamar Valley. Originally leased, Pirie bought the 24 hectare estate (including three hectares of Chardonnay and Riesling) in 2006 and it is here where the wines are made. Chardonnay, Riesling also Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris and Gewurztraminer are also sourced from cooler, higher Tamar sites at Relbia and White Hills which are protected from moderating maritime and River Tamar influences. Pirie produces three ranges, the entry level South label, Pirie Estate and, in exceptional vintages, Pirie Reserve wines (the latter not tasted). Pirie's experienced hand produces of great precision, the aromatic varieties cool and bright, while the weightier Estate Chardonnay and Pinot Noir are textured with savoury layers. Pirie first produced a sparkling wine named Pirie at Pipers Brook. Now that this has been re-named Kreglinger by Pipers Brook's current owners, Pirie Tasmania is free to call its accomplished sparkling wine, made from riper Tamar Valley fruit, Pirie. (SA)

- Pinot Noir Estate★★★★ £D
- Brut NV★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay Estate★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay South★★★★ £B

- Riesling South★★★★ £B
- Pinot Gris South★★★★ £B

## PONDALOWIE Bendigo [www.pondalowie.com.au](http://www.pondalowie.com.au)

*Krystina & Dominic Morris 6 Main Street, Bridgewater-on-Loddon, VIC 3516*  
Tel: 03 5437 3332 Fax: 03 5437 3332

Dominic Morris (some time winemaker at QUINTA DO CRASTO in Portugal's Douro) has brought his considerable experience to bear at his own small winery in Bendigo. Plantings include Tempranillo, a little Malbec and Touriga Nacional as well as Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz. If Shiraz is the star, the unwooded MT Tempranillo with vibrant blueberry fruit and excellent substance should be tried too (labelled heathcote in 2007 because frost wiped out own plantings). Wines under the Special release Label, made only in peak years, offer more complexity and better dimension, particularly impressive are the Special Release Tempranillo (2003, 2006) and Shiraz (2003, 2006) both wines for the long haul. Vineyard Blend is composed of Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Tempranillo (40/40/20) and shows the influence of the latter grape with a suggestion of a smoky, meaty character in an otherwise supple, ripe, fruit-driven wine. There's plenty of fruit too in a floral, black fruited Shiraz/Viognier that is supple, flavoursome and long but in need of at least 5-6 years from the vintage. Cabernet/Shiraz, Cabernet Malbec and a vintage fortified have also been made.

- Shiraz★★★★ £C
- Shiraz Special Release★★★★ £E
- Shiraz/Viognier★★★★ £D
- Vineyard Blend★★★★ £C
- Tempranillo MT★★★★ £C
- Tempranillo Special Release★★★★ £D

## PORT PHILLIP ESTATE [www.portphillipestate.com.au](http://www.portphillipestate.com.au)

*Giorgio & Dianne Gjerjca 261 Red Hill Road, Red Hill, VIC 3937*  
Tel: 03 5989 2708 Fax: 03 5989 3017

Mornington Peninsula winery Port Phillip is under the same ownership as KOOYONG and its impressive new cellar door and restaurant with bottling facility serves both estates. Both wines are made by highly rated winemaker, Sandro Mosele. The Port Phillip Estate wines from deeper, red soils are characterised by fine pure fruit, good texture and soft ripe tannins in the reds, more generous than those from Kooyong. Pinot Noir reveals fruit in the ripe plum, cherry and strawberry spectrum and is long and fruit-rich adding a more complex, gamey aspect with 4-5 years' age. As with many examples, the highish alcohol is scarcely contained and it lacks the extra dimension to put it amongst the very best Australian Pinots, though the darker, more powerful flagship Morillon Pinot Noir sets out to achieve that distinction and, with ferments in open foudre from 2009 for better texture and tannin integration, it just might succeed. Shiraz is if anything more interesting for while sometimes displaying a cool, minty green edge it also has impressive mineral and berry fruit and good depth and flesh. Cool vintages should be avoided but keep the wine for at least 5 years. Rimage, labelled Syrah, aims for a mid-weight Rhône style and shows freshness and restraint. Salasso is a textured, food-friendly Shiraz rosé. A rich, mealy, oaky Chardonnay has a ripe stone-fruit core and should also age well. A part barrel-fermented Sauvignon Blanc and, under the Quartier label, Italian varieties Arneis and Barbera is also made.

- Pinot Noir★★★★ £E
- Pinot Noir Morillon★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Rimage★★★★ £E
- Chardonnay★★★★ £E
- ◎ Rosé Salasso★★ £C

## SCOTCHMANS HILL Geelong [www.scotchmanshill.com.au](http://www.scotchmanshill.com.au)

*Browne family 190 Scotchmans Road, Drysdale, VIC 3222*  
Tel: 03 5251 3176 Fax: 03 5253 1743

Situated on the Bellarine Peninsula just south-east of Geelong the vineyards enjoy a cool maritime climate. Production is sizeable for the region, accounting for 40% of the total production from Geelong but quality remains admirable, particularly considering the prices. The Pinot Noir is a strength, with ripe plum fruits, nicely handled oak and a seductive texture, while Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon can be individual and appealing, if sometimes struggling for ripeness. The Chardonnay is restrained with just a hint of oak showing through in the background. The Sauvignon is grassy and nettly, and marked by lightly tropical cool-fermentation aromas. Small quantities are also made of a very

pricey premium pair; an oaky but expansive Pinot Noir Norfolk Vineyard and intense, impressively structured Chardonnay Sutton Vineyard. Swan Bay is the second label mainly produced from a second property, Spray Farm, while a separate range of wines made from fruit sourced throughout South Eastern Australia is labelled The Hill. The experimental Cornelius range is made in minuscule quantities while Ferryman is made in Geelong with fruit from Mornington Peninsula.

- Pinot Noir★★★★ £D ● Pinot Noir Swan Bay★ £B
- Pinot Noir Norfolk Vineyard★★★★ £F
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★ £C ● Shiraz★★★★ £C
- Chardonnay★★ £C ○ Chardonnay Sutton Vineyard★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay Cornelius★★★★ £F
- Sauvignon Blanc★★ £C

## SEPPELT GREAT WESTERN Grampians [www.seppelt.com.au](http://www.seppelt.com.au)

*Treasury Wine Estates Moyston Road, Great Western, VIC 3377*  
Tel: 03 5361 2222 Fax: 03 5361 2200

This is Seppelt's renowned sparkling-wine operation, which also includes a very good range of table wines, recently rationalised but still focussed on cool-climate areas where the company has significant plantings. Aside from the Regional Range which is comprised from 100% Victorian fruit, the portfolio includes four GI-specific labels. The Drumborg varieties, which come from the cool south-west corner of Victoria now called Henty, are some of the best wines in the range. Riesling and Pinot Noir highlight the potential. Pinot Grigio and two Chardonnays (one named Jalaka) are sourced from the same area. The Vineyard Shiraz range comprises flagship St Peters (the Grampians), Benno (Bendigo) and Mount Ida (heathcote). Silverband features grampians Shiraz (still and sparkling) while Aerins Vineyard introduces a new lower tier range including a Shiraz and Grenache Shiraz Mourvedre from Heathcote and a Pinot Grigio from Mornington Peninsula. The traditional method sparkling wine range is led by a distinctive creamy, citrusy Salinger (Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier). Vintage Brut Fleur de Lys and NV are less expensive and more overtly fruity but with some leesy influence. However, most exceptional of the traditional-method sparkling wines made here is the red Great Western Show Sparkling Shiraz (which spends 6 years on its lees and is only available around 10 years after the vintage), arguably the most intriguing and complex example of its type. The cheaper Original version comes from South Australian fruit and the range is now augmented by Silverband Grampians Sparkling Shiraz (not tasted). Inexpensive varieties and blends are sold under the Moyston label. The best wines unfortunately are not always easy to find outside of Australia.

- Shiraz Great Western St Peters★★★★ £F ● Shiraz Chalambar★ £D
- Pinot Noir Drumborg★★ £F
- Riesling Drumborg★★★★ £D
- Salinger Vintage★★ £E
- Sparkling Shiraz Vintage Show★★★★ £F

## SEVILLE ESTATE Yarra Valley [www.sevilleestate.com.au](http://www.sevilleestate.com.au)

*Graham & Margaret Van der Meulen Limwood Road, Seville, VIC 3139*  
Tel: 03 5964 2622 Fax: 03 5964 2633

Seville Estate, founded by Dr Peter McMahon, was one of the Yarra Valley's pioneers (of the modern era) and has produced small volumes of fine varieties, particularly Shiraz, during the past 30 years. After a period of majority ownership under BROKENWOOD when the wines were made by winemaker, Iain Riggs, the property is once again family owned and the original founders' grandson, Dylan McMahon makes the wines. The vineyards are on the cooler side of the valley and accordingly suffer a little in cooler vintages. At their best however they are powerful and fruit-accented with well-integrated oak and good definition both in terms of structure and flavour. Chardonnay can improve for up to 5 years; reds need as long or more. Small amounts of Reserve Cabernet and Shiraz have recently been produced from vines more than 30 years old; the former plush yet refined, the latter in a savoury, earthy style. The experimental Barber range includes a Pinot Gris from Beechworth inspired by McMahon's two vintages in Alsace.

- Shiraz★★★★ £D
- Shiraz Old Vine Reserve★★★★ £F
- Cabernet Sauvignon Old Vine Reserve★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay★★ £D

- Pinot Gris Beechworth The Barber★★ £C

## SHADOWFAX Geelong [www.shadowfax.com.au](http://www.shadowfax.com.au)

*Mansion group K Road, Werribee, VIC 3030*  
Tel: 03 9731 4420 Fax: 03 9731 4421

Shadowfax (a name taken from Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*) established in 2000, is an exciting operation based in Werribee Park between Melbourne and Geelong. Sourcing small parcels of the best grapes from a number of districts, young Matt Harrop has the responsibility of producing wines to match the high standards set by the acclaimed Mansion Hotel, but has a stunning winery in which to do so. There is a full but tightly structured Chardonnay, characterful, textured Pinot Noir (both made from Geelong and Yarra Ranges fruit), and vibrant, spicy, fruit-driven Shiraz from a number of sites. Premium single vineyard wines in heavy black-labelled bottles promise still more. A Macedon Ranges Chardonnay is tautly structured but with ample flesh to its bones. Geelong Pinot Noir is bold and full-flavoured with lots of breadth and extract (if deficient in charm for the present). Two single-vineyard Shirazes from low-yielding Heathcote fruit were also first made in 2001: both Pink Cliffs and One Eye are concentrated, meaty, intense examples with obvious potential but requiring 10 years' cellaring. Viognier, Pinot Gris and unusual K Road Sangiovese/Merlot/Shiraz have also been produced.

- One Eye Heathcote★★★★ £E
- Pink Cliffs Heathcote★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Victoria★★★★ £C
- Pinot Noir★★ £D
- Chardonnay★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay Macedon Ranges★★★★ £E

## >> STANTON & KILLEEN [www.stantonandkilleenwines.com.au](http://www.stantonandkilleenwines.com.au)

*Killeen family Jacks Road, PO Box 15, Rutherglen Vic 3685*  
Tel: 02 6032 9457 Fax: 02 6032 8018

The key to top drawer Rutherglen Muscat is old vines and aged blending stock. It shows in this seventh generation Rutherglen producer's portfolio. Stanton & Killeen's rich yet floral style is partly due to the original vineyards which, still in production, were planted by Jack Stanton in 1921. The Grand Rutherglen Muscat is particularly impressive and the Rutherglen Tokays (not tasted) are also reputed. At least as impressive are the vintage fortifieds, made in the elegant, drier style pioneered by the late Chris Killeen, so-called "Prince of Port," who died in 2007. Killeen blended classic duo Shiraz and Durif with Touriga Nacional, Tinta Cão, Tinta Roriz and Tinta Barroca, picking these Portuguese varieties at lower ripeness. In 2008, Killeen's son Simon made The Prince Reserva Red, a Portuguese varietal blend, in tribute to his father. Medium bodied and less overtly fruity than Stanton & Killeen's robust, full bodied Durif and Shiraz/Durif table wines, it is available only by mail order or at the cellar door. (SA)

- Rutherglen Muscat Grand Rutherglen★★★★ £G
- Rutherglen Muscat Rare Rutherglen★★★★ £G
- Rutherglen Muscat Classic★★★★ £E ○ Rutherglen Muscat★★ £D
- Vintage Fortified La Calade★★★★ £F ● Durif★★★★ £E
- The Prince Reserva★★ £F ● Shiraz/Durif★★ £C

## STONIER Mornington Peninsula [www.stoniers.com.au](http://www.stoniers.com.au)

*Lion Nathan 2 Thompsons Lane, Merricks, VIC 3916*  
Tel: 03 5989 8300 Fax: 03 5989 8709

Established in 1978 by Brian Stonier, this operation was one of the first premium wineries to emerge from the Mornington Peninsula. The potential first highlighted by Stephen Hickinbotham was cemented under his successor Tod Dexter and since the mid-1990s the winemaking mantle has gradually been assumed by Geraldine McFaul, now Michael Symons. Stonier came under the same ownership as PETALUMA (South Australia) in 1998 and, though initially this served to highlight the quality here, there has been a loss of form of late. As well as more than 20ha of estate vineyards, grapes are sourced from elsewhere on the peninsula. Recent releases of regular Chardonnay and Pinot Noir show good fruit but lack balance; while the Reserves perhaps try too hard, especially the Chardonnay which tends towards a sweetness. The use of oak could be more refined for both. Stonier have also produced small quantities of single-vineyard Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from the KBS Vineyard and, most recently, Windmill Pinot

Noir.

- **Pinot Noir** Windmill★★★★ £F ● **Pinot Noir** Reserve★★★ £D
- **Pinot Noir** KBS★★★★ £F
- **Pinot Noir**★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Reserve★★★★ £D
- **Chardonnay**★★★ £C

**SUMMERFIELD (SYAN) Pyrenees** www.summerfieldwines.com

*Summerfield family Main Road, Moonambel, VIC 3478*  
*Tel: 03 5467 2264 Fax: 03 5467 2380*

This predominantly red-wine producer has been making wines since 1979, having first established vineyards in 1970. The first real leap in quality came with consultancy from Drew NOON (South Australia), the then state oenologist, in the late 1980s. Founder Mark Summerfield is now responsible for the winemaking. He has set about reducing yields and the powerful reds are richer, riper, deeper and more consistent than previously but always with a noticeable dash of oak. Shiraz is the real star, particularly the Reserve (Estate in older vintages). Saieh is a barrel selection Shiraz available at the cellar door only. The muscular, minty Reserve Cabernet is now beginning to benefit from the use of some French oak. Both Reserves will keep for a decade or more. New from 2001 is a varietal Merlot, while Tradition is a blend of Shiraz with Bordeaux varieties. Syan is the international label.

- **Shiraz** Reserve★★★★ £E
- **Shiraz**★★★ £D
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Reserve★★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★ £D
- **Merlot**★★★ £D

**TAHBILK Nagambie Lakes** www.tahbilk.com.au

*Purbrick family Tahbilk, VIC 3608*  
*Tel: 03 5794 2555 Fax: 03 5794 2360*

Historic winery which along with HENSCHKE has some of the oldest plantings of Shiraz anywhere in the world. One plot dates back to 1860. Production is not inconsiderable at close to 100,000 cases a year and an extensive range of wines is available at the cellar door. Vinification of the reds is very traditional and open-top wooden fermenters are used. In no small part the considerable age of the vines contributes to the structured, tannic style of the wines when young. They are very ageworthy but demand patience, up to 10 years for the Eric Stevens Purbricks and 1860 Vines. Of good fruit-driven whites, the Marsanne is a regional benchmark and the largest single planting, it is claimed, anywhere in the world. Though tight and lean young, it fleshes out with a few years in bottle showing attractive honeysuckle with stone fruits and will hold for a decade or more. Some of the vines were planted in 1927 and an early picked cuvee, 1927 Vines Marsanne, tight knit and concentrated should last for even longer. New and promising too are varietal Roussanne and Viognier. New and promising too are varietal Roussanne and Viognier.

- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Eric Stevens Purbrick★★★★ £F
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★ £B
- **Shiraz** 1860 Vines★★★★ £G
- **Shiraz** Eric Stevens Purbrick★★★★ £F ● **Shiraz**★★★ £B
- **Marsanne**★★★ £B ○ **Marsanne** 1927 Vines★★★★ £E
- **Chardonnay**★★★ £B
- **Riesling**★★★ £B ○ **Semillon**★★★ £B

**TALTARNI Pyrenees** www.taltarni.com.au

*Goelet Wine Estates RMB 4369, Taltarni Road, Moonambel, VIC 3478*  
*Tel: 03 5459 7918 Fax: 03 5467 2306*

With 132ha, this is the Pyrenees' biggest producer. Taltarni, like CLOS DU VAL in the Napa Valley, was established in 1972 by John Goelet. For a long time Dominique Portet crafted the wines here – and his brother Bernard continues to oversee the Clos du Val wines. By the mid-1980s Taltarni was widely admired for its gutsy, structured varietals that highlighted the potential of the Pyrenees. Some wines have been too tough and extracted, others have lacked balance but the best bottles have aged superbly. Dominique Portet departed to make his own wines and under Peter Steer the wines became richer, oakier and more modern. The current winemaker is Loic Le Calvez. The change is perhaps encapsulated in the Reserve Shiraz/Cabernet, a new flagship red that seamlessly combines Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. Merlot is no longer made but there is instead a Three Monks Cabernet/Merlot made in

an accessible forward style. The other great facet to Taltarni is the sparkling-wine production which reaches its zenith in the classy Clover Hill. This taut, ripe and structured sparkler comes from a dedicated Tasmanian estate with 21ha planted to Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. The rosé is also very good. Three Monks Sauvignon, now part barrel fermented and labelled Fumé Blanc includes a Tasmanian component (from 2003) while the independent Lalla Gully range from a second, smaller Pipers River vineyard owned by Taltarni is the source of Lalla Gully Riesling and Pinot Gris, aromatic, but also made in a textured, slightly funky style with promising intensity. Both red and white T-label are newish, fruit-accented second-label blends made from both estate and bought-in grapes.

*Taltarni:*

- **Reserve Shiraz/Cabernet**★★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** Pyrenees★★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Pyrenees★★★★ £E
- **Fumé Blanc**★★★ £D
- **Brut** Vintage★★★ £D ○ **Brut Taché** Vintage★★★ £D

*Clover Hill:*

- **Clover Hill** Vintage★★★★ £E
- **Clover Hill** Vintage Rosé★★★★ £E

*Lalla Gully:*

- **Pinot Gris**★★★ £C ○ **Riesling**★★★ £C

**TAMAR RIDGE Tasmania** www.tamarridgewines.com.au

*Brown Brothers Auburn Road, Kayena TAS 7270*  
*Tel: 03 6394 1111 Fax: 03 6394 1126*

Tamar Ridge was established by Joe Chromy in 1994 from vineyards retained in the Tamar Valley following the sale of other vineyards in northern Tasmania to Pipers Brook. He sold the company in 2003 to Gunns Limited, Tasmania's largest timber company who extended vineyard holdings to some 400ha. Dr Andrew Pirie, who now has his own PIRIE label and was the founder of PIPERS BROOK, is the chief winemaker and viticultural consultancy comes from Dr Richard Smart. However, things look set to change following the company's acquisition by BROWN BROTHERS in August 2010, who see the acquisition as a hedge against global warming but also key to the growth of its Pinot Noir and Sparkling wine capability. There are clear-fruited whites under the Kayena Vineyard label led by an intense, well-structured Riesling, closely followed by a finely drawn Sauvignon and spicy Pinot Gris. Almost all are usually better with at least 2 years' age. A barrel-fermented Chardonnay and Pinot Noir almost succeed in being very Burgundian in their complex, cool fruit expressions. Though the Pinot Noir has been slightly over-extracted with incomplete ripeness in its tannic structure, in recent vintages it has evolved into a silky wine with vivid fruit expression. In addition, Merlot Cabernet (The Bend) and a beautifully pure, well structured Botrytis Riesling are also made. The inexpensive Devil's Corner label includes an increasingly svelte Pinot Noir, simple light unwooded Chardonnay, Sauvignon, Pinot Grigio and Riesling. As a part of an ongoing research and development programme a Research Series range is also being produced and includes Viognier, Gewürztraminer and Savagnin. Also new is two sparkling wines, made under both Devil's Corner and Kayena labels.

- **Riesling**★★★ £C ○ **Sauvignon Blanc**★★★ £C
- **Pinot Gris**★★★ £C
- **Gewürztraminer**★★★ £C ○ **Chardonnay**★★★ £C
- **Riesling** Botrytis★★★ £C
- **Pinot Noir** Reserve★★★★ £E
- **Pinot Noir**★★★ £D
- **Pinot Noir** Devils Corner★ £E

**TARRAWARRA Yarra Valley** www.tarrawarra.com.au

*Besen family 311 Healesville Road, Yarra Glen, VIC 3775*  
*Tel: 03 5962 3311 Fax: 03 5962 3887*

Tarrawarra has been single-minded in its aim of producing top-quality Chardonnay and Pinot Noir modelled on white and red Burgundy. Its success in turning out rich, structured, concentrated and complex examples of both owes much to the dedication and skill of winemaker Clare Halloran. Increasing vine age and growing skill in producing high-quality fruit are also driving quality. Chardonnay is 100% barrel-fermented with some use of *bâttonage*. The

Pinot Noir receives a cold pre-fermentation maceration, open fermenters are used and around 25% of the oak is new. Both wines benefit from age and are best at least 3 to 5 years after the vintage. As you would expect, reserve wines show even greater depth and layer. These are powerful wines which require time for the oak to integrate and show at their best. Less expensive Yarra Valley Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are made under the Tin Cows label which also includes a Merlot and a Shiraz (the latter in part from Heathcote fruit). Kosher Chardonnay and Shiraz are made under the Kidron label.

Owner Marc Besen is also the wealthy benefactor behind the Tarrawarra Art Museum. In 2009, a new, very limited edition flagship range was introduced with the MDB label for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir (not tasted).

#### Tarrawarra:

- Pinot Noir★★★★ £D
- Pinot Noir Reserve★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay Reserve★★★★ £F

#### Tin Cows:

- Chardonnay★★ £C

#### >>TEN MINUTES BY TRACTOR [www.tenminutesbytractor.com.au](http://www.tenminutesbytractor.com.au)

*Constellation Wines Settlement Road, Yarra Junction VIC 3797*

*Tel: 03 5967 1428 Fax: 03 5967 1146*

Ten Minutes by Tractor derives its name from three vineyards, each owned by (and named after) the founding families and located 10 minutes apart from each other. In 2004, businessman Martin Spedding bought Ten Minutes by Tractor, entering into long-term leases with the families to secure the fruit. Since 2008, fruit is also sourced from the younger Spedding Vineyard which, farmed organically from the outset, was certified organic in 2009. Though the wines are made by Richard McIntyre at MOOROODUC ESTATE, they are quite different from McIntyre's own label, with more acid drive and finer tannins, reflecting the vineyards' location within the Main Ridge sub-region, one of the coolest and highest parts of the Mornington Peninsula. In addition to the estate's vibrant 10X Pinot Noir and 10X Chardonnay, both vineyard blends, Ten Minutes by Tractor produces single vineyard Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays which reflect the different altitude, aspect and clone of each site. At 206m (at its highest point) the Judd vineyard is the more elevated, cooler site and produces a particularly lifted, floral Pinot Noir. The McCutcheon vineyard (highest point 200m) is closer in style to Judd, while the Wallis vineyard (highest point 142m) tends to produce Pinot Noir and Chardonnay of great depth of flavour. Though the single vineyard range is very good, it is a little pricier than other leading wines from the region. The range also includes a 10X Pinot Gris and 10X Barrel Fermented Sauvignon Blanc (the latter not tasted). (SA)

- Pinot Noir Wallis Vineyard★★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir Judd Vineyard★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir McCutcheon Vineyard★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir 10X★★★★ £E
- Chardonnay Wallis Vineyard★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay McCutcheon Vineyard★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay 10X★★★★ £E
- Pinot Gris 10X★★ £E

#### VIRGIN HILLS Macedon Ranges [www.virginhills.com.au](http://www.virginhills.com.au)

*Michael Hope 17 Piper Street, Kymeton, VIC 3444*

*Tel: 03 5422 7444 Fax: 03 5422 7400*

Just one wine is made here, a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and Merlot. The winery and vineyard are now owned by Michael Hope of HOPE ESTATE in the Hunter Valley after several recent changes in ownership. While there is some vintage variation, the wine is usually amongst the best Cabernet-based reds in Victoria. Vineyard practice is organic, minimal intervention is employed during vinification and the wine is virtually sulphur-free. As the location is at the limit of ripening for these varieties the wine is not produced every year. At its best (as with the 1998) it is a magnificent, elegant, cedary red; in cooler years there can be a marked green undercurrent.

- Virgin Hills★★★★ £F

#### WILD DUCK CREEK Heathcote [www.wildduckcreekestate.com](http://www.wildduckcreekestate.com)

*David Anderson Springflat Road, Heathcote, VIC 3523*

*Tel: 03 5433 3133 Fax: 03 5433 3133*

This small winery, established and run by David Anderson, is best known for the cult wine Duck Muck, made in minute quantities. Also made are a range

of several other relatively small-volume *cuvées* from both Anderson's own vineyards in the Heathcote region and other sites of which he has a specialised knowledge. Duck Muck Shiraz is made from the most extreme selection of late-harvested fruit vinified in open fermenters and hand-plunged. There is little or no addition of sulphur. It is aged in 100% new oak, a mixture of French and American. The much more affordable Springflat Shiraz is aged in 60% new oak but follows a similar approach to vinification. It typically shows impressive fruit richness and character in a well-defined structure and deserves to be drunk with 5–10 years' age. Other wines include Alan's Cabernets and a more modest but characterful Yellow Hammer Hill Shiraz/Malbec. Sparkling Shiraz is also made.

- Shiraz Reserve★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Springflat★★★★ £E
- Shiraz/Malbec Yellow Hammer Hill★★ £D

#### YARRA BURN Yarra Valley [www.yarraburn.com.au](http://www.yarraburn.com.au)

*Constellation Wines Settlement Road, Yarra Junction VIC 3797*

*Tel: 03 5967 1428 Fax: 03 5967 1146*

Yarra Burn is the headquarters of the Hardy Wine Company's (Constellation Wines owned) substantial Yarra Valley operations, though quantities are small. The group only took control of the winery (established in 1975) in 1995 but the wines increasingly bear the hallmarks of premium Hardy examples, with a rich fruit core, balance, complexity and well-integrated oak. Fruit is sourced from three vineyards: Yarra Burn, Hoddles Creek and Beenak. A bold premium Bastard Hill bottling of the Pinot Noir is sophisticated with good dimension and a soft velvety palate, if almost in a Californian style. The Yarra Burn sparkling wine, which includes all three Champagne grapes, is yet another fine example from the Yarra Valley, with a cool, crisp elegance missing from so many Australian sparkling wines in the past. A fine vintage rosé is also stylish, intense and Champagne-like. The Shiraz Viognier incorporates Shiraz from the Pyrenees and Heathcote.

- Chardonnay Bastard Hill★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay Yarra Valley★★★★ £D
- Yarra Burn Vintage★★★★ £D
- Yarra Burn Rosé Vintage★★★★ £D
- Pinot Noir Bastard Hill★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir Yarra Valley★★ £E
- Shiraz Viognier★★★ £D

#### YARRA YARRA Yarra Valley [www.yarrayarravineysrd.com.au](http://www.yarrayarravineysrd.com.au)

*Macleane family 239 Hunts Lane, Steels Creek, VIC 3775*

*Tel: 03 5965 2380 Fax: 03 5965 2086*

This small estate is yet another that adds to the prestige and reputation of the Yarra Valley. Its current position has been made very difficult by the devastating bushfires of February 2009 which destroyed the winery, yet-to-be-bottled and museum stock and caused significant damage to vineyards. In 2009, wines were made at Maddens Rise utilising fruit sourced from leading growers, enabling the business to remain operational. An original 2ha was increased to 7ha in 1996 but still further plantings are unlikely to satisfy demand for the wines. Syrah Viognier shows plenty of style with pepper, spice, smoke and black fruits – ripe but with some cool-grown elegance. Cabernets is based on Cabernet Sauvignon with both Cabernet Franc and Merlot adding to the texture and style. There is usually a cool, leafy Yarra Valley trait but with its fine, ripe tannins this deserves at least 5 or 6 years' ageing. The classy, sophisticated Yarra Yarra (known as Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon prior to 2000) is a similar blend but riper and more concentrated with very good texture and savoury complexity with age. A little Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc is also made.

- The Yarra Yarra★★★★★ £F
- Cabernets★★★★ £E
- Syrah Viognier★★★★ £E

#### YARRAYERING Yarra Valley [www.yarrayering.com](http://www.yarrayering.com)

*Yarra Yering Briarty Rd, Gruyere, VIC 3770*

*Tel: 03 5964 9267 Fax: 03 5964 9239*

At times considered eccentric by some of his neighbours, the late Bailey Carrodus produced a remarkable array of very good to exceptional wines even if on occasion the results have been variable. The estate is now owned by the investors behind Kaesler Wines in the Barossa Valley who intend to carry on in the same vein as Carrodus. Many of the vines are relatively venerable, particularly for the Yarra, with some plantings now well over 30 years old. Dry White No.1 is a Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon blend but it is the reds, vinified in

small open fermenters, that have long attracted a cult following. Dry Red No.1 is a blend of mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec. With Dry Red No.2 he takes up the Shiraz baton, arguably with even more success. Mainly Shiraz with a little Viognier, this is a wine of terrific fruit richness and depth. Also extremely impressive is the Underhill Shiraz but all of the reds are very fine, concentrated and show real finesse. The Pinot Noir is made in a rich, powerful, extracted style, while the few bottles of Merlot made caused a sensation with an audacious cellar-door price tag from the very first vintage. A Viognier is similarly priced for those with deep pockets. New and more reasonably priced are Dry Red No.3, based on Touriga Nacional with a hatful of other Portuguese varieties, and a Young Vines Cabernet Sauvignon. Also made is a small amount of an impressive fortified port-style wine, Potsorts.

- Dry Red No.1★★★★★ £F ● Dry Red No.2★★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Underhill★★★★★ £F ● Pinot Noir★★★★★ £F
- Carrodus Merlot★★★★★ £G
- Chardonnay★★★★★ £F

**YERING STATION/YARRABANK** Yarra Valley [www.yering.com](http://www.yering.com)  
*Rathbone family group/Champagne Devaux Yarra Glen VIC 3775*  
 Tel: 03 9730 0100 Fax: 03 9739 0135

Yering Station was the name of a historic property in the Yarra Valley established in the first half of the 19th century. Today part of the original estate has been revived complete with a major new winemaking complex. The winemaking team is led by Willy Lunn, furnished by investment and direction from the Rathbone family (also owners of MOUNT LANGI GHIRAN, XANADU and PARKER COONAWARRA ESTATE). Relatively new is Pinot Noir ED Rosé which is typical of the well-priced estate range insofar as it is stylish, with pristine fruit, but has the structure to pair with food. Reserves show added class, depth and expression and are made only in the best years. The Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon in particular needs time, as much as 8–10 years. In common with other Yarra producers, Yering Station has started to produce single vineyard wines aimed at showcasing terroir over technique. These include Chardonnays, Pinot Noirs and a Shiraz Viognier. Willow Lake Old Vine Chardonnay is an early picked, pared back, flinty style of Chardonnay which really is in a Chablis mold while Combe Farm is savoury and long. Mr Frog/Little Yering is a second label from generally more widely sourced fruit. Yarrabank is Yering Station's joint venture with Champagne house DEVAUX. The vintage-dated Yarrabank Brut Cuvée, which spends 3 years on its lees, is one of Australia's finest sparkling wines. Made from 50 percent each of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay and, with no malolactic fermentation (the house style), it is intense and finely honed, and shows considerable complexity with age.

*Yarrabank:*

- Yarrabank Brut Cuvée★★★★★ £D

*Yering Station:*

- Chardonnay Reserve★★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay Willow Lake Old Vine★★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay Coombe Farm★★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay★★★★★ £C
- Pinot Gris Late Harvest★★★ £C
- ◎ Pinot Noir ED★★★ £C
- Pinot Noir Reserve★★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir★★★ £C
- Shiraz/Viognier Reserve★★★★★ £F
- Shiraz★★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve★★★★★ £F
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★ £C
- Merlot★★★★★ £C

*Mr Frog/Little Yering:*

- Chardonnay★★★ £B
- Pinot Noir★★★ £B ● Cabernet Shiraz★★★ £B

**YERINGBERG** Yarra Valley [www.yeringberg.com](http://www.yeringberg.com)  
*Guill de Pury Maroondah Highway, Coldstream, VIC 3770*  
 Tel: 03 9739 1453 Fax: 03 9739 0048

Guill de Pury replanted just 2ha of the slopes made famous by his grandfather in the late 19th century. The original Yeringberg vineyard was just one of many to go in to terminal decline due a combination of *phylloxera* and the economic

consequences of the First World War. The wines are gentle and pure but with an underlying strength and intensity that comes from an artisanal approach to winemaking. Modern technological adjustments may be common elsewhere in Australia but here you are more likely to see the true character of the vintage. Yet only occasionally do the reds want for more body or ripeness. Both the whites are subtle and restrained but possess real elegance and flair. They are ageworthy too. The Dry Red is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec. Developing richness and a savoury complexity with age, it also acquires a level of elegance and finesse seen in few other Australian reds.

- Yeringberg Dry Red★★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir★★★★★ £F
- Marsanne/Roussanne★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay★★★★ £F

## OTHER WINES OF NOTE

- APSLEY GORGE VINEYARD (Tasmania) ● Pinot Noir★★★ £D
- BUCKSHOT VINEYARD (Heathcote) ● Shiraz★★★ £E
- CRAIG AVON VINEYARD (Mornington Peninsula)
- Chardonnay★★★★ £D
- BLUE PYRENEES (Pyrenees)
- Shiraz Richardson Series★★★★ £E ● Shiraz★★★ £B
- Cabernet Sauvignon Richardson Series★★★★ £E
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★ £B
- Chardonnay★★★ £B ○ Midnight Cuvée Blanc de Blancs★★★★ £C
- BROWN BROTHERS (King Valley)
- Patricia Sparkling★★★★ £E
- Noble Riesling Patricia★★★★ £F
- Orange Muscat & Flora★★ £C
- Liqueur Muscat★★ £C ○ Very Old Tokay★★ £C
- BULONG ESTATE (Yarra Valley) ○ Sauvignon Blanc★★★ £C
- Pinot Gris★★ £C ○ Chardonnay★★★★ £D
- Pinot Noir★★★ £D
- CHATEAU LEAMON (Bendigo) ● Shiraz Reserve★★★★ £E
- CLYDE PARK (Geelong) ● Shiraz Geelong★★★★ £E
- CRAIGOW (Tasmania) ○ Riesling★★★★ £D
- CURLEWIS (Geelong) ● Pinot Noir Geelong★★★★ £E
- DOWNING ESTATE (Heathcote)
- Shiraz★★★★ £E ● Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★ £E
- Merlot★★★★ £E
- EASTERN PEAKE (Ballarat) ● Pinot Noir★★★ £F
- EPPALOCK RIDGE (Heathcote) ● Shiraz★★★★ £D
- FARR RISING (Geelong) ● Pinot Noir Geelong★★★★ £E
- Chardonnay★★★★ £E
- FREYCINET (Tasmania) ● Pinot Noir★★★ £F
- Chardonnay★★★★ £D ○ Riesling★★★★ £C
- GEMBROOK HILL (Yarra Valley)
- Sauvignon Blanc★★★★ £D ○ Chardonnay★★★★ £E
- Pinot Noir★★★★ £E
- GLAETZER-DIXON (Tasmania) ○ Riesling berblanc★★★★ £C
- Shiraz Mon Père★★ £F
- GRANITE HILLS (Macedon Ranges) ○ Riesling★★★★ £C
- Shiraz★★★★ £E
- GREENSTONE VINEYARD (Heathcote) ● Shiraz★★★★ £D
- Sangiovese★★★★ £D
- GREY SANDS (Tasmania)
- Pinot Gris Glengarry★★★★ £B
- HODDLES CREEK (Yarra Valley) ○ Pinot Blanc★★ £D
- HOOD/WELLINGTON (Tasmania) ● Pinot Noir Frogmore★★★★ £E
- Chardonnay Wellington★★★★ £C
- Riesling Wellington★★★ £C
- JONES ROAD (Mornington Peninsula)
- Chardonnay The Nepean★★★★ £C ○ Pinot Gris★★★★ £B
- Pinot Noir The Nepean★★★★ £E ● Pinot Noir★★★★ £D
- KARINA VINEYARD (Mornington Peninsula)
- Chardonnay★★★★ £D ○ Riesling★★★ £C
- MAYER (Yarra Valley) ● Pinot Noir Close Planted★★★★ £F
- NICHOLSON RIVER WINERY (Gippsland)
- Chardonnay★★★★ £F ● Pinot Noir★★★ £F
- OCCAMS RAZOR (Heathcote) ● Shiraz★★★★ £F
- OCEAN EIGHT (Mornington Peninsula)

- Chardonnay Verve★★★★★ £E ● Pinot Noir★★★★★ £E
- Pinot Noir Aylwood★★★★★ £F
- O'SHEA & MURPHY (Macedon Ranges)
- Roseberry Hill (Cab Sauv/Cab Franc/Merlot)★★★ £D
- OAKRIDGE ESTATE (Yarra Valley) ● Shiraz★★ £E ○ Chardonnay★★ £E
- Chardonnay 864★★★★★ £F
- PARADISE IV (Geelong)
- Shiraz Dardel★★★★★ £E
- PASSING CLOUDS (Bendigo)
- Angel Blend (Cabernet Sauvignon)★★★ £C
- PFEIFER (Rutherglen)
- Rutherglen Muscat★★ £D ○ Riesling Carlyle★★ £D
- PLUNKETT/ PLUNKETT FOWLES ● Shiraz Strathbogies Ranges Reserve★★ £E
- Chardonnay Stone Dwellers★★★★ £D ○ Riesling Stone Dwellers★★ £C
- Riesling Ladies Who Shoot their Lunch★★★★★ £E
- DOMINIQUE PORTET ● Shiraz André Heathcote/Yarra Valley★★★ £G
- Cabernet Sauvignon Yarra Valley★★★★ £E
- PRESSING MATTERS (Tasmania) ○ Riesling R9★★★★ £D
- PROVENANCE (Geelong)
- Pinot Gris★★★ £D ● Shiraz★★★★ £D ● Pinot Noir★★★★ £D
- RED EDGE (Heathcote) ● Shiraz★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Jackson's Vineyard★★★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★ £E
- RED HILL ESTATE (Mornington Peninsula)
- Chardonnay Estate★★★★ £C ○ Pinot Grigio Estate★★★ £B
- Pinot Noir Classic Release★★ £C ● Cabernet Sauvignon Briars★★★★ £C
- REDBANK (Pyrenees)
- Shiraz The Anvil★★★ £E ○ Pinot Gris Sunday Morning★★★ £C
- REDESDALE ESTATE (Heathcote) ● Shiraz Estate Grown★★★★★ £D
- SANGUINE ESTATE (Heathcote) ● Shiraz★★★ £D
- Tempranillo★★★ £E
- SAVATERRE (Beechworth)
- Chardonnay★★★★★ £F
- SHELMERDINE (Yarra Valley & Heathcote)
- Viognier Heathcote★★★ £D
- Sauvignon Blanc Yarra Valley★★★ £D
- Chardonnay Yarra Valley★★★★★ £C
- Pinot Noir Yarra Valley★★★ £C
- Shiraz Merindoc Vineyard Heathcote★★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Heathcote★★★★★ £D
- Cabernet Sauvignon Heathcote★★★ £C
- SPEAR GULLY (Yarra Valley/Heathcote/McLaren Vale)
- Shiraz★★★ £C
- SPRINGVALE (Tasmania) ○ Chardonnay★★★★ £C
- Pinot Noir★★★ £E
- STONEY RISE (Tasmania) ● Pinot Noir Tamar Valley★★★ £D
- Pinot Noir Holyman★★★★★ £E
- SYMPHONIA (King Valley) ○ Pinot Grigio King Valley★★★ £C
- Las Triadas Winemakers Reserve (Tempranillo)★★★★★ £C
- Saperavi King Valley★★★★★ £D
- SYRAHMI (Heathcote)
- Shiraz Climat★★★ £F
- TELLURIAN (Heathcote)
- Shiraz★★★★★ £E ● Shiraz Pastiche★★★ £D
- THE WANDERER (Yarra Valley)
- Pinot Noir★★★★★ £F ● Shiraz★★★ £F
- WEDGETAIL ESTATE (Yarra Valley)
- Chardonnay★★★★★ £E ● Pinot Noir★★★ £E
- YABBY LAKE (Mornington Peninsula)
- Chardonnay★★★★★ £E ● Pinot Noir Block 2★★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir★★★★★ £E ● Pinot Noir Red Claw★★★ £D

## Work in progress!!

### Producers under consideration for the next edition

- HEATHCOTE ESTATE (HEATHCOTE)
- JAMSHEED (YARRA VALLEY)
- LUKE LAMBERT (YARRA VALLEY)
- MONTALTO VINEYARDS (MORNINGTON PENINSULA)
- PRINCE ALBERT (GEELONG)
- SCORPO (MORNINGTON PENINSULA)
- DOMAINES TATIARRA (HEATHCOTE)
- TAYLOROO (HEATHCOTE)

## Author's Choice

### Diverse first-rate Victorian Shiraz

- ARMSTRONG VINEYARDS ● Armstrong
- BEST'S ● Shiraz Bin ○ Great Western
- CASTAGNA ● Syrah Genesis
- CRAIGLEE ● Shiraz
- DALWHINNIE ● Shiraz Moonambel
- HANGING ROCK ● Shiraz Heathcote
- GIACONDA ● Shiraz Warner-Vineyard
- JASPER HILL ● Shiraz Georgia's Paddock
- MITCHELTON ● Shiraz Print
- MOUNT LANGHI GHIRAN ● Shiraz
- PARINGA ESTATE ● Shiraz Reserve
- SEPPELT GREAT WESTERN ● Show Sparkling Shiraz
- TAHBILK ● Shiraz 1860Vines
- YARRA YERING ● Shiraz Underhill
- YERING STATION ● Shiraz/Viognier Reserve

### Victorian classics

- CAMPBELLS ○ Rutherglen Tokay Rare Isabella
- CHAMBERS ROSEWOOD ○ Rutherglen Grand Muscat
- CHAMBERS ROSEWOOD ○ Rutherglen Grand Topaque Muscadelle
- MORRIS ○ Old Premium Liqueur Muscat
- MORRIS ● Old Premium Liqueur Tawny
- MOUNT MARY ● Quintet
- STANTON & KILLEEN ○ Rutherglen Grand Muscat
- STANTON & KILLEEN ● Vintage Fortified
- YARRA YERING ● Dry Red No. 1
- YERINGBERG ● Dry Red

### Top Victorian/Tasmanian Pinot Noir

- BASS PHILLIP ● Pinot Noir Reserve
- BINDI ● Pinot Noir Original Vineyard Macedon Ranges
- BY FARR ● Pinot Noir Sangreal Geelong
- CURLY FLAT ● Pinot Noir Macedon Ranges
- DIAMOND VALLEY ● Pinot Noir Estate
- GIACONDA ● Pinot Noir
- KOOYONG ● Pinot Noir Haven Mornington Peninsula
- MAC FORBES ● Pinot Noir Coldstream Yarra Valley
- MOOROODUC ● Pinot Noir The Moorooduc Mornington Peninsula
- PARINGA ESTATE ● Pinot Noir Reserve Mornington Peninsula
- STEFANO LUBIANA ● Pinot Noir Tasmania
- MAIN RIDGE ● Pinot Noir Half Acre
- PIPERS BROOK ● Pinot Noir Reserve Tasmania
- TEN BY TRACTOR ● Pinot Noir Wallis Mornington Peninsula

### Whites with personality

- BROWN BROTHERS ○ Patricia (Sparklin)
- BY FARR ○ Viognier Geelong
- CRAWFORD RIVER ○ Riesling Reserve
- CURLY FLAT ○ Chardonnay
- DALWHINNIE ○ Chardonnay Moonambel
- DELATITE ○ Gewürztraminer Deadman's Hill
- GIACONDA ○ Nantua Les Deux
- HODDLES CREEK ESTATE ○ Pinot Blanc
- HOUSE OF ARRAS ○ EJ Carr Late Disgorged (Sparkling)
- JASPER HILL ○ Riesling Georgia's Paddock
- KOOYONG ○ Chardonnay Farrago
- KOOYONG ○ Pinot Gris Buerrot
- MÉTIER ○ Chardonnay Schoolhouse Vineyard
- MITCHELTON ○ Marsanne/Roussanne/Viognier Airstrip
- MOUNT LANGI GHIRAN ○ Riesling Langi
- PIPERS BROOK ○ Riesling Estate
- SAVATERRE ○ Chardonnay
- SYMPHONIA ○ Pinot Gris King Valley
- TALTARNI ○ Clover Hill (sparkling)
- TEN BY TRACTOR ○ Chardonnay Wallis Mornington Peninsula
- YERINGBERG ○ Marsanne/Roussanne

### Undervalued wines

- BALGOWNIE ● Shiraz Bendigo
- BEST'S ● Shiraz Bin I Great Western
- R L BULLER & SON ○ Rutherglen Tokay Premium Fine Old
- COBAW RIDGE ● Lagrein Macedon Ranges

DELATITE ○ Riesling

MITCHELTON ○ Riesling Blackwood Park

MOUNT LANGHI GHIRAN ● Shiraz/Grenache/Cabernet Billi Billi Creek

RED EDGE ● Shiraz Jackson's Vineyard

SYMPHONIA ● Las Triadas Winemakers Reserve

TAHBILK ○ Marsanne

TAMAR RIDGE ○ Riesling Kayena

# New South Wales & Queensland

*New South Wales not only makes a sizeable contribution to Australia's production of bulk wine but 160 km north-west of its largest city, Sydney, has a wine region of magnetic tourist attraction in the Hunter Valley. Thanks to the Great Dividing Range much potential remains and new regions will continue to make an impact if developed with quality as the foremost consideration.*

## Hunter Valley

New South Wales' most traditional region is not, regrettably, the state's most suited region to viticulture. The Lower **Hunter Valley** is peppered with estates lying just west of the Brokenback Range but, despite regular cloud cover, conditions are very hot and the greatest part of its rainfall usually comes as the growing season reaches its climax. Great vintages are the exception rather than the norm yet some marvellous ageworthy Shiraz and Semillon are produced. Many Hunter-based producers now source fruit from Mudgee, Cowra or further south in the Central Ranges as well as producing wines from South Australia yet several of the greatest wines are purely Hunter in origin. Other than the big names of Brokenwood and Rosemount new operations are emerging, not least the very small production of Keith Tulloch, Andrew Thomas and Pepper Tree.

## Central Ranges & Southern New South Wales

**Mudgee** and the other regions which run down the western side of the Great Dividing Range are better protected from cyclonic deluges, making them both cooler and drier. Much of the grape production from Mudgee and **Cowra** has been dominated by the big producers and the harvest has been Hunter-bound, but many of the big players have pulled out of Mudgee and the vineyard area has contracted accordingly. Mudgee produces intensely flavoured well structured Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Chardonnay and Semillon, though few producers other than Huntington Estate and Montrose give the region the recognition it deserves. However, there are some interesting wines made from Italian varieties so, like other regions, Mudgee is re-inventing itself. Cowra Chardonnay has a well-established distinctive, lush, full style of its own. Gaining increasing significance are **Orange**, **Hilltops** and, from close to the border with Victoria, the chilly, elevated **Tumbarumba** region. The latter is too remote to be other than a growing region but Orange and Hilltops have a growing number of boutique producers, some of whose wines are primarily sold via the cellar door. Similarly cool and elevated, with the associated risk of frost damage, are the vineyards of the **Canberra District** lying to the north of the country's capital (but still in New South Wales itself). Despite the difficult, marginal conditions, the best reds are without question lifted and spicy cool climate styles of Shiraz, especially from the (unofficial) Murrumbateman region. The best whites are Riesling, Chardonnay and Viognier.

## Big Rivers

Big Rivers suggests a lot of water and the vast vineyards of this zone are dependent on irrigation. The zone incorporates the commercially important bulk-producing regions of **Riverina** and, shared with Victoria on the Murray River, **Murray Darling** and **Swan Hill**. Not generally associated with fine quality, Riverina is the source of De Bortoli's superb Noble One from botrytis-enriched Semillon grapes as well as other good, reasonably priced examples.

## Queensland

Producing wine in Queensland is fraught with difficulties. Nonetheless wine is produced from **South Burnett**, around Kingaroy, and in the **Granite Belt** around Stanthorpe, in the Great Dividing Range, where it is cooler and elevated. The coastal hinterland around Mount Tamborine, behind the famous Gold Coast, has also attracted new wineries. Despite sometimes difficult vintage conditions good Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot have been produced while whites show greatest promise when produced from Chardonnay, Semillon or Verdelho.

## New South Wales vintages

The generalised Vintage charts cover some of the most ageworthy styles and will prove most useful when taken together with comments on style and ageing within individual producer entries. Many wines can be drunk young but an

increasing number will not be at their best for at least 5 years. Hunter Valley Semillon can take two decades in its stride while top Hunter or Mudgee Shiraz and Cabernet have similar ageing potential. Both the vintage ratings and when to drink assessments apply to the top rated examples (3-star or higher).

## Recent vintages

**2010** Yields were down with an early harvest all round owing to a combination of frost, drought. When the rain came, it affected the harvest of reds in particular so, when fruit was not picked before the rain, selection was key to quality. Expect fair to good reds; whites on the other hand, especially Semillon, also Chardonnay, were top notch. **2009** Some excellent results across the state, especially in cooler climate regions Canberra District and Orange, also Mudgee. In the Hunter, mid-February rains adversely affected the Hunter Shiraz harvest, but earlier picked Semillon was very good. **2008** Heavy rain in January and February inhibited quantity and quality. Fortunately, harvesting the Semillon coincided with a short dry spell and both the Semillon and Chardonnay grapes fared better than was first thought. In Queensland, The Granite Belt enjoyed ideal growing conditions to produce one of the best vintages in years. **2007** here echoes much of the gloom to be had in the rest of the country and was similarly hit with drought, heat and much reduced yields. Cooler, higher parts are generally promising for quality though. **2006** looks to be an excellent vintage in the Hunter following a very hot summer. Quantities are down with very good Semillon and Verdelho and Shiraz approaching 98 or 03 in quality. Mudgee and Orange had early harvests. **2005** brought better conditions than 04 as with very promising Semillon and Verdelho for the whites and potentially long-lived Shiraz from Hunter, if less rich than 03. **2004** was a difficult vintage in the Hunter Valley. Two summer heatwaves were followed by two torrential downpours, which for many came before the grapes were picked.

## New South Wales vintage chart

	Hunter Valley Shiraz	Central Ranges Shiraz	Hunter Valley Semillon
2010	★★ to ★★★ A	★★ to ★★★★★ A	★★★★☆ A
2009	★★★ A	★★★★☆ A	★★★★ A
2008	★★★ A	★★★★☆ A	★★★★ A
2007	★★★★ A	★★★★☆ A	★★★★ A
2006	★★★★☆ A	★★★★ B	★★★★☆ A
2005	★★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★★☆ B
2004	★★ to ★★★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★ B
2003	★★★★★ B	★★★★ A	★★★★★ B
2002	★★★★ B	★★★★☆ B	★★★★ B
2001	★★★★ B	★★★ B	★★★★ B
2000	★★★★☆ B	★★★ B	★★★★☆ B
1999	★★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★★ C
1998	★★★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★★★ B
1997	★★★ C	★★★ C	★★★★ C
1996	★★★★☆ C	★★★★ C	★★★★☆ C
1995	★★★★ C	★★★★☆ C	★★★★ C
1994	★★★★ C	★★★★ C	★★★★ C
1993	★★★★ C	★★★ C	★★★★ C
1992	★★★ D	★★★ C	★★★★ C
1991	★★★★★ C	★★★★ C	★★★★☆

## A-Z of producers by region

### Hunter Valley

ALLAN DALE  
BROKENWOOD  
CAPERCAILLIE  
GLENGUIN  
LAKE'S FOLLY  
MCWILLIAM'S MT PLEASANT  
MEEREA PARK  
ROSEMOUNT ESTATE  
THOMAS WINES  
TOWER ESTATE  
KEITH TULLOCH  
TYRRELL'S

### Mudgee

HUNTINGTON ESTATE

### Hilltops

CHALKERS CROSSING

### Orange

BLOODWOOD ESTATE  
CUMULUS

MAYFIELD VINEYARD  
PHILIP SHAW  
PRINTHIE ESTATE

### Canberra District

CLONAKILLA  
HELM  
LARK HILL  
COLLECTOR

### Riverina

DE BORTOLI

### Queensland

SIRROMET

### New South Wales

BARWANG

- 1 South Burnett
- 2 Granite Belt
- 3 Hastings River
- 4 Hunter
- 5 Broke Fordwich
- 6 Mudgee
- 7 Orange
- 8 Cowra
- 9 Hilltops
- 10 Gundagai
- 11 Tumbarumba
- 12 Canberra District
- 13 Southern Highlands
- 14 Shoalhaven Coast



## A-Z of producers

**ALLANDALE Hunter Valley** [www.allandalewinery.com.au](http://www.allandalewinery.com.au)  
*Wally & Judith Atallah 132 Lovedale Road, Lovedale, NSW 2321*  
*Tel: 02 4990 4526 Fax: 02 4990 1714*

Established in 1978, this is still a relatively small Hunter Valley operation with a reputation for consistently full-flavoured, complex Chardonnay. Archetypal very ripe, oak-influenced Shiraz Viognier and classic Hunter-grown Verdelho and Semillon are also produced. Bill Sneddon's winemaking has given the wines their individual stamp and impressive flavour intensity: traditional in the best sense, without compromise to the particular winemaking trend of the day. In addition to the fruit from 7ha of Allandale vineyards, grapes are bought in from other Hunter growers and increasingly diverse sources including Mudgee, Hilltops and McLaren Vale. Orange Pinot Noir, Mudgee Sangiovese and Mudgee Shiraz are all now produced, along with a Methode Champenoise William and Anna, and a late-harvest Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc.

- Shiraz Viognier Matthew★★★★ EC
- Cabernet Sauvignon Hilltops★★ EC
- Chardonnay★★★★ ECB
- Semillon★★ EC
- Verdelho★★ EC

>> **BARWANG NSW** [www.mcwilliams-winesgroup.com/barwang](http://www.mcwilliams-winesgroup.com/barwang)  
*McWilliams Barwang Road Road, Young, NSW 2594*  
*Tel: 02 9722 1299 Fax: 02 9722 1260*

Established in 1969 by farmer and RAAF fighter pilot Peter Robinson near Young, Barwang was at the vanguard of Hilltops' twentieth century wine renaissance. Cuttings were procured from MCWILLIAMS who themselves acquired the then 13ha vineyard in 1989. Since then, investment has seen the area under vine increase to 100ha, over half of which is planted to lead varieties Cabernet Sauvignon (30 hectares) and Shiraz (30 hectares). A huge 100 million litre dam has been built and, though grapes are crushed at Barwang, the wines (Flagship, Regional and Café Series) are made at McWilliams' state-of-the-art winery at Yenda, near Griffith. The exceptionally good value Regional series includes a Hilltops Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz, both benchmark examples of Hilltops' mid-weight elegant style. Even more exciting are Barwang's taut, finely framed Chardonnays, which are sourced from the more elevated, cooler climes of Tumbarumba. The flagship Barwang 842 Tumbarumba Chardonnay is particularly impressive, its steely backbone reflecting Tumbarumba's highest vineyard, planted at an altitude of 842 metres. An aromatic, intensely fruity but well defined Pinot Gris also benefits from the Tumbarumba's hallmark bright acidity. (SA)

- Chardonnay 842 Tumbarumba★★★★ EE
- Chardonnay Tumbarumba★★★ EC
- Pinot Gris Tumbarumba★★ EC
- Shiraz Hilltops★★★ EC
- Cabernet Sauvignon Hilltops★★★ EC

**BLOODWOOD ESTATE Orange** [www.bloodwood.com.au](http://www.bloodwood.com.au)  
*Rhonda & Stephen Doyle 4 Griffin Road, Orange, NSW 2800*  
*Tel: 02 6362 5631 Fax: 02 6361 1173*

This 8-ha vineyard was the first to be established in the Orange district in 1983. Stephen and Rhonda Doyle produce excellent fruit and turn it into expressive, elegant wines (around 5,000 cases per year). Both reds and whites are soft, supple and appealing with good regional fruit character but also manage to be not in the least bit 'made' or over-manipulated. Whites include bright, ripe, limey and gently mineral Riesling and a refined, well-balanced Chardonnay rich in stone fruits and melon and with good depth and structure. Reds are led by intense, flavoursome Shiraz with more than a hint of earth, pepper and eucalyptus and a black-fruited, spicy, cedary/minty Cabernet Sauvignon. Aromatic strawberryish rosé, Big Men in Tights, is from mostly Malbec grapes. Also made but not tasted are Merlot, Maurice (a Bordeaux blend), Schubert (Chardonnay), and an occasional very late-harvested Noble Riesling.

- Chardonnay★★★ ED
- Riesling★★ EC
- Shiraz★★★ ED
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★ ED
- Big Men in Tights★★ EC

**BROKENWOOD Hunter Valley** [www.brokenwood.com.au](http://www.brokenwood.com.au)  
*Brokenwood Wines McDonalds Road, Pokolbin, NSW 2320*  
*Tel: 02 4998 7559 Fax: 02 4998 7893*

A benchmark Lower Hunter winery, Brokenwood was established in 1970 by a number of partners including former lawyer and wine writer James Halliday. Production has grown to a not inconsiderable 100,000 cases a year, partly owing to the introduction of wines from relatively new vineyards in Beechworth (Indigo) and Orange (Forest Edge) and, in line with the "make great wine and have fun motto," there is no end of experiment with new varieties, single vineyard parcels, clones even. However, across the board quality remains uniformly high. Winemaker Iain Riggs is responsible for the direction of the widely sourced Brokenwood wines, PJ Charteris his right hand man. The Shiraz has deservedly earned the greatest renown. Both the Rayner (McLaren Vale) and Graveyard (Hunter) wines are immensely rich and impressive. Though it retains the Hunter's medium bodied profile, the latter has remarkable depth, intensity and length, becoming very complex with the 7 or 8 years' age it needs to show at its best. It is among Australia's elite in stunning years like 2003 and 2006. HBA is an impressively deep fruited, super-structured best barrel blend of both vineyards, but wants for a bit of soul in comparison. Less is more. Another Hunter example, the Mistress Block aged in American oak, is more forward in style but has real panache. The Semillon whites are classic expressions of the grape: low in alcohol, slow to develop, becoming immensely honeyed and very intense as they peak with 8–10 years. The "basic" Semillon represents terrific value for money (especially if you have the patience to give it five years in bottle), while single vineyard wines (Oakey Creek, Belford, Brycefield and Maxwell) warrant a visit to the cellar door. Flagship ILR Semillon, with classic length, depth and structure, is only released after 5 years' ageing. Premium Chardonnays are now sourced from the Indigo vineyard in Beechworth and Forest Edge Vineyard in Orange, the former, supple, muscular even, the latter flinty, with savoury, leesy complexity and bright acidity. The Indigo vineyard is also the source of Pinot Noir, Viognier, Roussanne, Nebbiolo, Sangiovese and a Pinot Gris, all work in progress. Relatively inexpensive Cricket Pitch reds and whites are crafted to be immediately appealing and drinkable. In the Cricket Pitch red, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot are the major varieties. Cricket Pitch white is a grassy, citrusy Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon blend with a hint of barrel-fermentation. The range is completed by two sweeties under the Umpire's Vineyard label and a fortified non-vintage wine, but you'll have to go to the cellar door to get them.

- Shiraz HBA★★★★ LH
- Shiraz Graveyard Vineyard★★★★★ EG
- Shiraz Rayner Vineyard★★★★ EF
- Shiraz Mistress Block★★★★ EE
- Shiraz★★ ED
- Cricket Pitch Red★★ EC
- Chardonnay Graveyard Vineyard★★★★ ED
- Chardonnay Forest Edge★★★★ EG
- Chardonnay Indigo★★★★ EE
- Chardonnay★★ EC
- Semillon ILR Reserve★★★★★ EE
- Semillon★★★ EC
- Semillon Oakey Creek★★★ EE
- Cricket Pitch White★★ EB

**CAPERCAILLIE Hunter Valley** [www.capercailliewine.com.au](http://www.capercailliewine.com.au)  
*Sutherland family Londons Road, Lovedale, NSW 2325*  
*Tel: 02 4990 2904 Fax: 02 4991 1886*

The late Alasdair Sutherland, a Scot, was a highly respected winemaker; his death in 2007 followed by the departure of winemaker Daniel Binet sees this small, family owned winery at a crossroads. Fruit is bought in from both from the Hunter Valley and further afield for a diverse range of wines of good flavour intensity. The whites, at least the Hunter Valley Chardonnay and Semillon, are if anything more impressive than the reds, with classic Hunter flavours as well as structure and depth. Intense, very berryish Ceilidh Shiraz is the best of the reds, combining Hunter Valley and McLaren Vale fruit. The Clan (Cabernet Sauvignon with Merlot and Petit Verdot from Coonawarra, Barossa and Orange) is characterful yet a slightly perplexing concoction of cool and ripe fruit. The Ghillie Shiraz is made from a special parcel of Hunter Valley fruit in the best vintages.

Gewürztraminer (including a dessert style), red Chambourcin and a sparkling red are also made.

- Chardonnay★★★★ £D
- Semillon★★★★ £C
- Gewürztraminer★★★ £C
- Shiraz Ceilidh★★★★ £D
- The Clan★★★ £D


**CHALKERS CROSSING** Hilltops [www.chalkerscrossing.com.au](http://www.chalkerscrossing.com.au)

*Ted & Wendy Ambler 387 Grenfell Road, Young, NSW 2594*

*Tel: 02 6382 6900 Fax: 02 6382 5068*

Ted Ambler began planting in the Hilltops region in 1997 and now supplements 10ha with grapes from the cooler Tumbarumba region. The first wines were made in 2000 but have already a deserved following thanks to the skills of French-born winemaker Celine Rousseau. The style of some of the varieties has varied from year to year yet quality is consistently high. Semillon for instance was 100% barrel-fermented in 08 but vinified in stainless steel in earlier vintages. Sauvignon with good weight and structure is also made in stainless steel with a touch of barrel-fermentation. Better still is Chardonnay, barrel-fermented and aged in 40% new oak but restrained and pure, with good weight, breadth and mouthfeel. Both Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon are very good too with excellent fruit expression. They are full, soft and concentrated but with an underlying tautness and plenty of extract. An aromatic, bright cherry fruited Cabernet deserves 10 years; Shiraz can be drunk sooner. A cherryish, strawberryish Pinot Noir has some style too, if modest depth, perhaps due to young vines. Prices are very reasonable.

- Riesling Hilltops★ £B
- Sauvignon Blanc Tumbarumba★★★ £B
- Chardonnay Tumbarumba★★★★ £C
- Semillon Hilltops★★★ £C
- Shiraz Hilltops★★★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon Hilltops★★★★ £C
- Pinot Noir Tumbarumba★★★ £C

 **CLONAKILLA** Canberra District [www.clonakilla.com.au](http://www.clonakilla.com.au)

*Kirk family Crisps Lane, Murrumbateman, NSW 2582*

*Tel: 02 6227 5877 Fax: 02 6227 5871*

Tim Kirk is realising the potential first developed by his father Dr John Kirk, an Australian research scientist of Irish descent. The vineyard is gradually being expanded from the current 6ha and Kirk is trialling five new Viognier clones which, no doubt find their way into the early bottled Viognier Nouveau label. Clonakilla's top red, Canberra District Shiraz Viognier, includes around 7% Viognier and is now one of the best in the country, distinguished particularly by its individual expression of an Australian Shiraz-based blend. The pepper, spice, floral and berry amalgam is distinctive, elegant and supported by a depth, weight and structure that deserves at least 5 years' ageing and has the pedigree to develop a further five plus. Viognier is very good too, complex with delightful may-blossom and ripe peach aromas - it is tighter, with better structure than most Australian examples, avoiding the excessive ripeness or alcohol of some. Made as they are on a similarly small scale, these really are wines to contrast with examples from good growers of Côte-Rôtie or Condrieu. A Hilltops Shiraz, while much cheaper than the Canberra District version, is quite different: more onedimensional without the same depth, expression or sheer style, but it is still one of the Hilltops' best Shiraz. The mid-priced, O'Riada Shiraz made from bought in fruit, may lack the lift and finesse of the estate Canberra District wine, but it is well concentrated with savoury layers. Shiraz from the Murrumbateman vineyard (not tasted) is now being bottle separately and is labelled Syrah. Riesling, Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot are also produced.

- Shiraz/Viognier Canberra District★★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Hilltops★★★★ £D
- Shiraz O'Riada Canberra District★★★★★ £F
- Viognier★★★★ £F
- Riesling★★★★ £F

**>> COLLECTOR** Canberra District [www.collectorwines.com.au](http://www.collectorwines.com.au)

*Alex McKay 12 Bourke Street, Collector, NSW 2581*

*Tel: 02 6116 8722 Fax: 02 6247 7682*

In 2000 HARDYS invested in the Canberra District, establishing the

Kamberra wine company. When they pulled out in 2007, Kamberra's talented winemaker, Alex McKay, decided to stay and establish his own label. McKay started out making just two wines, both Shiraz, the region's stand out variety. Drawing on his experience at Hardys when he worked with some 24 growers, McKay has cherry-picked his fruit, especially for the flagship Reserve Shiraz. It comes from the renowned Kyeema Vineyard in Murrumbateman (which belongs to Capital Wines) and features among the region's oldest vines. Planted on well-drained weathered ironstone soils with granite on an elevated saddle between two valleys, its well ventilated site produces a particularly finely structured, aromatic wine. Marked Tree Shiraz is typically made with younger vine material from a select number of vineyards on granite and shale soils. Both wines are fermented naturally, with some whole bunches, before being aged for about a year in French oak (around 40% new for the Reserve, 25% for Marked Tree). With the emphasis on elegance, both are dominated by well-defined, bright red fruits with spice and pepper, supported by ripe but present tannins. In 2010, McKay made his first white Rhône blend, focused on Marsanne (not tasted). (SA)

- Shiraz Reserve★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Marked Tree★★★★ £D

**DE BORTOLI** Riverina [www.debortoli.com.au](http://www.debortoli.com.au)

*De Bortoli family De Bortoli Road, Bilbul, NSW 2680*

*Tel: 02 6966 0100 Fax: 02 6966 0199*

De Bortoli's Riverina operation is a vast winery based in the Riverina near Griffith. Output is around 4.5 million cases a year and almost all is accounted for by bulk-market labels. The majority of the fine-wine output is accounted for at the Yarra Valley winery (see DE BORTOLI Victoria). Riverina budget labels include Vat numbered Deen De Bortoli wines (including good value Botrytis Semillon Vat 5), the Willowglen and Sacred Hill ranges as well as others only likely to be encountered locally. The greatest interest from a quality point of view is the botrytis-influenced Semillon Noble One and the fortified Black Noble. The latter is produced in a similar fashion to the liqueur Tokays of Rutherglen from a *solera* which is based on Semillon. A brilliant wine, combining power and elegance, its rich, complex character, filled with finest dates and fruit peel, is superbly balanced. Noble One is a long-established great Australian sweet wine only surpassed by the country's best fortified wines. Now bottled under screwcap, it is rich, complex, refined and beautifully balanced and provides a good alternative to Sauternes. Stylistic changes over the last decade have resulted in a more elegant but no less intense style. These include earlier picking, tighter grain French oak and less new oak; in fact a component of the blend is now sees no oak at all. It can similarly benefit from long cellaring, needing at least 5 years to fully reveal its remarkable complex, honeyed character; good vintages show well for 20-30 years. Also fine is Old Boys '21 Years' (Shiraz/Grenache derived) which is powerful and concentrated with an intriguing aged, nutty complexity yet full of life and vitality.

- Noble One★★★★★ £F
- Black Noble★★★★★ £F
- Old Boys 21 Years★★★★ £D
- Deen Botrytis Semillon Vat 5★★★★ £C
- Show Muscat★★ £D

**GLENGUIN** Hunter Valley [www.glenguinestate.com.au](http://www.glenguinestate.com.au)

*Tedder family Milbrodale Road, Broke, NSW 2330*

*Tel: 02 6579 1009 Fax: 02 6579 1009*

Robin Tedder produces two ranges, the estate-based Glenguin wines from 19ha of vineyards at Wollombi in the Lower Hunter Valley and Maestro-labelled wines from as far afield as the Adelaide Hills. All the wines show real intensity and ripeness. Premium Aristeia Shiraz is sweet-fruited and oak-infused, complex and savoury with age, and there's lots of Hunter character and expression in Schoolhouse Block and lighter Stonybroke versions. Affordable Old Broke Block Semillon and River Terrace Chardonnay also offer lots of flavour and character even if the latter can be a bit one-dimensional. The estate also produces Tannat which goes into a single varietal wine and a Shiraz blend, also Two Thousand Vines Viognier (not tasted). The Maestro label is used for bought in fruit from other regions. Pinot Grigio from the Adelaide Hills has very ripe concentrated quince, pear and citrus peel fruit and decent structure too. Slightly less convincing are Orange-sourced reds under the Maestro label - while intense and concentrated there is less purity and varietal expression in Merlot although a varietal Sangiovese shows promise. Better to

try the Sticky Botrytis Semillon which has fine fruit and a spiced honey, preserved citrus and marmalade character, if not the complexity of a great sweet wine.

## Glenguin

- Shiraz Aristeia★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Stonybroke★★★ £D
- Shiraz Schoolhouse Block★★★★ £C
- Semillon Old Broke Block★★★★ £C
- Chardonnay River Terrace★★★ £B
- Botrytis Semillon The Sticky★★★ £E

## Maestro

- Pinot Grigio Adelaide Hills★★ £C
- Sangiovese★★★ £C
- Merlot Orange★★ £C

## >> HELM Canberra District [www.helmwines.com.au](http://www.helmwines.com.au)

*Kern & Judith Helm Butts Road, Murrumbateman NSW 2582*  
Tel: 02 6227 5953 Fax: 02 6227 0207

Husband and wife team Ken (winemaker and former insect ecologist) and Judith (who focuses on the vines) established the winery in 1973, one of the earliest in the region's modern era. Riesling courses through Ken Helm's blood and he is proud of the fact that he is the fourth generation descendant of German "vinedressers" who established vineyards near Albury and Rutherglen in 1860s. The Helms regularly visit the Mosel and Rhine valley and, in 2000, Ken Helm instigated the Canberra International Riesling Tasting. Helm currently makes three Rieslings, two in Australia's classic bone dry style (the Classic Dry and Premium Riesling) and an off-dry style (Half-Dry), not tasted. The dry Rieslings are among Australia's best. The steely, single vineyard Premium Riesling from ironstone soils, first made in 2005, shows a terrific concentration of minerals and Classic Dry also impresses with its line and length. With four separate terroirs upon which to draw (alluvial river flats, volcanic soils over limestone or ironstone and hard red shale), Helm plans to make more single vineyard wines. Though consistently ripe, which cannot be taken for granted in these parts, the single vineyard Premium Cabernet Sauvignon's admirably concentrated yet well defined cool climate fruit is somewhat dominated by American (Missouri) oak. A pity. Helm also makes a Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and (entry level) Cabernet Sauvignon (not tasted). (SA)

- Riesling Classic Dry★★★★ £D ○ Riesling Premium★★★★★ £E
- Cabernet Sauvignon Premium★★★ £F

## HUNTINGTON ESTATE Mudgee [www.huntingtonestate.com.au](http://www.huntingtonestate.com.au)

*Tim Stevens Cassilis Road, Mudgee, NSW 2850*  
Tel: 02 6373 3825 Fax: 02 6373 3730

This has been a consistently excellent winery under the stewardship of the Roberts family over the past two decades. They sold the operation in 2006 and new owner Tim Stevens of neighbouring Abercorn (no longer in operation) has maintained style and quality. Production remains relatively small at around 20,000 cases a year and is spread across a wide range of wines, some of which are only available through mail order and at the cellar door. Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and Cabernet Merlot have long been Mudgee classics. Special Reserves of Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz are quite marked by their full, American-oak component and sinewy Mudgee tannins but the quality of the dark but bright and juicy fruit can easily absorb the wood given time, something many Australian wines fail to achieve. Stevens recommends they should ideally be drunk at 10-15 years of age. A number of new wines are being produced under the new regime. These include a Pinot Noir Dry Rosé and a Grenache Shiraz along with three economically priced offerings, a dry white and red and a rosé under the Four Seasons label. There is also a rich, barrel-fermented Chardonnay. The wines still represent particularly good value for money and are difficult to find outside of Australia. A number of the reds produced during the Roberts tenure are still currently available from the winery.

- Cabernet Sauvignon Special Reserve★★★★ £E
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot★★★ £C
- Shiraz Special Reserve★★★★ £E
- Shiraz★★★ £C ○ Chardonnay Barrel Fermented★★ £C

## LAKE'S FOLLY Hunter Valley [www.lakesfolly.com.au](http://www.lakesfolly.com.au)

*Peter Fogarty Broke Road, Pokolbin, NSW 2320*  
Tel: 02 4998 7507 Fax: 02 4998 7322

This top-quality Lower Hunter producer, originally established in 1963 by Sydney surgeon Max Lake was sold to Peter Fogarty in 2000, who also owns Millbrook Winery and Deep Woods Estate, both in Western Australia. Rodney Kempe has taken on the winemaking reins, continuing to make just two wines from 12ha of mature vineyards which translates to around 4,500 cases per year. The Chardonnay in particular was an early benchmark among Australian whites. During the early to mid-1990s the wines were still good but didn't reach the levels of old. However, they are now on top form. The red Cabernet blend (older vintages are labelled Cabernets or simply Cabernet) is mostly Cabernet Sauvignon with some Shiraz, Merlot and Petit Verdot. It is restrained and well-structured with blackcurrant and blackberry fruit but none of the overripeness seen in some Hunter reds. The Chardonnay is rich, opulent and buttery with very well-judged oak adding a subtle, spicy, nutty character; acidity to balance means it will keep for up to a decade from a top year, the Cabernet blend often longer.

- Cabernet blend★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay★★★★ £F

## >> LARK HILL Canberra District [www.larkhill.com.au](http://www.larkhill.com.au)

*Carpenter family 521 Bungendore Road, Bungendore, NSW 2621*  
Tel: 02 6238 1393 Fax: 02 6238 1393

Established in 1978 by Dr David and Sue Carpenter, the vineyard is easily the region's highest at 860m, which explains why Pinot Noir and Riesling (including a tightly focused but layered Auslese) shine. Shiraz (co-fermented with a dash of Viognier) is sourced from the Murrumbateman sub-region which, further to the west and, at much lower altitude, is warmer. Since the Carpenter's son Chris joined the winemaking team, Lark Hill has consolidated its reputation for Pinot Noir and Riesling while pursuing new directions. Lark Hill has the distinction of being the region's only certified biodynamic producer (certified in 2008) and its Grüner Veltliner pioneer. Though only planted in 2005 on shale slopes, this Austrian variety shows great potential, with good typicity and plenty of texture and interest thanks to a natural ferment (partly in barrel) and lees aging. The Carpenters have planted more. Throughout the range, hands off winemaking aims to maximise vineyard expression. The wines are complex yet unaffected, with lovely balance and texture. Sparkling wines, a Chardonnay, Viognier and Sauvignon Blanc are also made. (SA)

- Riesling Mayfield Vineyard★★★ £E ○ Riesling Auslese★★★★ £F
- Grüner Veltliner★★ £E
- Shiraz★★★ £E ● Pinot Noir★★★ £E

## MCWILLIAM'S MOUNT PLEASANT Hunter Valley

*McWilliams Marrowbone Road, Pokolbin, NSW 2320*  
Tel: 02 4998 7505 Fax: 02 4998 7761

Though a sixth generation family business, McWilliams is a large operation. It produces volume Hanwood Estate wines at the Hanwood winery in the Riverina and including increasingly good wines from Barwang in southern New South Wales, all well made, but its Hunter Valley portfolio is the jewel in the crown. Until recently, the Mount Pleasant label was reserved exclusively for these Hunter Valley wines. It seems a shame that the label is now being applied more widely, now encompassing, for example an Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc and Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon. From the Hunter Valley, Lovedale (single vineyard) and Elizabeth Semillons, only released with 4-5 years' bottle-age (though Elizabeth is now also being released as a young wine), start out slowly but have marvellous toasty, citrus and herb intensity that continues to build in the bottle over many years. The characteristic intense toastiness is not due to oak but the inherent character that develops when these Hunter Semillons are built to last. Shiraz too is deep and individual. The particular fusion of oak, savoury characters, earth, leather, black cherry and licorice give an indication of the complexity but there are other nuances too here that you just won't get anywhere else. Old Paddock & Old Hill comes from two very old estate vineyards and is particularly long-lived. Getting hold of these wines can be a problem unless you happen to live in Australia yet perhaps the most remarkable thing is the very reasonable pricing. If you buy the Semillon relatively young, put it away somewhere

out of reach for a decade or more.

- **Shiraz** Old Paddock & Old Hill★★★★★ £D
- **Shiraz** Maurice O'Shea★★★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** Rosehill★★★ £E
- **Shiraz** Philip★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Jack★★★★★ £C
- **Semillon** Lovedale★★★★★ £E
- **Semillon** Elizabeth Cellar Aged★★★★★ £D
- **Sauvignon Blanc** Florence★★★ £C

## >> MAYFIELD VINEYARD Orange [www.mayfieldvineyard.com](http://www.mayfieldvineyard.com)

*Richard & Kathy Thomas 954 Icely Road, Orange, NSW 2008*

*Tel: 02 6365 9292 Fax: 02 6365 9281*

At 850-930m above sea level, Mayfield Vineyard occupies one of the highest sites in Orange and, it follows, Australia. It was planted in 1998 by Richard Thomas, a business man, who now lives on the 100 hectare estate, of which around 32 hectares are under vine. An extensive range of estate grown wines, first produced in 2004, is contract made. The best wines are bottled under the Mayfield Vineyard label, while Icely Road is the junior label. Unsurprisingly give the vineyard's elevation, Mayfield's strength is its white wines, especially its floral but focused Riesling and a Sauvignon Blanc which leans more towards the Loire than New Zealand. Reds are more challenging and, though well-defined with good varietal typicity, lack concentration. This might be expected to improve in time with vine age but, meantime, the Pinot Noir is somewhat overpriced. Mayfield Vineyard also make a Sangiovese and Icely Road Cabernet Merlot. (SA)

- **Pinot Noir** Mayfield Vineyard★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Mayfield Vineyard★★★★★ £D
- **Cabernet Merlot** Mayfield Vineyard★★★ £D
- **Riesling** Mayfield Vineyard★★★★★ £D
- **Riesling** Icely Road★★★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Mayfield Vineyard★★★ £D
- **Chardonnay** Icely Road★★★ £C
- **Sauvignon Blanc** Icely Road★★★ £C

## MEEREA PARK Hunter Valley [www.meereapark.com.au](http://www.meereapark.com.au)

*Rhys & Garth Eather Lot 3, Palmers Lane, Pokolbin, NSW 2320*

*Tel: 02 4998 7474 Fax: 02 4930 7100*

Rhys Eather, one of two brothers who own this Pokolbin-based winery, makes around 10,000 cases per year. The first vintage was 1991 and the wines are all made from bought-in fruit. Ripe, complex Chardonnay is barrel-fermented with natural yeasts and sourced from old Pokolbin vines while both an intensely honeysuckle Viognier and fresh Verdelho with preserved citrus fruit are good examples of these varieties in the Hunter. Semillon, like the Verdelho, is unoaked in the classic Hunter Valley style and Eather makes two, the denser, spicier Terracotta from red dirt and the more lifted and lemony Alexander Munro from the region's classic Semillon alluvial soils. Both will benefit from 4 or 5 years' cellaring. Of the reds the Cabernet/Merlot is aged in French oak and is in a leaner style, almost leafy. The Aunts Shiraz is characterful and intense but Alexander Munro has greater depth and style with powerful spice, pepper and smoky black fruit; Hell Hole sits somewhere in between. Made since 2001 is an aromatic Shiraz Viognier (containing around 8% of the latter). Also tasted, and of good fruit and style, are Orchard Road Pinot Gris and Barbera made from Orange fruit. (SA)

- **Shiraz** Alexander Munro★★★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** Hell Hole★★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** The Aunts★★★ £D
- **Shiraz Viognier**★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Alexander Munro★★★ £D
- **Semillon** Epoch★★★ £C
- **Semillon** Terracotta★★★★★ £D
- **Semillon** Alexander Munro★★★★★ £E
- **Viognier** Lindsay Hill★★★ £C
- **Verdelho** Lindsay Hill★★★ £B

## >> PRINTHIE ESTATE Orange [www.printhiewines.com.au](http://www.printhiewines.com.au)

*Swift family 489 Yuranigh Road, Molong, NSW 2866*

*Tel: 02 6366 8422 Fax: 02 6366 9328*

Jim and Ruth Swift established Printhie in 1996, planting 12 hectares of vines. Then the aim was simply to grow grapes however, when their sons

Ed and Dave returned to the fold in the early 2000s, the family made a strategic shift into wine production. In 2001, the vineyard was expanded to 33 hectares and, by 2004, when the new plantings had come onstream, the Swifts had built their own winery. Printhie's range comprises the Swift Family Heritage label (estate grown reds), MCC or Mount Canobolas Connection (the middle tier) and the entry level Mountain wines. From top to bottom the wines are well made with good concentration, balance and structure. The secret to this consistency lies in the sourcing. Grapes for the red wines and Viognier come from the estate vineyards which, at 630m, are among the region's lowest. Apart from a rather stemmy Pinot Noir, Mountain and MCC reds share a sweet core of ripe but juicy fruit and smooth tannins with a good lick of oak. Swift Family Heritage Cabernet Sauvignon is a more serious proposition, though it retains an exuberantly fruity quality. Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris, Chardonnay and Riesling come from higher sites rising to a little over 1000m for the finely crafted, zesty MCC Chardonnay. A bright fruited Sauvignon shows an abundance of passionfruit cut with lemony acidity and attractive grassy notes. Made in a more oxidative style, a weighty Pinot Gris and Viognier are focused more on mouthfeel than fruit. (SA)

- **Pinot Noir** MCC★★★ £D
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Swift Family Heritage★★★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Mountain★★★★★ £C
- **Merlot** MCC★★★★★ £D
- **Merlot** Mountain★★★ £D
- **Shiraz** Mountain★★★ £C
- **Shiraz Viognier** MCC★★★★★ £E
- **Riesling** MCC★★★★★ £C
- **Viognier** MCC★★★ £C
- **Pinot Gris** Mountain★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** MCC★★★★★ £E
- **Chardonnay** Mountain★★★★★ £C
- **Sauvignon Blanc** Mountain★★★★★ £C

## ROSEMOUNT ESTATE Hunter Valley [www.rosemountestates.com](http://www.rosemountestates.com)

*Treasury Wine Estates Rosemount Road, Denman, NSW 2064*

*Tel: 02 6549 6450 Fax: 02 6549 6499*

The already substantial Rosemount enterprises (also see ROSEMOUNT MCLAREN VALE) merged with the huge SOUTHCORP operation (now known as Treasury Wine Estates) in 2001. By mid-2003 there had been a significant fall-out which included the departure of veteran winemaker Philip Shaw who for so long maintained generally high standards throughout the extensive portfolio. The premium red Mountain Blue Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon (typically 85/15) from Mudgee is dense, concentrated and aged in American oak. The white equivalent is the intense, complex Roxburgh Chardonnay, a distinctive full-bodied Australian example of the variety, if the most Burgundian in style of the Rosemount Chardonnays. Least of the premium Chardonnays, the Show Reserve falls a long way short of its form of a decade or more ago. Usually much better is the Show Reserve Semillon with more classic Hunter expression but requiring at least 3 or 4 years' ageing. Hill of Gold varietals from Mudgee show good fruit intensity and texture, particularly in good Chardonnay and ripe, black-fruited Shiraz. Lower-priced Diamond varietal and dual varietal labels can offer decent everyday drinking if not a great deal of excitement.

- **Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon** Blue Mountain★★★★★ £D
- **Shiraz** Hill of Gold★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Hill of Gold★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Roxburgh★★★★★ £E
- **Chardonnay** Show Reserve★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Hill of Gold★★★ £D
- **Semillon** Show Reserve★★★ £D

## PHILIP SHAW Orange [www.philipshaw.com.au](http://www.philipshaw.com.au)

*Philip Shaw P O Box 2473, Caldwell Lane, Orange, NSW 2800*

*Tel: 02 6364 2556*

Philip Shaw, once ROSEMOUNT's almost legendary winemaker, has long owned and developed a vineyard of his own. He purchased the 47ha Koomooloo vineyard on the slopes of Mount Canobolas back in 1988 but only released the first wines under his own label with the 2004 vintage, having sold off the grapes or made wines for others including CUMULUS in the interim. The cool climate vineyards, on red loam soils over a limestone base rise to over 900m

and all qualify as Orange GI (which stipulates a minimum of 600m elevation). Working with Jo Perry there are already some impressive releases. Premium The Number Series wines are given a number but these are mostly of personal significance and are not lot or vineyard numbers. Exciting whites include a pungent netty, herbaceous Sauvignon Blanc No. 19 with both cooler and riper fruit characters, and a striking, aromatic Chardonnay with good purity. Reds are subject to a long post-fermentation maceration and, with vine age, the tannins have become more refined. An elegant, intense and individual No. 17 (60/20/20 Merlot/Cabernet Franc/Cabernet Sauvignon) is aged in 100% new French barriques. Classy, Rhône-like No. 89 Syrah (here 89 denotes the year the vines were planted) instead sees both French (two-thirds) and American oak of which only a portion is new. Subsequent additions to the range include the deeply concentrated yet polished No. 5 Cabernet Sauvignon, a finely crafted, bright Pinot Noir No. 8 and a dry, savoury rosé called Pink Billy. A second tier "The Character" range features leesy but taut unoaked Chardonnay, The Architect, The Dreamer Viognier, The Conductor Merlot, The Wire Walker Pinot Noir and the floral and peppery The Idiot Shiraz.

- Sauvignon Blanc No 19★★★★ ED ○ Chardonnay No 11★★★★ LE
- Chardonnay The Architect★★★★ EC ○ Rosé Pink Billy Saignee★★ EC
- Merlot/Cabernet/Cabernet Franc No 17★★★★ EC
- Cabernet Sauvignon No 5★★★★ EF ● Shiraz The Idiot★★★★ EC
- Shiraz No 89★★★★ LE
- Pinot Noir No 8★★★★ LE

## SIRROMET Granite Belt [www.sirromet.com](http://www.sirromet.com)

*T E Morris 850-938 Mount Cotton Road, Mount Cotton, QLD 4165  
Tel: 07 3206 2999 Fax: 07 3206 0900*

Crossword addicts will immediately recognise that Sirromet is T E Morris backwards, but there is nothing backward about this state of the art winery, which has grown at a furious pace over the last few years to become what is probably the largest in Queensland. Sirromet vineyards are mostly located at Ballandean near Stanthorpe on the Granite Belt at an altitude of 800m and include Seven Scenes (102ha), St Judes (25ha) and Night Sky (23ha). There is a further 12ha at the Mount Cotton winery where 4 levels of wines are produced ranging from entry-level Perfect Day to Vineyard Selection then single-vineyard Seven Scenes and more pricey Private Bin. The Seven Scenes wines are generally a little disappointing, the best being Cabernet Sauvignon with upfront fruit, good structure and complexity. The best wine is the Vineyard Selection Chardonnay, closely followed by the Private Bin LM Pinot Noir. Also good are the forward, fruity Vineyard Selection Marsanne/Viognier and Petit Verdot (with 7% Shiraz)—a big wine with deep flavours and strong fruit, reminiscent of Durif. The juicy Perfect Day Telunapa (a blend of both Cabernets, Shiraz and 10% Petit Verdot) is an ideal summer quaffer. (NB)

- Marsanne Viognier Vineyard Selection★★ LB
- Semillon Vineyard Selection★★ LB
- Chardonnay Vineyard Selection★★ LB
- Pinot Noir Private Bin LM★★ EC
- Shiraz Seven Scenes★★ EC
- Shiraz Vineyard Selection★ EC
- Cabernet Sauvignon Vineyard Selection★★★★ EC
- Petit Verdot Vineyard Selection★★ LB

## >> THOMAS WINES Hunter Valley [www.thomaswines.com.au](http://www.thomaswines.com.au)

*Andrew Thomas Small Winemakers Ctr, McDonalds Rd, Pokolbin NSW 2321  
Tel: 02 6574 7371 Fax: 02 6574 7392*

Andrew Thomas represents a new generation of Hunter Valley producer specialising in Semillon and Shiraz. His range of individual vineyard wines made from purchased fruit aims to capture the specific traits of some of the region's best terroir while simultaneously introducing subtle tweaks which lend his wines a certain contemporary appeal. Take Thomas' Semillons, a variety about which this former Tyrrell's winemaker is passionate. Thomas picks at different levels of ripeness and uses light solids to build up texture and enhance complexity. His classic dry Semillons may be a touch gentler on the attack, but they are terrifically concentrated, long and pure. The flagship Braemore from very deep low yielding alluvial sandy soils produces particularly structured, ageworthy wines. The fruit for OC Semillon from alluvial flats tends to get a little riper so, though lemony and mouthwatering, it is relatively forward.

Thomas also produces an off dry Semillon, Six Degrees, aimed at winning new fans for the variety. With its fresh acidity, it is hard to believe it has around 40g/l of residual sugar though it is less citrus focused and rounder in mouthfeel. As for Shiraz, Thomas is keen to restore the Hunter's reputation for medium bodied wines of class and distinction. There is not a hint of sweaty saddle here. Though characterful, the wines are bright, with excellent fruit purity. DJV (déjà vu) Shiraz is co-fermented with a small amount of Trebbiano and shows an edge of dried herbs to its sour plum and cherry fruit. The floral, elegantly structured Sweetwater Shiraz hails from a single vineyard at the northern end of the Lower Hunter with patches of limestone. Motel Block Shiraz, a new cuvée from a shy bearing vineyard is darker with spicy liquorice and firm tannins. Kiss Shiraz, from another low cropping vineyard situated diagonally opposite BROKENWOOD's Graveyard vineyard, is tightly structured with great fruit intensity. The wines, including the cheaper Two of a Kind range, are made in Polkobin at the James Winery. Total annual production is around 4000 cases. (SA)

- Shiraz Kiss★★★★ EF
- Shiraz Motel Block★★★★ EF
- Shiraz Sweetwater★★★★ LE
- Shiraz DJV★★★★ LE
- Semillon Braemore★★★★★ ED
- Semillon OC★★★★ EC
- Semillon Six Degrees★★ EC

## TOWER ESTATE Hunter Valley [www.towerestatewines.com.au](http://www.towerestatewines.com.au)

*Tower Estate cnr Broke & Hall Roads, Pokolbin, NSW 2320  
Tel: 02 4998 7989 Fax: 02 4998 7919*

Tower Estate, a hospitality complex and winery, was directed by the vastly experienced 'Australian wine personality' Len Evans up until his recent loss in 2006. A wide range of wines are made by Samantha Connew (ex-WIRRA WIRRA), each in a 1,000-case lot. Those from the Hunter Valley are Chardonnay, Semillon, Verdelho and Shiraz. Only Chardonnay and Semillon have been tasted but both show impressive texture, depth and excellent structure that suggests good cellaring potential, particularly for the more austere but intense Semillon with classic herbal, floral and citrusy fruit. Other wines are likely to be worth a try and include Sangiovese and Merlot from Orange, Sauvignon and Chardonnay from the Adelaide Hills, Barossa Shiraz, Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon and a Clare Valley Riesling. They are most likely to be encountered in good restaurants both in Australia and internationally.

- Semillon★★★★ EC ○ Chardonnay★★★★ ED

## KEITH TULLOCH Hunter Valley [www.keithtullochwine.com.au](http://www.keithtullochwine.com.au)

*Keith Tulloch Lilywood Farm, O'Connors Road, Pokolbin, NSW 2325  
Tel: 02 4998 7500 Fax: 02 4998 7211*

An experienced Hunter Valley winemaker with stints at LINDEMANS and Rothbury Estate under his belt, Keith Tulloch has recently also made some wine under his own name. Production is very small with only a few hundred cases of each wine in the first vintages but the wines are undoubtedly a fine distillation of Tulloch's experience. They seem handmade in the best sense, very Hunter Valley with super Hunter fruit and intensity, excellent weight, texture and length of flavour. Above all, they are classy and complex. Unquestionably they will age impressively too (though a touch of barrel ferment makes the Semillon broachable relatively early, though it will benefit from ageing); certainly they get better every time you taste them. The stylish fruit in the Forres Blend is predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon but also from Merlot and Petit Verdot. The excellent Shiraz is now joined by a Shiraz Viognier. While not cheap the wines are very well-priced; the splendid Chardonnay and Semillon are great value for money. The Field of Mars range (not tasted) comprises a vineyard selection of best fruit, while Perdiem is for emerging varieties/wine styles and differs from year to year. Merlot is also made as is an exotic, very richly botrytised sweet Semillon.

- Semillon★★★★ EC ○ Chardonnay★★★★ EC
- Shiraz Kester★★★★ LE ● Forres Blend★★★★ ED
- Botrytis Semillon★★★ LE

## TYRRELL'S Hunter Valley [www.tyrrells.com.au](http://www.tyrrells.com.au)

*Tyrrell family Ashmans, Broke Road, Pokolbin, NSW 2320  
Tel: 02 4993 7000 Fax: 02 4998 7723*

This family-owned and run winery dates back to 1858 and makes an extensive range of wines, around half a million cases even after the recent sale of the Long Flat brand. The top wines are the Winemakers Selection (Vat numbered) series. The bold, powerful and complex Vat 47 has been one of Australia's great Chardonnays for 3 decades. Rich and very concentrated, it has always shown refinement and balance; it ages well too. Vat 1 Semillon of great structure and nuance and only released with several years' age (currently 1997) is one of the finest examples in the region. As for reds, in common with other leading Hunter Shiraz, more recent vintages show brighter fruit while retaining the region's classic medium bodied profile. A switch to largely French oak and large format barrels is paying dividends. Of the Winemakers Selection reds, the Vat 9 Shiraz has an extra dimension while Vat 8 Shiraz (from the Hunter) shows more overt (French) oak and less regional nuance. Savoury and soft, Vat 6 Pinot Noir work less well, especially given the leaps and bounds made with this variety in cooler climes. The impressive expanded single vineyard range, which includes Semillon (Stevens, Belford, HVD), Chardonnay (HVD, Belford) and Shiraz (Stevens, Old Patch 1867, 4 Acres), showcases Tyrrell's prime old vine sites, for Semillon in particular, lifting the different soil types off the page. The well-priced Rufus Stone reds come from vineyards in Heathcote and McLaren Vale; the Shiraz shows good depth of flavour and ages well. At the level of Brokenback Shiraz, Moon Mountain Chardonnay, Fordwich Verdelho and Brookdale Semillon (all Hunter sourced) the wines can be full-flavoured though on occasion want for better balance (and less oak). The unwooded Lost Block Semillon by contrast is more classic as is new release Johnno's Semillon which is basket pressed and made the old fashioned way, with a warmer ferment and some solids. It shows classic lime and lemongrass and, though tightknit, has a talc texture and incipient toast in its youth. Of the relatively inexpensive Old Winery wines, which are sourced from both the Hunter and southern states, the Shiraz has decent, smoky, dark berry fruit, while the Semillon has good intensity and length and is better with a little age. Moore's Creek is a new label for basic Shiraz, Cabernet, Chardonnay and Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc, as is Midnight Leap label.

- Shiraz Vat 9★★★★★ £E ● Shiraz Vat 8★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Four Acres★★★★★ £E ● Shiraz Old Patch 1867★★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Stevens★★★★ £C ● Shiraz Rufus Stone Heathcote★★★★ £C
- Shiraz Brokenback★★★ £C ● Shiraz Old Winery★ £B
- Chardonnay Vat 47★★★★★ £E
- Chardonnay Moon Mountain★★ £C
- Chardonnay Shee-Oak★ £C
- Semillon Vat 1★★★★ £E ○ Semillon Stevens ★★★ £D
- Semillon Belford★★★★ £E ○ Semillon Johnno's ★★★ £E
- Semillon Lost Block★★ £C ○ Semillon Old Winery★ £B

## OTHER WINES OF NOTE

### ALBERT RIVER WINES (Queensland)

- Chardonnay Unwooded★ £B
- Cabernet/Shiraz/Merlot★★ £C ● Merlot★★ £C
- ALLANMERE (Hunter) ○ Chardonnay Durham★★ £C
- Verdelho★ £B ● Shiraz★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★ £C
- BEELGAARA (Riverina)
- Botrytis Semillon Promenade Winemakers Selection★★★★ £C
- BIDGEEBONG (Gundagai)
- Chardonnay Triangle Tumbarumba★★ £B
- BIMBADGEN (Hunter) ○ Chardonnay★★ £B
- Shiraz★ £B ● Shiraz Signature★★ £C
- Botrytis Semillon Myall Road★★ £C
- BRIAR RIDGE (Gundagai)
- Semillon Dairy Hill★★★★ £D
- BRINDABELLA HILLS (Canberra District)
- Riesling★★ £C
- Shiraz★★★★ £E
- CAPITAL WINES (Canberra District)
- Merlot The Backbencher★★ £C
- CHATEAU PATO (Hunter Valley)
- Shiraz Old Pokolbin★★★★ £B ● Shiraz DJP★★★★ £D
- CUMULUS (Orange)
- Pinot Grigio Rolling (Sparkling)★ £B

- Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Rolling★ £B
- Chardonnay Rolling Unoaked★ £C
- Chardonnay Climbing★★ £C
- Chardonnay Cumulus★★★ £C
- Shiraz Rolling★ £B ● Shiraz Climbing★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon Climbing★ £C
- Cabernet/Merlot Rolling★ £B
- Merlot Climbing★ £C
- CUTTAWAY HILL (Southern Highlands)
- Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc★★ £C
- Chardonnay★★ £C
- Merlot★★★ £C ● Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★ £C
- DI LUSSO (Mudgee)
- Barbera★★ £C
- EDEN ROAD (Canberra District)
- Riesling The Long Road★★★★ £B
- Viognier RHE The Long Road★ £C
- Shiraz The Long Road★★★★ £B
- FREEMAN (Hilltops)
- Rondinella Corvina Secco★★ £D
- HOPE ESTATE (Hunter)
- Verdelho★ £B ○ Chardonnay★ £C
- Semillon★ £B
- Merlot★ £C ● Shiraz★ £C
- LERIDA ESTATE (Canberra District)
- Chardonnay★★ £E
- LINDEMANS ○ Semillon Classic Release★★★★ £D
- LOGAN (Central Ranges/Orange)
- Sauvignon Blanc★★ £C
- Pinot Gris Weemala★★ £B
- Gewürztraminer Weemala★★ £B
- Shiraz Apple Tree Flat★★ £B
- LOWE WINES (Mudgee)
- Riesling★★★★ £C
- Riesling Late Harvest★★★★ £C
- Shiraz Thistle Hill (preservative free)★★ £C
- Shiraz★★ £D
- Zinfandel Reserve★★★★ £D
- MARGAN FAMILY (Hunter)
- Verdelho★ £B ○ Semillon★★ £B
- Shiraz★★ £C ● Cabernet Sauvignon★★ £C
- MAYFIELD ESTATE (Orange)
- Riesling Single Vineyard★★★★ £C
- Riesling Icelly Road★★★★ £C
- Sauvignon Blanc Icelly Road★★★★ £C
- MONTROSE (Mudgee)
- Shiraz Black Label★★★★ £D
- MOUNT MAJURA (Canberra District)
- Riesling★★★★ £C
- Tempranillo Shiraz Graciano★★★★ £D
- Tempranillo★★ £E
- MOUNT VIEW (Hunter)
- Semillon★★★★ £C
- Semillon Reserve★★★★ £C
- PEPPER TREE (Hunter)
- Semillon Alluvius★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Conquers★★★★ £D
- PHAT WINE CO. (Hunter)
- Semillon Hart & Hunter★★ £C
- POOLE'S ROCK (Hunter) ○ Chardonnay★★ £F
- Shiraz★★ £F
- REYNOLDS (Orange) ○ Chardonnay Orange Reserve★★ £B
- Merlot Orange Marble Man★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon Orange The Jezebel★★ £C
- ROSS HILL (Orange)
- Chardonnay Pinnacle★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Pinnacle★★★★ £E
- SKIMSTONE (Mudgee)
- Sangiovese★★★★ £D
- TAMBORINE ESTATE (Queensland) ○ Verdelho★ £B
- Premium Shiraz/Cabernet★ £C
- Premium Cabernet Franc★★ £C
- Reserve Black Shiraz★★ £F
- TATLER (Hunter)

# New South Wales & Queensland

○ Semillon★★★ £C  
TEMPUS TWO (Hunter) ○ Verdelho Hunter Valley★ £B  
○ Chardonnay 'Copper'★★★ £B  
○ Pinot Gris 'Pewter'★★★ £C  
● Tempranillo★★ £B ● Cabernet/Merlot 'Copper'★★ £B  
● Sangiovese 'Pewter'★★★ £C  
THISTLE HILL (Mudgee - organic)  
● Premium Cabernet Sauvignon★★★ £C  
WINDOWRIE (Cowra) ● Shiraz Estate★★ £D  
○ Chardonnay Estate★★ £D  
WORD OF MOUTH(Orange)  
H Pinot Grigio★★ £D  
H Pinot Gris Pinnacle★★★ £D  
H Sauvignon Blanc★★ £D  
H Viognier★★ £C  
H Riesling★★ £D  
? Pinot Noir★★★ £D  
YARRAMAN ESTATE (Hunter) ● Chambourcin Black Cypress★★ £B

## Work in progress!!

### Producers under consideration for the next edition

ROBERT CHANNON (GRANITE BELT, QUEENSLAND)

FAISAN (ORANGE)

MISTLETOE (HUNTER VALLEY)

RAVENSWORTH (CABNBERRA DISTRICT)

## Author's choice

### Classic Hunter/Mudgee reds

BROKENWOOD ● Shiraz Graveyard Vineyard

BROKENWOOD ● Shiraz Mistress Block

HUNTINGTON ESTATE ● Cabernet Sauvignon Special Reserve

HUNTINGTON ESTATE ● Shiraz Special Reserve

MCWILLIAM'S MOUNT PLEASANT ● Shiraz Maurice O'Shea

MCWILLIAM'S MOUNT PLEASANT ● Shiraz Old Hill & Old Paddock

MONTROSE ● Shiraz Black Label

TYRRELL'S ● Shiraz Vat 9

TYRRELL'S ● Shiraz 4 Acres

### Definitive Hunter/Mudgee whites

BROKENWOOD ○ Semillon Hunter Valley

BROKENWOOD ○ Semillon ILR Reserve

MCWILLIAM'S MOUNT PLEASANT ○ Chardonnay Maurice O'Shea

MCWILLIAM'S MOUNT PLEASANT ○ Semillon Lovedale

MEEREA PARK ○ Semillon Hunter Valley Alexander Munro

MOUNT VIEW ○ Semillon Hunter Valley Reserve

PEPPER TREE ○ Semillon Hunter Valley Alluvius

PEPPER TREE ○ Semillon Hunter Valley Alluvius

ANDREW THOMAS ○ Semillon Braemore Hunter Valley

KEITH TULLOCH ○ Semillon Hunter Valley

TYRRELL'S ○ Chardonnay Vat 47

TYRRELL'S ○ Semillon Vat 1

### Other wines not to be missed

BROKENWOOD ○ Chardonnay Forest Edge Orange

CLONAKILLA ● Shiraz Canberra District

CLONAKILLA ○ Viognier Canberra District

COLLECTOR ● Shiraz Reserve Canberra District

CHALKERS CROSSING ● Cabernet Sauvignon Hilltops

DE BORTOLI ○ Botrytis Semillon Noble One

HELM ○ Riesling Premium Canberra District

LOWE ● Zinfandel Reserve

MEEREA PARK ● Shiraz Alexander Munro

MEEREA PARK ○ Viognier

MOUNT MAJURA ● Tempranillo Shiraz Graciano Canberra District

PHILIP SHAW ● Pinot Noir No. 8

PHILIP SHAW ● Cabernet Sauvignon No. 5



# Western Australia

Australia's biggest state is virtually all desert but it does have a cool coastal skirt that runs south from the state capital, Perth, and around the south-western corner to parts kept cool and damp under the influence of the Southern Ocean. WA contributes only a tiny amount to Australia's total wine production (3 per cent) but by our reckoning accounts for an unequal share of its premium wine. That said some have dropped the quality baton in the race for bigger volumes and healthier profits so care is needed among some of the better known names.

## Greater Perth

The **Swan District** (Swan Valley) is the historic heart of Western Australian viticulture. It is extremely hot and dry so unsurprisingly, its trump card is world class fortified liqueur styles of Muscat, Verdelho, Shiraz and Pedro Ximenez, but with varieties such as Verdelho, Chenin Blanc, Chardonnay and Semillon some surprisingly good whites have been produced too. Serious Verdelhos from the likes of Talijancich and John Kosovich are dry and ageworthy. Houghton dominates production and its ageworthy, big-volume 'White Burgundy' (now HWB) is the most famous and remarkable wine of the region. Reds, including Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon, can be characterful and well-made even if the best wines are likely to include a component from Great Southern or increasingly, Margaret River. A number of small, essentially boutique wineries are scattered over the **Perth Hills** where despite hot, dry summers prospects for balanced whites are improved by vineyard elevation.

## South-West Australia

Nearly all of Western Australia's premium wines come from this zone and its two most important regions, Margaret River and Great Southern.

### Margaret River

The **Margaret River** juts into the Indian Ocean but despite problems of wind and the ravenous local wildlife, especially the birds, its 'founding doctors' (establishing Vasse Felix, Moss Wood and Cullen in the late 60s and early 70s) were soon followed by Leeuwin Estate, Cape Mentelle and others. Wines of remarkably rich, pure, deeply textured fruit from Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay have been produced in the decades since and the region continues to grow apace. The central part of the region, especially Wilyabrup (which has a preponderance of well drained ironstone gravel soils), produces particularly powerful, structured reds; its fruit is highly sought after as a blending component by others. To the north, around Yallingup is slightly cooler but, with similar soils, produces robust reds. To the south, between Margaret River township and Karridale it is significantly cooler; whites are a real strength, reds more sinewy. Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon (especially combined) and Shiraz are made to a high standard too, the former ranging from quaffers to serious oaked examples. To the north and east of Margaret River, **Geographe** incorporates a large swathe of countryside, stretching from the coast inland. Capel Vale, located on the coastal strip, is the leading winery but up-and-coming inland valleys are also being developed like the Ferguson Valley.

### Great Southern

**Great Southern**, as its name suggests, is an especially large region. **Frankland River** is currently the most planted of five sub-regions, and often excels with Riesling, Chardonnay, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Producers include the likes of Alkoomi and Frankland Estate but grapes are also sourced by others based outside the region such as Houghton. **Mount Barker's** potential has long been highlighted by Plantagenet, but others too make fine Shiraz as well as excellent Riesling and Chardonnay. **Porongurup** lies east of Mount Barker while **Albany** and **Denmark**, which can be wetter, reach down to the coast - scattered vineyards can provide marvellous fruit.

### Other regions of the SW Australia zone

Between Great Southern and Margaret River even more far-flung vineyards are appearing in the gaps between extensive tracts of forest in three emerging areas, **Blackwood Valley**, **Manjimup** and **Pemberton**. The latter, the most exposed to the Southern Ocean, has already achieved wider recognition thanks to Picardy and Salitage. Smokier Pinot Noir it is surely not possible to find, the distinctive wines being influenced by the effects of the controlled burning of forest fires. Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Shiraz and the Bordeaux varieties are also successful.

## Western Australia vintages

These generalised Vintage charts cover some of the most ageworthy styles and will prove most useful when taken together with comments on style and ageing within individual producer entries. While many wines can be drunk young, top full-bodied Margaret River Cabernet demands at least 7-8 years' cellaring. Great Southern Shiraz is a little more approachable. Top-quality Chardonnay and Pinot Noir only show their full potential with 3-5 years' ageing, while exceptions like Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay can age for more than 10 years. The best Great Southern Riesling is up there with the best from the eastern states and will keep for at least a decade. Vintage ratings and when to drink assessments only apply to the top rated examples (3-star or higher).

### Recent vintages

**2010** Perfect ripening conditions made for a stellar vintage for reds and whites in Margaret River and Geographe. Further south, white/early ripening varieties also fared very well. Otherwise, weather conditions were less stable with significant rainfall in Great Southern, also Swan Valley, which affected later ripening reds. **2009** Margaret River experienced another excellent vintage. Further south, rain during harvest failed to stop play and quality is generally high. **2008** January was warm to hot, but thereafter, temperate conditions allowed all varieties to walk to ripeness, resulting in very good to outstanding reds and whites, with excellent varietal definition and balance. Classic. **2007** was a vintage that was very hot, very dry and very early. The lack of water and reduced yields weren't dissimilar to that felt in the eastern states but without some of the additional blows felt there. **2007** though it was at times very hot, very dry and consequently very early, the region's maritime influence provided respite and temperatures during harvest were generally significantly lower than those in the eastern states. A very successful vintage marked by powerful reds and forward, generously fruited whites. **2005** outstanding with even ripening and good harvest conditions - a good follow-up to the successful **2004** vintage. **04** in the Margaret River finished with a heatwave but otherwise predominantly cool dry growing conditions made for great Chardonnay and exceptional Cabernet. **2003** Intermittent rain, and a mix of humid and drier conditions in the late summer took the edge off the vintage in the Margaret River but even more so in Great Southern.

## Western Australia vintage chart

	Margaret River Cabernet	Great Southern Shiraz	Margaret River Chardonnay
2010	★★★★★ A	★★★ A	★★★★★ A
2009	★★★★ A	★★★ to ★★★★★ A	★★★★ A
2008	★★★★ A	★★★★ A	★★★★ A
2007	★★★★ A	★★★★ A	★★★★ B
2006	★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★★★ B
2005	★★★★★ B	★★★★★ B	★★★★★ B
2004	★★★★ B	★★★★★ B	★★★★★ B
2003	★★★★ B	★★★ B	★★★★ C
2002	★★★★★ B	★★★★ B	★★★★★ C
2001	★★★★★ B	★★★★★ B	★★★★★ C
2000	★★★ B	★★★ C	★★★★ C
1999	★★★★★ B	★★★ C	★★★★ C
1997	★★★★ C	★★★★ C	★★★★★ C
1996	★★★★★ C	★★★★★ C	★★★★ C
1995	★★★★★ C	★★★★★ C	★★★★★ C
1994	★★★★★ C	★★★★★ C	★★★★★ D
1991	★★★★★ C	★★★★ D	

## A-Z of producers by region

Swan District  
**HOUGHTON**  
**JOHN KOSOVITCH**  
**TALIJANCICH**

Margaret River  
**ARLEWOOD**  
**CAPE MENTELLE**  
**CULLEN**  
**EVANS & TATE**  
**FIRE GULLY**  
**FRASER GALLOP**  
**GRALYN**  
**HIGHER PLANE**  
**LEEUWIN ESTATE**  
**MCHENRY HOHNEN VINTNERS**  
**MOSS WOOD**  
**PIERRO**  
**SUCKFIZZLE/STELLA BELLA**  
**VASSE FELIX**  
**VOYAGER ESTATE**  
**WOODLANDS**  
**WOODSIDE VALLEY ESTATE**  
**XANADU**

Geographe  
**CAPE VALE**  
**HACKERSLEY**  
**WILLOW BRIDGE ESTATE**

Frankland River  
**ALKOOMI**  
**FERNGROVE VINEYARDS**  
**FRANKLAND ESTATE**

Mount Barker  
**CHATSFIELD**  
**GILBERTS**  
**PLANTAGENET**

Denmark  
**FOREST HILL**  
**HAREWOOD ESTATE**  
**HOWARD PARK**  
**RICKETY GATE**

Manjimup/Pemberton  
**BATISTA**  
**BELLARMINE**  
**FONTY'S POOL**  
**LILLIAN**  
**PICARDY**  
**SALITAGE**

Porongurup  
**CASTLE ROCK ESTATE**

Perth  
**LARRY CHERUBINO**  
**MARCHAND & BURCH**



- 1 Swan District
- 2 Perth Hills
- 3 Peel
- 4 Geographe
- 5 Margaret River
- 6 Blackwood Valley
- 7 Manjimup
- 8 Pemberton
- 9 Great Southern
- 10 Frankland River
- 11 Mount Barker
- 12 Porongurup
- 13 Denmark
- 14 Albany

## A-Z of producers

### ALKOOMI Frankland River [www.alkoomiwin.com.au](http://www.alkoomiwin.com.au)

*Merv & Judy Lange RMB 234, Frankland WA 6396*  
*Tel: 08 9855 2229 Fax: 08 9855 2284*

This winery in remote Frankland River has now grown to a substantial size (around 80,000 cases) but fruit comes entirely from 82ha of estate vineyards. Black labels denote the top tier wines. Reds include varietal Cabernet Sauvignon, in a refined rather than weighty style, and a Shiraz/Viognier (100% Shiraz prior to 2002) with a more floral component than some but a spicy berry fruit intensity. Jarrah, a premium version of Shiraz from the oldest vines, can have real weight and savoury depth. Equally impressive is another premium red, Blackbutt, a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Merlot which is structured and intense; it needs 4 or 5 years' ageing. The top white, Wandoo, is unusual in being 100% Semillon and is partially oak-fermented. Others include a fresh and zesty Sauvignon Blanc (sometimes blended with Semillon), tight and well-structured Chardonnay and a characteristically fine and complex Great Southern Riesling that becomes toasty with age. Fruit-driven basics appear under the White Lable range: Shiraz, Cabernet/Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc and unwooded Chardonnay.

- Cabernet Sauvignon Frankland River★★★ £C
- Blackbutt Frankland River★★★ £E
- Shiraz/Viognier Frankland River★★★ £C
- Jarrah Shiraz Frankland River★★★ £D
- Wandoo Semillon Frankland River★★★ £D
- Chardonnay Frankland River★★★ £C
- Riesling Frankland River★★★ £C
- Sauvignon Blanc Frankland River★ £C

### ARLEWOOD Margaret River [www.arlewood.com.au](http://www.arlewood.com.au)

*Gosatti families 679 West Calgardup Road, Witchcliffe WA 6286*  
*Tel: 08 9755 6267 Fax: 08 9755 6267*

This small Margaret River operation started out making wines from 15ha of estate vineyards in Wilyabrup. Then, wines were made under contract by Juniper Estate with additional help from Ian Bell (ex MOSS WOOD). In 2008, following the sale of the vineyard to Vasse Felix and the acquisition of the former Hesperos vineyard, the business transferred lock, stock and barrel to Witchcliffe, 10km south of Margaret River. Here, the wines are now made in-house by Bill Crappsley, who is also a partner. Fruit for red wines will continue to be sourced from the Wilyabrup site until 2009, which should provide some continuity. Whites have good breadth and flavour but could still use a little more definition. That said, the finely balanced and confident maiden 2008 Marsanne Roussanne suggests that the new southerly location will bring extra finesse. Semillon is partly barrique-fermented and aged in both new and used French oak. Chardonnay, which spends a year in barriques (50% new) is full and intense if missing the refinement for a higher rating. A small amount of a Reserve is also made. Reds show good depth and intensity but should be given 5-6 years' age. The Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve which spends 2 years in oak then a further 2 years in bottle before release is the top red. Even a cool, cedary 2000 is good in the context of the vintage but should be drunk with 10 years' age. New but not tasted is flagship red La Bratta, a Merlot dominated red with Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon.

- Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon★★★ £C
- Marsanne/Roussanne★★★ £C
- Semillon★★★ £D
- Chardonnay★★★ £E
- Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot★★★ £C
- Shiraz★★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★ £F

### >> BATISTA Manjimup [www.bellarmin.com.au](http://www.bellarmin.com.au)

*Bob Peruche PO Box 88, Manjimup WA 6258*  
*Tel: 08 8 9772 3530*

Bob Peruche inherited his parent's farm in perched high on a ridge in Middlesex, Manjimup, overlooking the Warren Valley. Though his father had grown vines, Peruche grubbed them up. In 1988, just five years later, Peruche was approached by PICARDY's Bill Pannell for advice about planting on virgin soil nearby. So it was that Peruche came to plant Smithbrook Estate's vineyard, a joint venture between Pannell and

investors in Burgundy's Pousse d'Or. Inevitably, Peruche was introduced to the great Pinot Noirs of Burgundy and himself became smitten by what he calls Pinot Noir's "smell of chook sheds and cow yards," planting his own vines in 1993. Bucking prevailing trends, Peruche predominantly planted the local upright and droopy clones of Pinot Noir (as well as some Bernard/Dijon clones). Describing himself as "just a farmer," the winery, which is housed in a barn, is as unfancy as Peruche's approach to wine-making – "I pick it, I crush it, I ferment it, settle it, taste for tannin and filter." His sensual Pinot Noirs have no shortage of texture or complexity. The Selection, two barrels of the best bottles, combines terrific concentration with graceful balance, length and layer. Both it and the regular cuvee benefit from two to three years in bottle and, in top vintages, can build in complexity for a decade or more. Peruche also grows Merlot, Shiraz, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. (SA)

- Pinot Noir Selection★★★★★ £F
- Pinot Noir★★★★★ £E

### >> BELLARMINE Pemberton [www.bellarmin.com.au](http://www.bellarmin.com.au)

*Dr Willi & Gudrun Schumacher 1 Balyan Retreat, Pemberton WA 6260*  
*Tel: 0422 802 240 Fax: 08 9242 3807*

The 20 hectare Bellarmine vineyard was planted in 2000 by German doctor, Dr Willi Schumacher and his wife Gudrun Schumacher. The Schumachers remain resident in Bremerhavn, Germany, leaving winemaking and the overall management of the winery in the capable hands of Dr Di Miller, who has made the wines since the first vintage in 2004. Miller, a former veterinarian, only started making wines in 1999 but it would seem both she and the vineyard are precocious since Bellarmine's Rieslings are, without question, Pemberton's best and among Western Australia's best. They may be overseas, but the Schumacher's influence is readily apparent in the style of Rieslings produced. Bellarmine are at the vanguard of Australia's niche sweet Riesling movement and, in addition to a searingly fresh, classic Australian bone dry Riesling (labelled Dry), the range features a superbly balanced, deliciously fruity and aromatic Kabinett style (simply labelled Riesling) and a very tight, pure and focused honey-tinged Auslese, each mineral to the core. Evidently the region's gravel laterite soils combined with an elevated site (at 220m) located only 50km from the chilly Great Southern Ocean, suit the variety well. Though the (very reasonably priced) Rieslings are the out and out stars, the Sauvignon Blanc shows good regional typicity (steely grapefruit), while the elegant Chardonnay will appeal to Riesling lovers with its citric backbone, delicately fleshed out with stone fruits and savoury lees. Aside from the meaty, peppery Shiraz, a Petit Verdot and Pinot Noir are a little one dimensional as yet - sappy with a sweet core of fruit. No doubt greater depth and layer will come with vine age. (SA)

- Riesling★★★★ £C
- Riesling Auslese★★★★ £C
- Riesling Dry★★★★ £C
- Sauvignon Blanc★★★ £C
- Chardonnay★★★ £C
- Shiraz★★★ £E
- Petit Verdot★★★ £E
- Pinot Noir★ £D

### CAPE MENTELLE [www.capementelle.com.au](http://www.capementelle.com.au)

*LVMH Wallcliffe Road, Margaret River, WA 6285*  
*Tel: 08 9757 0888 Fax: 08 9757 3233*

Cape Mentelle has a lower profile than sister winery CLOUDY BAY in New Zealand but has a similar reputation for quality thanks to the efforts of founder David Hohnen, who ran operations until 2003 when he was succeeded by the widely respected Dr Tony Jordan, who himself moved on in 2008. A young winemaking team headed by Rob Mann, Jack Mann's grandson, has continued to win plaudits for the wines, made from some of the region's oldest vines. Partially oaked, the Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc is brights, zesty and long with subtle oak influence; tight on release it benefits from a year in bottle. A single-vineyard selection, Wallcliffe, is from the same grapes (but with more Sauvignon) but, barrel-fermented with natural yeasts vinified in French oak shows much greater complexity, texture and structure. Chardonnay is powerful and complex, in recent years, leaner with more finesse. Among the reds Cabernet/Merlot from Trinders Vineyard has good depth, breadth and intensity allied to a very

ripe dark berry fruit character in warm vintages. Better still is a Cabernet Sauvignon deserving of at least 6–7 years' age. Intense and concentrated with well-judged oak, the wine shows an impressive purity of dark berry fruit complexity and length of flavour. Again, under Mann, the style shows greater lift and finesse. Dark fruits and black pepper characterise the Shiraz, which gets limited new oak, predominantly French. One of Margaret River's best examples of the variety, it has the extra depth of fruit and gravitas to its tannin structure that derives from old vine fruit. A rare Australia example of Zinfandel is a classic of the variety: full, brambly and with not inconsiderable alcohol. Available locally are Georgiana, a unoaked blend from a mix of Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Chenin and Semillon, and Marmaduke, from mostly Shiraz, Mourvèdre and Grenache. Both are intended for fruity, early drinking. A sound, small range of reds and whites under the Ironstone label is released in the UK.

- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★★ £E
- Cabernet/Merlot Trinders★★★★ £D
- Shiraz★★★★ £D
- Zinfandel★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay★★★★ £D
- Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc★★★★ £C
- Wallcliffe★★★★ £E

## CAPEL VALE Geographe [www.capelvale.com](http://www.capelvale.com)

*Dr Peter Pratten Stirling Estate, Malloakup Road, Capel WA 6271*  
Tel: 08 9727 1986 Fax: 08 9727 1904

An extensive range of reds and whites is produced at this winery to the north of the Margaret River at Geographe. Production is entirely from 220ha of estate vineyards but sources include the company's sizeable holdings in Margaret River, Mount Barker and Pemberton as well as Geographe. The top Single Vineyard and Regional label wines can be very good and for the most part not excessively priced for the quality. Particularly good are two wines from Whispering Hill (Mount Barker), a taut Riesling intense, deep and very well structured, not overly subtle or refined but with super toast, smoke and lime flavour and character while the Shiraz is deep fruited but earthy and peppery too. Though not tasted, the Margaret River single vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, The Scholar, has received rave reviews of which Pratten is very proud. Pungent, mineral Pemberton Sauvignon Blanc and Sauvignon Blanc show fine regional typicity. Of the regular Capel Vale Debut range wines, the Verdelho is very well crafted.

### Capel Vale:

- Shiraz Whispering Hill Mount Barker★★★★ £F
- Sauvignon Blanc Semillon Pemberton★★ £B
- Verdelho★★ £B
- Riesling Whispering Hill★★★ £E

## >> CASTLE ROCK ESTATE Porongurup [www.castlerockestate.com.au](http://www.castlerockestate.com.au)

*Angelo & Wendy Diletti Porongurup Roa, PO Box 15, Albany WA 6331*  
Tel: 08 9853 1035 Fax: 08 9853 1010

Angelo and Wendy Diletti acquired Castle Rock Estate in 1981, planting their first vines in 1983. Then aged six, their son Robert Diletti helped plant the cool, elevated vineyard on the northeast face of the Porongurup mountain range. Originally, the wines were made at ALKOOMI where, following his graduation from winemaking at Charles Sturt University, Robert was Assistant Winemaker from 1999 to 2000. Since then, Castle Rock wines have been made on site by Robert and Castle Rock's reputation has soared. Dry Riesling is the forte, while Pinot Noir shows great potential. Meticulous attention to detail in the vineyard and minimal intervention at the gravity-fed winery ensure that both varieties reflect their cool climate origins. The classic, dry Riesling is scintillatingly mineral, with great concentration, line and length. It rewards keeping at least two years in bottle and will continue to build in complexity for another decade. New is A & W Riesling (not tasted) an off-dry style, while Turret is a floral, late harvest Riesling made in a relatively approachable style. The Pinot Noir is precise and intense with an excellent purity of pretty red fruits. Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot, Liqueur Muscat and a sparkling Pinot Noir, Della, are also made. (SA)

- Riesling★★★★★ £C
- Riesling Turret★★ £C
- Pinot Noir★★★★ £D

## >> LARRY CHERUBINO Great Southern [www.larrycherubino.com](http://www.larrycherubino.com)

*Larry & Edwina Cherubino 15 York Street, Subiaco, Perth WA 6008*  
Tel: 08 9382 2379 Fax: 08 9382 2397

Larry Cherubino honed his technical winemaking skills at HARDYS (Tintara) in South Australia before joining its famous Western Australian sister brand HOUGHTON as Chief Winemaker in 1998 at the tender age of 28. Under his tenure, Houghton's medal tally leapt, as did the quality of the red wines in particular. Cherubino left in 2003 to take up various consultancy roles at home and abroad but, since 2005, the apple of his eye has been his own label which he established with his partner Edwina Egerton-Warburton. Warburton's parents own the 85ha Acacia vineyard in Frankland River from which Cherubino sources fruit. However, Cherubino sources fruit widely using the intimate knowledge of Western Australia's vineyards that he acquired while at Houghton to great effect: the range is elegant and accomplished from top to bottom. Good value too. The stylishly packaged "entry level" Ad Hoc label puts the fun into sophisticated, while the weightier single site The Yard and flagship Cherubino labels highlight regional strengths. Rieslings are a stand out, not least because they reveal Cherubino's dexterity as a winemaker. For the Ad Hoc Wallflower Riesling, Cherubino does not want an austere wine to put off consumers. Taking a leaf out of German winemakers' books, he uses no sulphur at the press and an element of press juice to soften the wine's texture. On the other hand, though judicious lees stirring lends texture, linear, bone dry and mineral, Cherubino Porongurup Riesling is a terrific expression of this particularly cool Great Southern sub-region. Cherubino also makes An Ad Hoc Pinot Noir and sparkling wine and Cabernet Sauvignons under his Cherubino and The Yard labels (not tasted). (SA)

- Riesling Cherubino Porongurup★★★★★ £D
- Riesling Cherubino great Southern★★★★★ £D
- Riesling The Yard Whispering Hill Vineyard★★★★ £C
- Sauvignon Blanc Cherubino Pemberton★★★ £D
- Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc The Yard Pedestal Vineyard★★★★ £C
- Chardonnay Ad Hoc Hen & Chicken★★★★ £C
- Riesling Ad Hoc The Wallflower★★★ £C
- Chardonnay Ad Hoc Treebugger★★ £C
- Semillon/Sauvignon Ad Hoc Strawman★★ £C
- Shiraz Cherubino Frankland River★★★★★ £E

## CULLEN Margaret River [www.cullenwines.com.au](http://www.cullenwines.com.au)

*Cullen family Caves Road, Cowaramup WA 6284*  
Tel: 08 9755 5277 Fax: 08 9755 5550

The Cullen's Margaret River winery has a long tradition of excellence and now produces close to 20,000 cases per year from 28ha of well-established estate vineyards (certified organic). Made by Vanya Cullen, the wines are marked by their finesse, superior structure and complexity, putting Cullen in a different class to most of its neighbours. Certified biodynamic since 2004. With effect from the 2006 vintage, the Chardonnay has been named Kevin John after Vanya Cullen's late father. Now widely recognised as among Australia's best, utilising natural yeasts and whole-bunch pressing, it is a magnificently crafted white full of intense, pure citrus fruit and has unmistakable class and great length. With effect from the 2007 vintage, Cullen make two single vineyard Semillon Sauvignon blends from Cullen Vineyard and Mangan Vineyard. Because production is now focused on biodynamic wine, Cullen have dropped the Ellen Bussell range, fruit for which was sourced from a vineyard 8km south. Instead, Margaret River Red and Margaret River White are made from Cullen or Mangan vineyard fruit which does not make the cut for the flagship wine. The Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot, usually around two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon with up to 10% of Cabernet Franc, is now named in honour of Di Cullen who did so much to establish the Cullen reputation. Of top Bordeaux classed growth quality it sets the standard for the Margaret River. Its superb fruit is highlighted by outstanding breadth, depth and structure. It always deserves at least 5 years' ageing. A powerful, somewhat backward new red blend, Mangan, is named for a vineyard owned by Vanya's brother Rick and his wife and is very good. Unusually it comes from Malbec, Petit Verdot and Merlot.

- Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot Diana Madeline★★★★★ £F
- Mangan★★★ £E
- Margaret River Red★★ £D
- Chardonnay Kevin John★★★★★ £F

- Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Mangan Vineyard★★★★ £D
- Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Cullen Vineyard★★★★ £D
- Margaret River White★★ £D

**EVANS & TATE** Margaret River [www.evansandtate.com.au](http://www.evansandtate.com.au)

*McWilliams* *cnr Caves & Metricup Roads, Wilyabrup WA6280*  
*Tel: 08 9755 6244 Fax: 08 9755 6346*

his is now a very substantial operation with most of its development in the Margaret River, though it was the original producer of quality Shiraz in the very hot Swan Valley. Now purchased by McWilliams the quality of the wines continues to be very good. Of an extensive Margaret River collection, Chardonnay was much improved by Richard Rowe, ex-Chief Winemaker under whose watch emerged the expressive, finer boned single vineyard Wildberry Springs and Stellar Ridge range. Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon has both grassy and riper notes but can be a bit lean, while Cabernet/Merlot (labelled Barrique 61 prior to the 2001 vintage) is very flavoursome with very ripe berryish fruit and Shiraz is similarly very ripe with a spicy intensity. The best wines come from the 26-ha Redbrook vineyard in the Wilyabrup Valley sub-region. Chardonnay is crafted using an array of Burgundian techniques but is surprisingly restrained, recalling the quality of mid-90s Margaret River efforts. Shiraz is spicy and intense, one of the best of this variety in the region. Redbrook Cabernet Sauvignon is also impressive and ageworthy.

- Shiraz Redbrook★★★★ £E
- Shiraz Margaret River★★★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon Redbrook★★★★ £E
- Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Margaret River★★ £C
- Chardonnay Redbrook★★★★ £E
- Chardonnay Margaret River★★★ £C
- Chardonnay Wildberry Springs Margaret River★★★★ £E

**FERNGROVE VINEYARDS** Frankland River [www.ferngrove.com.au](http://www.ferngrove.com.au)

*Ferngrove* *Ferngrove Road, Frankland WA 6396*  
*Tel: 08 9855 2378 Fax: 08 9855 2368*

Murray Burton relinquished his family's beef and dairy farming heritage to switch to grape growing and wine production. This is now a thriving, expanding operation with extensive vineyards. The range has recently been re-structured and, for Frankland River labelled wines, from top to bottom, comprises flagship The Stirlings, the Orchid range, Frankland River and impressive entry level Symbols labels. Leaping Lizard wines include more widely sourced fruit and sport a generic Western Australia label; given the miniscule difference in price point, the Symbols wines are much the better buy, showing greater concentration and character. If there's good value for money in the home grown regular varietals and dual-variety blends, the superior Orchid bottling combine concentration and style. Quite striking is Orchid King Malbec, dark and glossy compared with the more structured, herbal Orchid Majestic Cabernet. Orchid Dragon Shiraz is rich with dense layers. The Stirlings, a blend of finest grapes (latterly Shiraz and Cabernet) is not made every year; is deep and structured it rewards at least 5 years in bottle. Orchid whites are bright fruited with ample concentration. Cossack Riesling, which historically comes from the best five blocks, can age very well if changes in tack (e.g. experimentation with solids) have affected its tight linear style in some vintages. Though flavoursome with ripe stone fruits, Diamond Chardonnay is well structured with good balancing acidity and well integrated oak.

*Ferngrove Vineyards:*

- The Stirlings★★★★ £C
- Shiraz Orchid Dragon★★★ £C
- Shiraz/Viognier Symbols★★ £B ● Shiraz★★ £B
- Malbec Orchid★★★★ £C ● Merlot★★ £B
- Cabernet Sauvignon Orchid Majestic★★★★ £C
- Cabernet/Merlot Symbols★★★ £B
- Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc Symbols★★ £B
- Sauvignon Blanc★ £B
- Riesling Orchid Cossack★★★★ £B
- Chardonnay Orchid Diamond★★★ £B
- Chardonnay★ £B

*Leaping Lizard:*

- Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc★★ £B
- Chardonnay Unwooded★ £B

- Cabernet/Merlot★★ £B

**FONTY'S POOL** Pemberton [www.fontyspoolwines.com.au](http://www.fontyspoolwines.com.au)

*Wemyss family* *Seven Day Road, PO Box 1709, Manjimup WA 6258*  
*Tel: 08 9777 0777 Fax: 08 9777 0788*

Fonty's Pool wines were originally made by CAPE MENTELLE but for some years have been made on site in an impressively ergonomic pocket-sized winery. The reds are particularly impressive and offer good value against some of WA's more established labels. Despite the Manjimup location all the wines are labelled as Pemberton in origin. There are cool aspects to a Shiraz of real depth and character which is stylish and long with licorice and plum fruit. A smoky, plummy Pinot Noir has lots of flavour and good breadth within a refined Structure while the rosé is pretty. Cabernet/Merlot is also well-made. The whites include a restrained Chardonnay with a hint of struck match and a lemony Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon which is cut with Pemberton's classic steely, grapefruit Sauvignon. Viognier shows good typicity, with honeysuckle and apricot. The Wemyss family (from Fife in Scotland) also own the Provençal domaine, RIMAURESQ.

- Shiraz★★★ £C
- Pinot Noir★★★ £C
- Cabernet/Merlot★★ £C
- Viognier Single Vineyard★★★ £C
- Chardonnay★★★ £C
- Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc★★ £C
- Rosé★★ £C

**>> FOREST HILL** Denmark [www.foresthillwines.com.au](http://www.foresthillwines.com.au)

*Tim & Heather Lyons* *Cnr South Coast Hwy & Myers Rd, Denmark WA 6333*  
*Tel: 08 9848 0003 Fax: 08 9848 0095*

The Great Southern region's first experimental vines - two hectares of Riesling and Cabernet Sauvignon - were planted at Forest Hill's Mount Barker vineyard in 1965. Originally, the fruit was processed by Houghton and, from 1989, at Vasse Felix following the property's acquisition by the Holmes a Court family. In 1996, Perth broker Tim Lyons bought a share in the vineyard and purchased it outright in 1998. Lyons' substantial investment, notably a state-of-the-art winery, cellar door facility/restaurant, has put Forest Hill firmly on the map, as has his talented winemaking team, originally lead by Larry Cherubino and, since 2006, by Bordeaux-trained winemaker Clémence Haselgrove. The flagship Block Series is concentrated, yet poised, while the naturally fermented Block 1 Riesling from the original dry grown vines is striking in its chiselled minerality. Under Haselgrove, who previously worked in Coonawarra, Block 5 Cabernet Sauvignon goes from strength to strength. The Estate range is also elegant and well made. (Entry level Boobook Range not tasted). (SA)

*Block Series:*

- Shiraz Block 9★★★★ £E
- Cabernet Sauvignon Block 5★★★★ £E
- Riesling Block 1★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay Block 8★★★★ £D

*Estate Range:*

- Shiraz★★★ £B
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★ £B
- Chardonnay★★★ £B
- Riesling★★★ £B

**FRANKLAND ESTATE** Frankland River [www.franklandestate.com.au](http://www.franklandestate.com.au)

*Judi Callam & Barrie Smith* *Frankland Road, Frankland WA 6396*  
*Tel: 08 9855 1544 Fax: 08 9855 1549*

The vineyards of Frankland Estate, established in 1988, are but a small part of a large Merino sheep farming property located in Frankland River sub-region on the western side of Great Southern. Production has increased to 15,000 cases a year and quality is very good, especially for the Rieslings; among the region's best. Great store is placed on managing the vineyards, including consultancy from expert Richard Smart. The flagship red is Olmo's Reward, a blend of mostly Merlot and Cabernet Franc (but also a little Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot). It is sleek and stylish with ripe, dark, spicy fruit, supple and velvety tannin and good length. While tempting when young, it is best with 10 years' age. The estate-sourced Isolation Ridge wines (certified

organic with effect from the 2010 vintage), comprising Chardonnay, Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz, are also impressive. The Riesling stands out with its tight, apple and mineral fruit and has the structure for real ageing. Shiraz is full of black pepper and attractive, brambly fruit, the Cabernet marked by an intense, small berry fruit character. There are now two single-vineyard Rieslings, the linear Cooladerah and the more forward/generous Poison Hill from white clay soils. The Rocky Gully label includes up-front flavoursome Riesling, cool supple Shiraz/Viognier, and Cabernets - all made from contract-grown fruit. Experimentation with longer ferments in foudre has resulted in a kabinett style Riesling Smith Cullam (not tasted), which made from select low yielding vines within the Isolation Ridge vineyard.

#### Frankland Estate:

- **Olmo's Reward**★★★★ £D
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Isolation Ridge★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Isolation Ridge★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Isolation Ridge★★ £C
- **Riesling** Isolation Ridge★★★★ £C
- **Riesling** Cooladerah★★★★★ £C
- **Riesling** Poison Hill★★★★★ £C

#### Rocky Gully:

- **Shiraz/Viognier**★★ £C
- **Riesling** Frankland River★ £B

#### >> FRASER GALLOP Margaret River [www.frasergallopestate.com.au](http://www.frasergallopestate.com.au)

*Nigel Gallop 547 Metricup Road, Wilyabrup, WA 6280*  
Tel: 08 9755 7553 Fax: 08 9755 7443

Conceived in 1998, Fraser Gallop Estate is a relatively new name in Margaret River but founder Nigel Gallop, a businessman, has made astute choices in terms of lead varieties, site and winemaker (Clive Otto, ex-Vasse Felix). The dry-farmed vineyard on Wilyabrup's renowned gravelly loams is planted to 17 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon (the Houghton clone), one acre of Merlot, one acre of Petit Verdot, one acre of Cabernet Franc and one acre of Malbec, 18 acres of Chardonnay (Gin Gin clone) and seven acres of Semillon. As of 2008, the wines have been made on site at the no expense spared, gravity-fed winery. Critical acclaim has been swift, especially for the finely wrought, perfumed reds (Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Merlot) and restrained Chardonnay. The estate's Semillon is blended with Sauvignon Blanc sourced from Karridale, which is cooler. The partially barrel fermented Semillon Sauvignon Blanc is well made if, perhaps, a little too correct. More exciting is Parterre, an ambitious (oak and steel) barrel fermented and aged Semillon Sauvignon Blanc which tips its cap at Bordeaux (Otto has worked vintage at Domaine de Chevalier). First produced in 2009, natural yeasts and lees ageing bring greater complexity. With more vine age, the whole range looks set to move up another gear. (SA)

- **Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc** Parterre★★★★ £E
- **Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc**★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay**★★★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Merlot**★★★ £D

#### GILBERTS Mount Barker [www.gilbertwines.com.au](http://www.gilbertwines.com.au)

*Bev & Jim Gilbert RMB 438 Albany Highway, Kendemup WA 6323*  
Tel: 08 9851 4028 Fax: 08 9851 4021

Traditionally a stone-fruit farmer, Jim Gilbert planted vines in 1985 and the benefit of 20 years' maturity certainly shows. The wines are made at the nearby PLANTAGENET winery as there are no winemaking facilities on the estate. The range is fairly small (by WA standards!). Riesling has nice flowery fruit with good length and acidity, if a little lean. Chardonnay sees 8 months in French oak and has good richness and nicely integrated wood that allows the citrus flavours to come through. Shiraz/Cabernet (55/45) has attractive red berry fruit aromas but lacks intensity on the palate. The 3 Devils Shiraz, from 7- and 8-year-old vines, has good spiciness and soft tannins, but again lacks a bit of intensity and complexity. The Reserve Shiraz, from 20-year-old vines, sees 20 months in oak (30% new) and is a different proposition. With big, tarry but not jammy Shiraz fruit and spice and pepper on the palate, it is a wine of finesse and complexity.

- **Riesling**★★ £C ○ **Chardonnay**★★★ £D
- **Shiraz Reserve**★★★★★ £D ● **Shiraz 3 Devils**★★★ £C
- **Shiraz/Cabernet**★★★ £C

#### GRALYN ESTATE Margaret River [www.gralyn.com.au](http://www.gralyn.com.au)

*Graham & Marilyn Hutton Caves Road, Wilyabrup, WA 6280*  
Tel: 08 9755 6245 Fax: 08 9755 6136

Boutique winery in the Margaret River area with a reputation in inverse proportion to its size – 2,500 cases cover 15 different wines so quantities are generally tiny. Whites include an oaked naturally fermented Chardonnay, elegant with good length. There's also a fairly intense medium-sweet Late Harvest Riesling (15% Semillon) with a backbone of acidity. Reds are better. The stars include Reserve Shiraz which has real elegance and a lot of finesse with sweet oak (100% new, mostly French) on the finish. Cabernet Shiraz is two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon, one-third Shiraz – a deep and unctuous wine with a good balance between fruit and acidity. The depth of the Shiraz is perfectly matched by the red berry fruit of the Cabernet on the mid-palate. Cabernet Sauvignon is a pure varietal matured for 20 months in new, predominantly French oak and shows the full intensity of the 30-year-old vines with smooth and intense ripe berry flavours and great depth and complexity on the finish. It is approachable relatively young but will age well. Fortified and dessert wines are less exciting.

- **Chardonnay**★★ £F
- **Riesling** Late Harvest★★★ £D
- **Shiraz Reserve**★★★★★ £G
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★★★ £G

#### HACKERSLEY Geographe [www.hackersley.com.au](http://www.hackersley.com.au)

*Ovens, Stacey & Hewitt families Ferguson Road, Dardanup, WA 6236*  
Tel: 08 9384 6247 Fax: 08 9383 3364

Jeff Ovens' dream vineyard in the Ferguson Valley came into existence in 1998 and has gone from strength to strength ever since. The bulk of the fruit from 9ha is sold under contract but the best is kept for 6 varietals produced under the Hackersley label. Whites show good intensity of fruit – gooseberry in the Sauvignon (if subdued by some residual sweetness), delicate perfumed rose petal in an extremely well-balanced Semillon, and good pungency in Verdelho. This has a slightly peppermint taste together with a touch of saltiness and good persistence, making it an ideal partner for seafood (especially the great WA seafood). The reds show a great deal of finesse, particularly the Merlot, which is smooth, rich and deeply flavoured with red berry fruits. Cabernet Sauvignon is a little more one-dimensional, but Shiraz has nice tar on the palate and delivers full ripeness and freshness without being jammy. Given the youthfulness of the vines, this is a remarkable achievement. This winery is definitely going places. (NB)

- **Sauvignon Blanc**★ £C
- **Semillon**★★ £C
- **Verdelho**★★★ £C
- **Merlot**★★★★ £E ● **Shiraz**★★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★ £C

#### HAREWOOD ESTATE Denmark [www.harewoodestate.com.au](http://www.harewoodestate.com.au)

*Kellie family Scotsdale Road, Denmark, PO Box 330, WA 6333*  
Tel: 08 9840 9078 Fax: 08 9840 9053

James Kellie has set the Great Southern alight like no one else since his first vintage in 04. Previously the fruit here was sold to the likes of HOWARD PARK where Kellie formerly worked. There is excellent quality across the range and that particularly remarkable quality/price ratio (especially in Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon) that WA can do like nowhere else on the planet. The fruit comes from estate vineyards (Chardonnay) or is contract grown. The Cabernet Sauvignon has the class and purity of good Bordeaux and a certain oomph besides, easily out doing comparably priced wines for quality. Arguably even better, Shiraz from Mt Barker and Frankland River shows a fine minerality running through its lush pure fruited style. Judicious use of oak for the Sauvignon/Semillon Reserve makes for a food friendly wine, with an attractive sweet herbaceousness. Riesling from different sub-regions depending on vintage is fine, fresh and floral, its bright citrus acidity sometimes balanced by a deft touch of residual sugar. A significant proportion of the fruit is currently sold off. The junior White Rabbit blends are, as you would expect from Kellie, well made if in a more easy drinking style.

- **Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon** Denmark★★★ £C
- **Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon** Denmark Reserve★★★★ £D
- **Riesling**★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Denmark★★★★★ £D

- Cabernet Sauvignon Mt Barker★★★★ £D
- Shiraz Frankland★★★★ £D
- Shiraz/Cabernet★★★ £C

## HIGHER PLANE Margaret River [www.higherplanewines.com.au](http://www.higherplanewines.com.au)

*Hill family 165 Warner Glen Road, Forest Grove, WA 6286*

*Tel: 08 9336 7855 Fax: 08 9336 7866*

A small (7ha), very promising new vineyard established in 1997 and, in 2006, acquired by the owners of Juniper Estate; Mark Messenger makes the wines of both. While Juniper Estate is located in Wilyabrup, Higher Plane is in southern Margaret River. Planting is relatively dense by Australian standards and the low yields are reflected in the wines. Early releases are very good, particularly the classic Margaret River styles. Chardonnay has excellent fruit and real verve, while the Cabernet Sauvignon is intense and concentrated with a Bordeaux-like complexity. Other reds include a varietal Merlot which is a touch more herbaceous yet with ripe tannins and a Pinot Noir. This is well made with ripe strawberryish fruit if not the structure or definition for more; certainly good in the context of Margaret River Pinot. A second range, South by Southwest has been introduced for more everyday drinking.

- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★ £C
- Cabernet/Merlot South by Southwest★★★ £C
- Merlot★★ £E ● Pinot Noir★★ £C
- Chardonnay★★★ £F

## HOUGHTON Swan District [www.houghton-wines.com.au](http://www.houghton-wines.com.au)

*Constellation Wines Dale Road, Middle Swan WA 6056*

*Tel: 08 9274 9450 Fax: 08 9274 5372*

One of the region's biggest operations though, in tune with the times, it is slimming down. Nonetheless, the range is considerable, with fruit sourced throughout the vinegrowing areas of the state. The flagship is the remarkable Jack Mann red, a dense, powerful and sometimes oaky blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and Malbec latterly sourced just from Frankland River. It demands 5 or 6 years' ageing to even hint of its best. Regional wines, labelled Houghton Wisdom from Frankland River, Pemberton and Margaret River are also impressive. A well structured premium Gladstones version of Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon is also produced but difficult to find outside of Australia. Below the regional range sits the less conventional The Bandit range - a Sauvignon Blanc/Pinot Gris, Chardonnay Viognier and Shiraz Tempranillo, all well made, juicy and approachable. The more basic Stripe range which includes White Classic (formerly known as HWB), This is one of the most successful and impressive of Australia's many volume brands. Of variable composition but generally including Chenin Blanc, Muscadelle and Verdelho, it is almost unique among such wines in that it will age well. In addition to a persistent and intense, ripe fruit character it has depth and structure.

- Jack Mann★★★★★ £G
- Gladstones★★★★ £F
- Shiraz Wisdom Frankland River★★★ £D
- Cabernet Sauvignon Wisdom Margaret River★★ £D
- Shiraz/Tempranillo The Bandit★ £C
- Riesling Wisdom Great Southern★★★ £C
- Sauvignon Blanc Pemberton★★ £C
- Chardonnay/Viognier The Bandit★ £C
- Sauvignon Blanc/Pinot Gris The Bandit★ £C
- White Classic★★ £B

## HOWARD PARK Denmark [www.howardparkwines.com.au](http://www.howardparkwines.com.au)

*Jeff & Amy Burch Scotsdale Road, Denmark WA 6333*

*Tel: 08 9848 2345 Fax: 08 9848 2064*

Barely more than a decade ago, this substantial operation with wineries in Denmark in the Great Southern and at Margaret River was a small, high-quality label with just a Riesling and Cabernet-based red produced in small quantities by John Wade while he was winemaker at PLANTAGENET. There are now over 100 ha of estate vineyards including 63.6 ha in Margaret River (the Leston vineyard) and, as of 2004, their very own Great Southern vineyard (the Scotsdale vineyard) in the Porongurups range foothills. At 200 to 380m above sea level, the grandstand parcel is one of the highest vineyards in Western Australia and, farmed organically from the off, promises to yield some exciting fruit. Riesling from elevated

parcels found its way into the 2009 vintage for the first time. The two labels are Howard Park and Madfish. The top wines are labelled simply Howard Park. Riesling is a superb, complex, structured and very age-worthy example of the variety, one of the best produced in Western Australia. It has recently been joined by Riche, an off-dry, funkier Riesling and the mineral, tight and austere single vineyard Riesling, the Reserve from Gibraltar Rock's biodynamic vineyard in the Porongurups, which Howard Park are now leasing. Abercrombie, The Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced from Margaret River, Pemberton and Denmark. Dense, powerful and profound it remains one of Australia's great reds and is enjoying a welcome return to form. In particular from the 2008 vintage, a vibrating sorting table and small batch fermenters purchased for MARCHAND & BURCH, the Burch's joint venture project with Burgundy's Pascal Marchand, has resulted in more refined tannins and greater lift/perfume. Chardonnay is in a restrained, tight and very structured style, though influenced by the Marchand & Burch project, the use of more solids brings more texture and complexity. Backward when young it will evolve well with age. A Sauvignon Blanc is tight and grassy. Also under the Howard Park range are impressive region-specific Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. The Scotsdale pair are produced from Great Southern while the Leston wines are from Margaret River. The Madfish label offers wines with immediate fruit character and appeal from widely sourced grapes. They are generally well-priced and drink well on release. Though still fruit focused compared with the Howard Park wines, a new, higher Madfish tier, Gold Turtle, shows greater concentration and structure and is well worth seeking out.

### Howard Park:

- Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot Abercrombie★★★★★ £E
- Cabernet Sauvignon Scotsdale★★★ £D
- Cabernet Sauvignon Leston★★★ £D
- Shiraz Scotsdale★★★ £D
- Shiraz Leston★★★ £D
- Riesling Reserve★★★★★ £D
- Riesling★★★★ £C
- Riesling Riche★★★ £C
- Chardonnay★★★★ £D
- Sauvignon Blanc★★★ £C

### Madfish:

- Cabernet Sauvignon Gold Turtle★★ £C
- Pinot Noir Gold Turtle★★ £C
- Tempranillo Gold Turtle★★ £C
- Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot/Cabernet Franc★ £B
- Shiraz★ £B
- Pinot Noir★ £B
- Chardonnay Gold Turtle★★★ £C
- Chardonnay Unwooded★ £B
- Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon★★ £B
- Sauvignon Blanc★ £B ○ Riesling★★ £B
- Riesling Late Harvest★ £B

## >> JOHN KOSOVICH Swan Valley [www.johnkosovichwines.com.au](http://www.johnkosovichwines.com.au)

*John Kosovich 180 Memorial Avenue, Baskerville, WA 6056*

*Tel: 09296 4356 Fax: 09296 4356*

The third oldest winery in the Swan Valley, John Kosovich Wines was established in 1922 and known as Westfield Wines until 2003. The atmospheric cellar, dug by hand in 1922, is one of only two original underground cellars in the Swan Valley today. Though the winery forged its reputation on fortified wines, among the country's best, it has also developed its table wine capability. In the 1980s, the family acquired a 15 acre vineyard in Pemberton in the cooler South West which is planted to Chardonnay, Verdelho, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Pinot Noir. The Verdelho is as good as any you will find in the state, a dry, serious wine which develops complexity with a few years under its belt. The Pemberton Chardonnay is elegant and refined with judicious use of oak. John Kosovitch also make a Liqueur Shiraz and Vintage Port (not tasted). (SA)

- Muscat Rare★★★★★ £H
- Verdelho Liqueur★★★★ £G
- Chardonnay Pemberton★★★ £D
- Verdelho★★★ £C

## LEEUWIN ESTATE [www.leeuwinestate.com.au](http://www.leeuwinestate.com.au)

*Horgan family Stevens Road, Margaret River WA 6285*  
Tel: 08 9759 0000 Fax: 08 9759 0001

One of the very best properties in southerly Margaret River, Leeuwin Estate has been producing excellent Chardonnay under the Art Series label for 2 decades now. Production is sizeable at more than 60,000 cases a year but still small by comparison to some Margaret River operations. The Art Series wines are the pinnacle. The Sauvignon Blanc is a very stylish example with an impressive mineral structure. Though it does not compare with the best of Great Southern, the Riesling shows good intensity with mineral, lime and a toasty persistence with 4 or 5 years' age. Chardonnay is extraordinarily rich and powerful, yet balanced, intense and complex; a long-lived Australian classic. The fruit and texture are such that the oak is seamlessly integrated with 3 or 4 years' cellaring. Art Series reds include Shiraz and a fine Cabernet Sauvignon which shows a complex fusion of cooler and riper fruit with excellent structure and length. In recent vintages, both show a little more flesh to their sinewy southern bones. A second tier of wines, the Prelude Vineyards label, includes a Classic Dry White, based on Sauvignon Blanc, and a Chardonnay with good richness and structure but which evolves much faster than the Art Series wine. Prelude Cabernet/Merlot has good weight and texture. Siblings, a third label, is for everyday Sauvignon/Semillon (though it is labelled Prelude in the UK) and Shiraz. Sparkling wine from Great Southern Pinot Noir and Chardonnay was first produced from the 1998 vintage.

- Cabernet Sauvignon Art Series★★★★★ £E
- Cabernet/Merlot Prelude Vineyards★★★★ £D
- Shiraz Art Series★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay Art Series★★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay Prelude Vineyards★★★★ £D
- Riesling Art Series★★★★ £C
- Sauvignon Blanc Art Series★★★ £D
- Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Siblings★ £C

## >> LILLIAN Pemberton

*John Brocksopp 5PO Box 174, Pemberton, WA 6260*  
Tel: 08 9776 0193 Fax: 08 9776 0193

John Brocksopp established Lillian Wines in Pemberton in 1993. The former Leeuwin Estate viticulturist rents a pocket-sized winery across the road from Leeuwin to whom he still consults. Unsurprisingly, Brocksopp makes a stunning Chardonnay, silkier than the Leeuwin style since, as he points out, Pemberton produces more structured wines than Margaret River, so it is important to flesh them out. Similarly, Pinot Noir, another Pemberton strength, is plush but well structured with a fine spine of tannin. Both Burgundian varieties are sourced from his neighbour's vineyard, Lefroy Brook, home to Pemberton's oldest vines (planted in 1982). As for his own vineyard, Brocksopp's varietal selection for his coarse sandy soils with a silt and gravel topsoil was less conventional. He planted Viognier in 1992 (head-grafting Mataro which he could not get ripe every year), Marsanne in 1993 and Roussanne in 1998/99. All three tasted from barrel (Brocksopp believes in giving wine air) show excellent varietal typicity, with plenty of texture and layer too. The Marsanne is particularly good, authentically nutty. Brocksopp first worked with the variety in his youth and tells me that it was one of the best wines he made for Seppelt in Rutherglen. The Lillian line up used to include a Shiraz Mataro but, for the Rhône varieties, Brocksopp is now squarely focused on the whites. (SA)

- Chardonnay★★★★★ £D
- Marsanne/Roussanne★★★★ £D
- Marsanne★★★★ £D
- Viognier★★★★ £D
- Pinot Noir★★★★★ £D

## >> MARCHAND & BURCH [www.marchandburchwines.com.au](http://www.marchandburchwines.com.au)

*Mascal Marchand & Jeff & Amy Burch PO 180 North Fremantle, WA 6159*  
Tel: 08 9336 9600 Fax: 08 9336 9622

Pascal Marchand, winemaker at Domaine COMTE ARMAND and Domaine De La VOUGERAIE, met Jeff and Amy Burch of HOWARD PARK in Burgundy where the couple own a house. Passionate Pinot Noir fans, the three instantly connected and, in 2006, started to make wine

together under their own eponymous label, both in Burgundy and Western Australia. Marchand believes there is no reason why, given Western Australia's climate, it cannot make world class Pinot Noir. The cultural exchange has proved invaluable. Howard Park's viticulturists David Botting and David Burch have utilised time spent in Burgundy to full advantage at the Scotsdale Vineyard in Mount Barker which the Burches acquired in 2004 and developed from scratch. Organic and bio-dynamic practices have been implemented, new Burgundy clones and selection massale cuttings have been planted at high density. Meantime, the grapes are sourced from select vineyards in Great Southern and Margaret River. Working with small batches in both vineyard and winery and with less intervention (wild yeasts, longer ferments) has resulted in nuanced, textured wines, less fruit-focused than the Howard Park or Madfish range. Unsurprisingly, the Burgundian varieties stand out. The Chardonnay is intense, subtly flavoured and fresh, while the Pinot Noirs, now single vineyard sourced, show lift, spice and a fine edge of tannin. Though it is early days, by comparison, the Shiraz lacks a bit of conviction. A name to watch. (SA)

- Chardonnay★★★★★ £E
- Pinot Noir Gibraltar Rock★★★★★ £E
- Pinot Noir Mount Barrow★★★★★ £E
- Shiraz★★★★ £E

## MCHENRY HOHNEN VINTNERS [www.mchv.com.au](http://www.mchv.com.au)

*M. McHenry & D. Hohnen families PO Box 1480, Margaret River WA 6285*  
Tel: 08 9758 7777 Fax: 08 9758 7777

This new operation looks like being something special with the much experienced David Hohnen (founder of CAPE MENTELLE) and his daughter Freya and her partner Ryan Walsh working with his brother-in-law Murray McHenry. A new winery was completed just in time for the 2007 vintage at the Rocky Road vineyard south of Margaret River. Between them, the families own four prime vineyards in Margaret River. In the vineyard, "great grand pa farming," entails working within the cycle of nature rather than resorting to chemical intervention. Hohnen's Tamworth and bush pigs do the work of rotary hoes, Wiltshire sheep get rid of Cape Weed and enhance soil quality by spreading nitrogen-fixing clover. In the winery, the policy of minimal intervention continues with natural ferments and judicious use of oak. At Cape Mentelle, Hohnen pioneered Shiraz and Zinfandel and here, works with not only the usual Bordeaux varieties and Shiraz and Zinfandel but also Grenache, Tempranillo, Marsanne and Roussanne, amongst others. The more Mediterranean grapes can be found in flavoursome 3 Amigos red (Shiraz, Grenache, Mourvèdre) and white (Marsanne, Chardonnay, Roussanne), both aged in old oak which lends a savoury note. In time, the Chardonnay will be replaced by Viognier. Chardonnay with real dimension and line comes from the Calgardup block and, since 2007, McHenry Hohnen have released a more generous yet well defined Chardonnay from the Rocky Road vineyard. A zippy Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon (made with bought in fruit) has classic Margaret River style. An expressive Shiraz has good intensity and well priced but more exciting is Tiger Country, a red which adds Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon to Tempranillo. Aged in used barriques, it is supple and fleshy with floral, peppery and berry characters but also has plenty of extract and ripe tannin and is worth keeping at least 6 years to see how it develops. Rocky Road Zinfandel is lush and concentrated, with bright raspberry fruit, while The Rolling Stone, an intense, perfumed blend of more or less equal parts of Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot, shows more backbone. A well made Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot is made from bought in fruit.

- 3 Amigos★★★ £C
- Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon★★★★ £B
- Chardonnay Calgardup Block★★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay Rocky Road★★★★★ £D
- Shiraz Margaret River★★★★★ £C
- The Rolling Stone★★★★★ £D
- Zinfandel★★★★ £D
- 3 Amigos★★★★ £C
- Tiger Country★★★★★ £D

## MOSS WOOD Margaret River [www.mosswood.com.au](http://www.mosswood.com.au)

Keith & Clare Mugford Metricup Road, Wilyabrup WA 6280  
Tel: 08 9755 6266 Fax: 08 9755 6303

The Mugfords have owned this very fine, small 12-ha Margaret River estate (founded by Bill Pannell of PICARDY in 1969) since 1984. Prior to that, Keith Mugford had been making the wines, making his first vintage at Moss Wood in 1979. The Cabernet Sauvignon is one of the very finest in the region – complex, powerful and structured, even dense and extracted, in contrast to other more fruit-driven examples from the region. Rich blackberry and cassis emerge as the wine becomes increasingly harmonious with age. For reds, Pinot Noir is also a speciality and it is one of Margaret River's better attempts at this grape, which prefers a cooler climate. Semillon has always been remarkable here and a benchmark for the region. The wine is unwooded and shows restrained fruit in its youth. It will be all the better for 5 years' ageing. Moss Wood Margaret River Chardonnay is in a full, opulent style with smoky, spicy new oak evident in its youth. In order to expand their business but retain the core quality of the Moss Wood wines, the Mugfords purchased the 6-ha Ribbon Vale vineyard and winery in 2000, adding a further 5,000 cases to production. Vinification takes place at Moss Wood. The range has been reduced to just three wines; while Merlot stands out, a very good Semillon has now been incorporated into the Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc blend. A third Cabernet-based wine is the bright and lifted Amy's, originally sourced entirely from (and named for) the GLENMORE Vineyard of former winemaker Ian Bell but now based more on the Montgomery brothers vineyard. In 2008, Moss Wood released a new Pinot Noir from Mornington Peninsula. Fruit is sourced from a contract vineyard which is supervised by Moss Wood and the wine is made in Mornington Peninsula. It is several notches up on Moss Wood's Margaret River Pinot Noir, with greater freshness, spice and a fine spine of tannin.

- Cabernet Sauvignon Margaret River★★★★★ £F
- Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot Ribbon Vale Vineyard★★★★ £D
- Cabernet Sauvignon Amy's★★★★ £C
- Pinot Noir Margaret River★★ £D
- Pinot Noir Mornington Peninsula★★★★ £D
- Merlot Ribbon Vale Vineyard★★★★ £C
- Chardonnay Margaret River★★★★ £E
- Semillon Margaret River★★★★ £C
- Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc Ribbon Vale Vineyard★★★★ £B

## PICARDY Pemberton [www.picardy.com.au](http://www.picardy.com.au)

Pannell family Cnr Eastbrook Rd & Vasse Hwy, Pemberton WA 6260  
Tel: 08 9776 0036 Fax: 08 9776 0245

Picardy is arguably Pemberton's top producer, if less well-known than the pioneering SALITAGE. It is a measure of its success that several top Western Australian wines made by producers based in other regions are sourced partly or wholly from Pemberton fruit. Bill Pannell established MOSS WOOD but diverted his attention to Picardy in 1993. The Burgundy varieties and Shiraz are all successful. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc are also planted although the results are not quite as good. Merlot/Cabernet is a roughly equal blend of the three varieties. Chardonnay has excellent structure and texture revealing fine fruit and complexity with a little age. Since 2008, a food-friendly textured and complex lees-aged Sauvignon Blanc-led white has been made from estate fruit. Latterly it has featured an element of (old) barrel fermented fruit and the Semillon portion has increased, both features of which differentiate it from the region's more typically earlier picked, leaner styles of Sauvignon. Pinot Noir, meticulously sourced from a mix of Western Australia's "droopy" and "upright" clones plus the latest Burgundy clones (114, 115 and 777), is full of dark, berry-fruit aromas which support the judicious oak treatment. In Tête de Cuvée a portion of the Pinot Noir vineyard is cropped even more rigorously and picked earlier in an attempt to produce a more structured and ageworthy, more Burgundian Pinot Noir. It shows great intensity of flavour and builds in the mouth. Shiraz shows a real intensity of spice, pepper and berry fruits.

- Merlot/Cabernet★★ £D ● Shiraz★★★★ £D
- Pinot Noir★★★★ £E ● Pinot Noir Tête de Cuvée★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay★★★★ £E
- Sauvignon Blanc★★★★ £C

## PIERRO Margaret River

Dr Mike Peterkin Caves Road, Wilyabrup via Cowaramup, WA 6284  
Tel: 08 9755 6220 Fax: 08 9755 6308

Pierro produces one of the finest, most complex Chardonnays in Western Australia. The wine possesses excellent fruit as well as a remarkable array of secondary flavours. Citrus, mineral, grilled nuts and oatmeal predominate and there is great breadth and intensity on the palate. LTC is a fine, youthfully grassy, melony Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc with a little touch of Chardonnay (LTC). It shows real intensity and weight and a much better structure than many examples of this blend. While his flagship Chardonnay is relatively opulent for the region when it comes to reds, Peterkin's aim is to avoid the "head and shoulders" upfront profile commonly associated with New World wines in favour of wines of length and backbone. The initial impact is not so dramatic, but the flavour profile builds in the mouth and the wines benefit from a few years in bottle. Of two reds, a berryish, slightly earthy Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot has good style and breadth but lacks the concentration of the best Margaret River examples. Pinot Noir has good flavour intensity if at the ripe end of the spectrum. Mike Peterkin also makes the wines of the 9-ha Fire Gully vineyard, also in Wilyabrup, which he acquired in 1998. Whites, including a bright and tight, citrus-driven Chardonnay and fresh and fruity Semillon/Sauvignon and Semillon have the edge over the reds, a Cabernet/Merlot and a Shiraz.

richness.

- Pierro:*
- Chardonnay★★★★★ £F
  - Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc LTC★★★★ £C
  - Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot★★★★ £F
  - Pinot Noir★★ £E

*Fire Gully:*

- Cabernet/Merlot★ £D
- Shiraz★ £D
- Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc★★ £D
- Chardonnay★★ £D

## PLANTAGENET [www.plantagenetwines.com](http://www.plantagenetwines.com)

Lionel Sampson & Son Albany Highway, Mount Barker WA 6324  
Tel: 08 9851 2150 Fax: 08 9851 1839

Plantagenet, home of Great Southern's first winery, has remained a leading light in the region and benefits from some of the oldest vineyards in Mount Barker. Production is now around 100,000 cases a year yet a high standard and remarkable consistency have been maintained by winemaker Gavin Berry. John Durham, formerly of CAPE MENTELLE has headed the winemaking team since 2007 and under his lead, the Cabernet Sauvignon is looking particularly polished. The winery is also an important source of contract winemaking facilities for many small estates in the region. Wines under the Plantagenet label (sourced only from estate vineyards) include an expressive and undervalued Chardonnay. Great value too is the perfumed, limey and mineral well-structured Riesling, among the finest in the region, particularly with 5 years' age. New in 2008 is Ringbark Riesling (not tasted), a cordon cut dessert wine which hails from the 38 year old Wyjup vineyard. A distinctive Cabernet Sauvignon shows good richness and, while it may not have the power found in the best from the Margaret River, it does have a certain elegance and finesse. Shiraz, on the other hand, provides ample demonstration of why Great Southern trumps Margaret River for this variety. It is impressive, with smoky, minerally, white pepper and dark fruits character – as much Northern Rhône as Western Australia. It ages well too, becoming savoury, gamey even. Omrah is the second label and there is excellent intensity to an impressive Unoaked Chardonnay and good fruit in a Sauvignon Blanc which should be drunk young. Omrah reds include Shiraz, Cabernet/Merlot and Pinot Noir. Hazard Hill red and white are sold locally while fruit is widely sourced for similarly good value exported Hellfire Bay Chardonnay and Shiraz/Grenache.

*Plantagenet:*

- Shiraz Mount Barker★★★★ £E
- Cabernet Sauvignon Mount Barker★★★★ £D
- Cabernet Franc Rocky Horror Vineyard★★★★ £C
- Chardonnay Mount Barker★★★★ £C

○ **Riesling** Mount Barker★★★★ £C

*Omnib:*

- **Shiraz**★★ £B
- **Cabernet/Merlot**★ £B
- **Pinot Noir** Great Southern★★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Unoaked★★ £B
- **Sauvignon Blanc**★ £B

**RICKETY GATE** Denmark www.ricketygate.com.au

*Russell & Linda Hubbard Scotsdale Road, Denmark, WA6333*

*Tel: 08 9840 9503 Fax: 08 9840 9502*

Russell Hubbard's passion for wine culminated in the planting of a vineyard in one of the most favourable locations in the southern part of Western Australia in 2000. Renowned consultant winemaker John Wade employs his trademark policies including hand-picking of the grapes, gravity-fed transfers, hand plunging, low yields, many rackings and minimum filtration. The only limitation on quality in the short term is the youthfulness of the vines. A floral Riesling is dry and minerally with excellent length and will flesh out well in time. The elegant Late Harvest version has subtle hints of grapefruit and lemon but, while the sweetness is tempered by the fine streak of acidity, it is a wine for fairly immediate consumption. Unwooded Chardonnay is fresh and fragrant with good weight. The Classic Red blend (Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot/Cabernet Franc) has good fruit and is smooth but not overly complex. The wine shows quite a marked black fruits character. Three successive vintages of Merlot, confirm the deep and unctuous quality of the fruit and show increasing complexity. In due course this will be a terrific wine. Also made are two reds sourced from Frankland River: a Shiraz intended for a sparkling Shiraz, and a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc which displays a stylish finesse, soft tannins and more complexity. (NB)

- **Chardonnay** Unoaked★★ £B
- **Riesling**★★★★ £C ○ **Riesling** Late Harvest★★ £C
- **Premium Red**★★ £B
- **Shiraz**★★ £C
- **Merlot**★★★★ £C

**SALITAGE** Pemberton www.salitage.com.au

*John & Jenny Horgan Vasse Highway, PO Box 261, Pemberton WA 6260*

*Tel: 08 9776 1195 Fax: 08 9776 1504*

Established in 1988, Salitage is an acronym formed from the names of the four children of John and Jenny Horgan. Prior to venturing into the relative wilderness of Pemberton, John had co-founded LEEUWIN ESTATE with his brother Denis. The 25ha have been planted to Bordeaux varieties together with Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. The wines, made by Patrick Coutts, are intense and flavoursome with good ageing potential in both red and white. There is generally good balance and decent flavour complexity in Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, if not the refinement and nuance possible from other regions. The latter is typical of Pemberton with smoky cherry/strawberry fruit and a spicy herbal undertone. To fully appreciate the style drink it with 6-8 years' age from a good vintage. A more everyday range of varieties, as well as a Chardonnay/Verdelho blend, is produced under the Treehouse label including a smoky, plummy Pinot with enough substance to make it interesting.

- **Pinot Noir**★★★★ £F
- **Pinot Noir** Treehouse★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Pemberton★★★★ £E
- **Chardonnay** Unwooded★★ £C

**SUCKFIZZLE/STELLA BELLA** Margaret River www.stellabella.com.au

*Stuart Pym & Janice McDonald PO Box 403, Nedlands, WA 6909*

*Tel: 08 9757 6377 Fax: 08 9757 6022*

Owned by dynamic duo Janice McDonald and Stuart Pym, Stella Bella's innovative and consistently well made portfolio has three labels: Skuttlebutt for quaffing, the premium Stella Bella range and Suckfizzle for its flagship red and white Bordeaux blends. The latter are sourced from a single vineyard in Augusta; at the southernmost tip of Margaret River, it is a particularly cool, gravelly site and the wines are ageworthy. With 6 vineyards, mostly on ironstone gravel, with some sand and loam, the portfolio includes an unusually wide spread of varieties. The wines were initially made by McDonald who took charge of winemaking at Deep Woods Estate in Margaret River in July 2010, leaving Pym, her partner, to head up winemaking at Stella Bella. Stella Bella whites have intense, ripe

fruit flavours and reasonable combined with good structure. A rich but well balanced Chardonnay develops complexity and interest with age and, in a good vintage, will cruise along for several years. The Sauvignon and Semillon/Sauvignon blend show good drive, texture and interest thanks to a judicious element of barrel ferment. A flute bottle highlights the aromatic quality of the relatively new Viognier, which has attractive cedary oak. Stella Bella Pink Muscat with 2% Traminer is a frivolous yet classy rendition of this sweet, slightly sparkling style, with turkish delight and gingery, juicy grape and lychee fruit. There is good style to Shiraz with a definite Margaret River accent, proper regional panache to the Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot and plenty of character in a Sangiovese/Cabernet Sauvignon blend that successfully marries riper notes with a more leafy aspect. Tempranillo is promising too. The excellent Suckfizzle Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon has a barrel-fermented and lees-stirred component in contrast with the herbal, fruitaccented Stella Bella version. Flinty and steely like a Pessac Leognan (Pym visited Domaine Chevalier in 1995 and has applied the principles to his fruit), but with a sweeter Margaret River sweet herbal top note and vibrant lemon zest, it develops delicious lanolin notes with age. The cool, cedary Suckfizzle Cabernet Sauvignon is a notch or two up from the Stella Bella reds. It has intense savoury fruit and excellent dimension and depth with ripe tannins, deserving of 5-10 years' age.

*Suckfizzle Augusta:*

- **Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon**★★★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★★ £E

*Stella Bella:*

- **Sauvignon Blanc**★★★ £C
- **Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc**★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay**★★★ £D
- **Viognier**★★ £D
- **Cabernet Merlot**★★★ £D
- ◎ **Stella Bella Pink Muscat**★★ £D
- **Sangiovese Cabernet**★★★ £D
- **Tempranillo**★★ £D

**TALIJANCICH** Swan Valley www.taliwine.com.au

*James & Hilda Talijancich 26 Hyem Road, Herne Hill, WA 6056*

*Tel: 08 9296 4289 Fax: 08 9296 1762*

The Talijancich family have been foremost in the Swan Valley since the 1930s. The deteriorating health of their aged soils prompted them to convert the vineyard to biodynamic cultivation – the first in Western Australia to attain biodynamic certification. Their modest production has returned to its focus on fortified wines. Heading the list is a 1969 Liqueur Tokay (£H) which shows fabulous floral lift and perfume with dark, underlying nutty macaroon flavours. There's a real force of personality to this wine which makes it a perfect choice for a single vintage release, though there is precious little left. Next is the Julian James' range which includes a 1961 Solera Reserve Muscat (from Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains), Pedro Ximenez and White Liqueur. The Reserve Muscat is a very smooth liqueur wine with intense flavours of toffee and caramel and a good streak of acidity. The White Liqueur made from Pedro Ximenez, Verdelho and Muscadelle could easily pass for an old Malaga. A straight Pedro Ximenez is liquorous and raisiny with nutty aromas and a smooth nutty flavour on the palate. Also made is a liqueur Shiraz' a 38 year old barrel sample (a blending component) showed super-concentrated flavours of chocolate, macaroons, spice box and coffee. As for table wines, Talijancich no longer makes a Viognier, Tempranillo or Chenin Blanc but has stuck with Shiraz, Graciano and Verdelho for table wines. Verdelho tends to be made in an off-dry, easy-drinking style in Western Australia, but not so at Talijancich. The Verdelho, which sees extended lees maturation is one of the region's most serious and shows weighty but well balanced, juicy tropical fruit. The museum release Reserve Verdelho from top years sees at least six years bottle age and is edged with savoury white porcini and toast like a Hunter Valley Semillon, though it retains a vibrant core of salty desert limes and juicy green mango. Shiraz is fairly tarry with biggish fruit, but not a great deal of complexity. New is Graciano from young vines, a big wine that takes no prisoners. It is quite mouth-puckering in the Durif/Petit Sirah vein but likely to add more complexity with greater vine age. (NB)

- Verdelho★★★ £B
- Verdelho Reserve★★★★ £D
- Shiraz★★ £C ● Graciano★★★ £C
- White Liqueur Julian James★★★★ £E
- Liqueur Shiraz★★★★ £D
- Pedro Ximenes Julian James★★★★ £G
- Reserve Muscat Julian James★★★★★ £F

## VASSE FELIX [www.vassefelix.com.au](http://www.vassefelix.com.au)

Holmes à Court family Cowaramup WA 6284

Tel: 08 9756 5000 Fax: 08 9755 5425

Vasse Felix is now a sizeable Margaret River operation, producing some 150,000 cases a year. There is a large range but its reputation has been maintained over a long period by the top reds and, with the talented Virginia Willcock at the helm, the whites have moved up a notch, showing better fruit intensity and balance. The Cabernet/Merlot shows good plum and bright berry fruit while the Cabernet Sauvignon is denser and better structured. Shiraz is more subtle than many but has good intensity in the best years. The Heytesbury red is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Merlot and Malbec. Rich and concentrated, it has an additional dimension over the other reds. Fine oak is very well integrated, with the cassis and dark chocolate fruit emerging after 4 or 5 years' ageing. Chardonnay is the leading white, with ripe, full fruit and restrained oak in the regular example but more oak, power and complexity in the Heytesbury version, these days looking sleek too. Semillon is given a short period of oak treatment in French barrels. Subtly marked with oak it is a refined example with its restrained stone fruit. The bright and zesty estate Semillon Sauvignon Blanc also sees judicious element of barrel-fermentation which brings a touch more weight, though there is no shortage of line. There is also a sparkling Brut *méthode champenoise* (Silver Knight) which is produced from all three Champagne varieties although the Pinot Meunier component is negligible. Theatre Red and White are early-drinking red and white styles while Classic Dry White and Classic Dry Red offer a touch more depth – all are sourced throughout Western Australia.

- Heytesbury★★★★ £F
- Cabernet Sauvignon★★★★★ £D
- Cabernet/Merlot★★★★ £C
- Shiraz★★★ £D
- Semillon★★★ £C
- Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon★★ £B
- Chardonnay Heytesbury★★★★★ £E ○ Chardonnay★★ £C
- Noble Riesling★★★★ £E

## VOYAGER ESTATE Margaret River [www.voyagerestate.com.au](http://www.voyagerestate.com.au)

Michael Wright Stevens Road, Margaret River WA 6285

Tel: 08 9757 6354 Fax: 08 9757 6494

A medium-sized Margaret River producer that has become something of a tourist magnet thanks to its fine rose garden, cellar door and restaurant. The ability to select from an extensive vineyard resource which is meticulously maintained by general manager Steve James places the winery in an enviable position. The wines are rich and powerful and, during the much respected Cliff Royale's tenure, attained that extra degree of finesse that put Voyager in the premier league in quality if not yet price point. Voyager Estate's Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon represent very good value for money. In 2009, Travis Lemm, Royale's assistant winemaker took over the day-to-day winemaking under the watchful eye of James. It is to be hoped that this provides continuity going forward though the use of American oak and pulling back on the acid of the Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon takes away a bit of the edge and structure which marked the style under Royale. The flagship white is a finely crafted Chardonnay which, these days, includes fruit sourced from Burgundy clones. With excellent structure and length, it will age for several years in a good vintage. Other whites should be drunk fairly young. Reds need a minimum of 5-6 years' age. The premium Tom Price red and white are only made in exceptional years and show great concentration of fruit amply buttressed by new French oak. They are wines for the long haul, especially the Cabernet.

- Chenin Blanc★ £C
- Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon★★ £C
- Semillon Tom Price★★★★ £C
- Chardonnay★★★★ £E
- Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot Tom Price★★★★★ £F

- Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot★★★★★ £e
- Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot Girt by Sea★★★★ £C
- Shiraz★★★ £D

## WILLOW BRIDGE ESTATE Geographe [www.willowbridgeestate.com](http://www.willowbridgeestate.com)

Dewar family Gardin Court Drive, Dardanup, WA 6236

Tel: 08 9728 0055 Fax: 08 9728 0066

This large estate in the Ferguson Valley has already planted more than 60ha of vineyards. High summer temperatures are moderated both by elevation (280m) and its proximity to the coast (some 25km away). The strengths seem to lie with blends of Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc, Sauvignon Blanc and varietal Shiraz. The top Shiraz, Black Dog, is subject to an extended maceration on the skins before 18 months in mostly French oak and reveals intense black plum and licorice fruit on an expansive palate. A Shiraz Viognier is a good medium bodied example of the genre with spice and lift. The wild fermented single vineyard Sauvignon Blanc from Pemberton is deep and concentrated with the region's classic steely undertow. A basic Dragonfly range includes decent Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon and Shiraz.

- Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Dragonfly★ £B
- Sauvignon Blanc Wild Ferment★★★★ £C
- Shiraz Black Dog★★★★ £E
- Shiraz/Viognier Gravel Pit★★ £C ● Shiraz Dragonfly★ £B



## WOODLANDS [www.woodlandswines.com.au](http://www.woodlandswines.com.au)

Watson family PO Box 220, Cowaramup WA 6284

Tel: 08 9755 6226 Fax: 08 9755 6236

In a remarkably short period of time, Woodlands has firmly established itself in the uppermost echelon of Margaret River Cabernet producers, alongside CULLEN and MOSS WOOD. The secret to its success? Like Cullen and Moss Wood, the 11ha vineyard is based in Wilyabrup which, with its high gravel content, is regarded as the Pauillac of Margaret River. What's more, David and Heather Watson planted the vineyard in 1973, so the vines are among Margaret River's oldest. Though David's early Cabernets bagged trophies on the show circuit, production under the Woodlands' name all but ground to a halt in 1992. Most of the fruit was sold to third parties until 2002, when David's son Stuart took charge of winemaking. Father and son's love of Bordeaux influences the beautifully structured, textured style with, as Stuart puts it, "concentration without sweetness...I like savoury." Each year the flagship Cabernet Sauvignon, a wine of immense concentration, structure and balance, is named after a different family member or friend. The more approachable, lifted and fleshy Reserve Margaret Cabernet blend contains a significant proportion of Malbec as well as Merlot. Also deeply impressive, it will reward ageing for at least a decade. In 2007, a terrific vintage, both reds are a tour de force. In 2005, another great vintage, Woodlands produced a sensual single varietal Cabernet Franc and built-to-last Malbec. They also make tiny quantities of Pinot Noir (not tasted). Though not on par with the reds, an unoaked Chardonnay and oaked Chardonnay (Chloe) show a delicate touch. (SA)

- Cabernet Sauvignon Margaret River★★★★★ £G
- Cabernet Merlot Malbec Reserve Margaret River★★★★★ £E
- Cabernet Merlot Margaret River★★★★★ £D
- Chardonnay Chloe Reserve Margaret River★★★★ £F
- Chardonnay Margaret River★★★ £D

## WOODSIDE VALLEY ESTATE [www.woodsidevalleyestate.com.au](http://www.woodsidevalleyestate.com.au)

Peter Woods & group of investors Abbeys Farm Road, Yallingup WA 6282

Tel: 08 9345 4065 Fax: 08 9345 4541

The Gunyulup Valley near Yallingup is at the northern end of the Margaret River region. Here an exceptional new project is unfolding. Contrary to the accepted wisdom, the vines have been planted on south-facing slopes rather than the usual north-facing slopes. Production is currently around 1,000 cases, with 5,000 the eventual aim. Four varietals are made by Kevin McKay, each named for members of a French expedition that mapped Western Australia in 1801-03: Le Bas Chardonnay, Bissy Merlot, Bonnefoy Shiraz and Baudin Cabernet Sauvignon. The wines are distinguished by their elegance and purity and a beautifully delineated fruit expression, though Merlot and Chardonnay want for more depth (perhaps due to the relatively young vine age). As good as they are, prices are high.

- Chardonnay Le Bas★★★★ £E

- **Merlot** The Bissy★★★★ £F
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** The Baudin★★★★ £F
- **Shiraz** The Bonnefoy★★★★ £F

**XANADU** Margaret River www.xanaduwin.com  
*Rathbone group Boodjidup Road, Margaret River, WA 6285*  
 Tel: 08 9757 2581 Fax: 08 9757 3389

There has already been a radical improvement here since becoming part of the Rathbone group in 2005 (other wineries are the first rate YERING STATION, PARKER COONAWARRA ESTATE and MOUNT LANGI GHIRAN). Founded by Dr John Lagan in 1977, Xanadu was one of the pioneers of the Margaret River but much work was required here by Darren Rathbone and his team to bring it up to the standard of the family's other wineries. Many of the wines produced from the 85ha of vineyard were already established but lacked the vibrancy and structure possible from such a location. A good deal of wine was declassified. Going forward, yields have been reduced and other improvements made. The Margaret River Reserve Chardonnay for instance, is now hand-picked and bunch-pressed, barrel-fermented then aged in 50% new oak. Only ambient yeasts are used. It is an exceptionally concentrated yet focussed wine with a veneer of vanillin lak which has ample time in which to integrate. A second label, the Dragon range offers good value with lush varietal fruit characters and sufficient structure for drinking young.

*Xanadu:*

- **Semillon**★★ £C
- **Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc**★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Margaret River★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Reserve Margaret River★★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** Margaret River★★★★ £C
- **Shiraz** Margaret River★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon Limited Release** Margaret River★★★★ £F

*Dragon:*

- **Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon** Margaret River★★ £B
- **Chardonnay** Unoaked Margaret River★★ £B
- **Shiraz**★★★★ £C
- **Cabernet/Merlot**★★ £C

## OTHER WINES OF NOTE

**BROOKLAND VALLEY** (Margaret River)

- **Sauvignon Blanc** Estate★ £C
- **Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc** Estate★★ £C
- **Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc** Verse 1★ £B
- **Chardonnay** Estate★★ £C
- **Chardonnay** Reserve Estate★★★★ £E
- **Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot** Estate★★ £C
- **Cabernet/Merlot** Verse 1★ £B ● **Shiraz** Verse 1★ £B

**BROOMSTICK ESTATE** (Margaret River) ● **Shiraz**★★★ £C

**CASTELLI** (Great Southern) ○ **Riesling**★★★ £D

- **Shiraz**★★★ £D ● **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★★ £E

**CLAIRAULT** (Margaret River) ○ **Chardonnay**★ £B

- **Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc**★★ £B ○ **Sauvignon Blanc**★★ £B
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★ £C ● **Cabernet Sauvignon** Estate★★★★ £E

**PAUL CONTI** (Swan District) ○ **Chardonnay** Tuarts★★ £B

- **Shiraz** Mariginiup★★★★ £D
- DEVILS LAIR** (Margaret River) ○ **Chardonnay**★★★ £D

- **Margaret River**★★★★ £E
- DUKES** (Great Southern) ○ **Riesling**★★★ £C ○ **Riesling** Magpie Hill★★★★ £D

**EVOI WINES** (Margaret River)

- **Chardonnay** Reserve★★★★ £E
- FERMOY ESTATE** (Margaret River) ○ **Sauvignon Blanc**★★ £B

- **Semillon**★★ £B ○ **Semillon** Reserve★★★★ £C
- **Chardonnay**★★ £C ● **Shiraz**★★ £C ● **Nebbiolo**★★ £D

- **Merlot**★★ £C ● **Cabernet Sauvignon** Reserve★★★★ £E
- GLENMORE** (Margaret River) ● **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★★ £D

**HAMELIN BAY** (Margaret River) ○ **Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc**★★★ £C

- **Sauvignon Blanc**★★★ £C
- JINGALLA** (Great Southern) ○ **Sauvignon Blanc/Verdelho**★ £C

- **Riesling**★★★ £C
- LA VIOLETTA** (Great Southern) ● **Shiraz** La Ciomia★★★★ £F

- **Shiraz** Up Shiraz★★★ £E

**LILAC HILL ESTATE** (Swan Valley) ● **Fine Old Tawny** La Ciomia★★★★ £E

- LOST LAKE** (Pemberton) ○ **Chardonnay**★★★ £C

- **Pinot Noir**★ £C ● **Shiraz**★★ £C

**MARRI WOOD PARK** (Margaret River) ○ **Chenin Blanc** Reserve★★★★ £D

- **Chenin Blanc** Grandis Brut Reserve★★★ £D

**MEROPS** (Margaret River) ● **Ornatus**★★★★ £D

- **Shiraz**★★★ £D

**MILLBROOK WINERY** (Perth Hills) ○ **Viognier**★★ £E

**MOUNT TRIO** (Great Southern) ○ **Sauvignon Blanc**★★ £B

- **Cabernet/Merlot**★★ £B

**MYATTSFIELD VINEYARDS** (Perth Hills)

- **Shiraz Mourvedre Viognier**★★ £C
- **Kenneth Green** Vintage Fortified★★ £D

**OLD KENT RIVER** (Great Southern)

- **Pinot Noir**★★ £B
- **Shiraz**★★★ £C

**PEMBERLEY** (Pemberton)

- **Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon** Cable Beach Sunset★ £B
- **Sauvignon Blanc**★★★ £C

**PEOS**(Manjimup)

- **Chardonnay** Aces★★★ £D
- **Shiraz** Four Aces★★★ £E ● **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★★ £C

**PEPPERILLY** (Geographe)

- **Grenache**★★ £D

**ROSABROOK ESTATE** (Margaret River) ● **Cabernet/Merlot**★★★★ £C

**SANDLEFORD** (Margaret River) ● **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★★ £D

**SINCLAIR** (Manjimup) ○ **Sauvignon Blanc** Swallow Hill★★★ £B

- **Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz** Jeremy Simon★★ £C

**SMITHBROOK** (Manjimup) ○ **Sauvignon Blanc**★★★ £C

- **Sauvignon Blanc/ Semillon** The Vilgam★★★★ £C
- **Merlot**★★★ £C

**SWINGS & ROUNDABOUTS**

- **Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc**★★★ £B
- **Chardonnay**★★★ £C ● **Shiraz** Margaret River★★ £B

- **Laneway Shiraz** (Shiraz/Viognier)★★ £C
- **Laneway Tempranillo**★★ £C

**UMAMU ESTATE** (Margaret River) ● **Cabernet/Merlot**★★★ £C

- **Chardonnay**★★★ £E

**WATERSHED** (Margaret River) ○ **Sauvignon Blanc**★★ £B

- **Cabernet/Merlot**★★★ £C ● **Shiraz**★★★ £C

**WE'RE WINES** (Margaret River) ● **Shiraz**★★★ £C

**WEST CAPE HOWE** (Denmark) ○ **Chardonnay**★★★★ £C

- **Sauvignon Blanc**★★ £B ○ **Riesling**★★★ £C ● **Shiraz**★★★ £C
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★ £C

**WIGNALLS** (Great Southern) ○ **Chardonnay**★★ £C

- **Shiraz**★★★ £C
- **Pinot Noir**★ £E

**WILLESPIE** (Margaret River) ○ **Riesling**★★ £C

- **Semillon** Old School Barrel-Fermented★★★★ £D

**WISE WINE** (Margaret River) ○ **Riesling**★★ £C

- **Riesling** Eagle Bay Pemberton★★★★ £D

**WOODY NOOK** (Margaret River) ● **Cabernet Sauvignon**★★★ £C

**ZAREPHATH** (Great Southern) ○ **Riesling**★★★★ £D

## Work in progress!!

### Producers under consideration for the next edition

- BURNSIDE ORGANIC FARM
- FLAMETREE ESTATE
- CLOWNFISH (MARGARET RIVER)
- HERRIOT WINES (MANJIMUP)
- TINTAGEL WINES (MARGARET RIVER)

## Author's choice

### Top Margaret River reds

- CAPE MENTELLE ● **Cabernet Sauvignon**
- CULLEN ● **Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot** Diana Madeline
- CULLEN ● **Mangan**
- FRASER GALLOP ● **Cabernet Sauvignon** Margaret River

# Western Australia

GLENMORE ● Cabernet Sauvignon Margaret River  
HOWARD PARK ● Cabernet Sauvignon Leston  
LEEWIN ESTATE ● Cabernet Sauvignon Art Series  
MOSS WOOD ● Cabernet Sauvignon Margaret River  
PIERRO ● Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot  
XANADU ● Lagan Estate Reserve  
VASSE FELIX ● Cabernet Sauvignon  
VASSE FELIX ● Heytesbury  
VOYAGER ESTATE ● Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot  
WOODLANDS ● Cabernet Sauvignon  
WOODLANDS ● Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot Malbec Reserve  
XANADU ● Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot Limited Release

VASSE FELIX ○ Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc Margaret River  
WILLOW BRIDGE ESTATE ○ Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc Dragonfly Geographe

## Distinguished WA whites

BELLARMINE ○ Riesling Auslese Frankland River  
BELLARMINE ○ Riesling Frankland River  
CASTLE ROCK H Riesling Porongurup  
CAPE MENDELLE ○ Chardonnay Margaret River  
CULLEN ○ Chardonnay Kevin John Margaret River  
CULLEN ○ Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Cullen Estate Margaret River  
DUKES ○ Riesling Magpie Hill Porongurup  
EVOI WINES ○ Chardonnay Reserve Margaret River  
FOREST HILL ○ Riesling Block 1 Mount Barker  
FRANKLAND ESTATE ○ Riesling Isolation Ridge Frankland River  
FRANKLAND ESTATE ○ Riesling Cooladerah Frankland River  
HOWARD PARK ○ Riesling Great Southern  
LARRY CHERUBINO ○ Riesling The Yard Mount Barker  
LARRY CHERUBINO ○ Riesling Cherubino Porongurup  
LEEWIN ESTATE ○ Chardonnay Arts Series  
LILLIAN ○ Chardonnay Pemberton  
LILLIAN ○ Marsanne/Roussanne Pemberton  
MARCHAND & BURCH ○ Chardonnay Great Southern  
McHENRY HOHNEN VINTNERS ○ Chardonnay Calgardup Brook Margaret River  
PIERRO ○ Chardonnay Margaret River  
STELLA BELLA ○ Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Suckfizzle Margaret River  
TALIJANCIC ○ Verdelho James Talijancich Reserve Swan District  
VASSE FELIX ○ Chardonnay Heytesbury Margaret River  
VOYAGER ESTATE ○ Chardonnay Margaret River

## Great Southern red stars

ALKOOMI ● Shiraz Frankland River Jarrah  
BATISTA ● Pinot Noir Manjimup  
BATISTA ● Pinot Noir Selection Manjimup  
CASTLE ROCK ● Pinot Noir Porongurup  
FERNGROVE VINEYARDS ● Cabernet/Shiraz The Stirlings Frankland River  
FOREST HILL ● Cabernet Sauvignon Block 9 Mount Barker  
FOREST HILL ● Shiraz Block 5 Mount Barker  
FRANKLAND ESTATE ● Olmo's Reward Frankland River  
HOUGHTON ● Jack Mann Frankland River  
HOWARD PARK ● Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot Scotsdale Great Southern  
LA VIOLETTA ● Shiraz La Giornia Great Southern  
PICARDY ● Pinot Noir Pemberton  
PLANTAGENET ● Shiraz Mount Barker

## Excellent value for money wines

ALKOOMI ○ Riesling Frankland River  
CAPE MENDELLE ● Cabernet/Merlot Trinders  
CAPEL VALE ○ Verdelho  
CLAIRAUT ● Cabernet Sauvignon Estate Margaret River  
CULLEN ● Margaret River Red Margaret River  
FERNGROVE VINEYARDS ● Cabernet/Merlot Symbols Great Southern  
HAREWOOD ESTATE ○ Chardonnay Denmark  
HAREWOOD ESTATE ● Shiraz/Cabernet Great Southern  
HOUGHTON'S ○ HWB  
JOHN KOSOVICH ○ Verdelo Swan Valley  
LARRY CHERUBINO ○ Riesling Ad Hoc Wallflower Great Southern  
LARRY CHERUBINO ○ Chardonnay Hens & Chickens Margaret River  
MADFISH ● Cabernet Sauvignon Golden Turtle Margaret River  
McHENRY HOHNEN VINTNERS ● Three Amigos Margaret River  
MOSS WOOD ● Amy's Margaret River  
PICARDY ○ Sauvignon Blanc Pemberton  
PIERRO ○ Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc LTC Margaret River  
PLANTAGENET OMRAH ○ Riesling  
ROSABROOK ESTATE ● Cabernet/Merlot Margaret River  
STELLA BELLA ○ Chardonnay Margaret River