



LANGTONS

CLASSIFICATION
OF AUSTRALIAN WINE
8th EDITION

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‘The north star
for wine collectors
in Australia for
some decades.’





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The definitive list of the most sought after wines in Australian fine wines.

Foreword

LANGTONS Classification has been the north star for wine collectors in Australia for some decades. A data-led, insights-driven vinous collectable, the Classification poster has shaped how wine drinkers buy, sell and consume Australia's finest wines. At the same time, it has doubled as a talking point around countless dining tables and tasting benches across the land.

My memories of the Classification are of poring over the many books and posters I have owned and ticking off those wines I have been lucky enough to taste. I distinctly remember buying the poster for \$20 only to encase it in a \$300 frame. True art, you see, is worthy of protection. And it's not just me who has been influenced by the Classification. Countless cellars, both here and abroad, display the Classification with pride. Much of the rhetoric I hear from savvy vendors is around basing their collections on the form guide that is the LANGTONS Classification.

Australian wineries, too, love the Classification. Sure, lofty scores and dotting words from critics are a pat on the back for a job well done. However, knowing that in one of the world's strongest and most well-informed wine markets, your wine is being purchased, stored and traded exceeds the fleeting high of a gold medal or trophy.

The wines we list in the Classification make it on merit. They are the stayers of the industry, sustaining demand year after year. Classified wines are produced using the finest techniques and the most appropriate handling for their style.

The wineries release quantities that please the market without saturating it. Further, these wines are backed by proud wine teams, from winemakers to the back-of-house gurus who champion the wines in the market. It is important that they take care of their brands.

Classified producers understand trends and harness the most appropriate techniques to produce wines of their time and, so often, wines ahead of their time. Consistency of quality is one of the keys to the Classification; complacency is seldom rewarded.

All of this leads to hype. And from that hype comes acclaim and, naturally, demand. Demand is the key to making the Classification. For the 8th Edition of the Classification, the top wines are easily cleared through auctions. They received healthy interest and often achieved well into their value band. The Giacondas, Rockfords and Penfolds of the world are market leaders in this space.

Clear adjustments in style have emerged since the 7th Classification. A trend towards lighter red styles like pinot noir is now evident. Precise chardonnay that focuses on line, length

and delineation of flavour, over ripeness and oak, have nosed ahead. Restraint in hang times, macerations and new oak go hand in hand with textural additions that techniques like whole-bunch confer, not only in pinot noir but also in the most sought-after shiraz.

And so, all the votes are counted, and the overachievers are crowned. The 8th Edition of LANGTONS Classification lists the most collectable, tradeworthy and sought-after fine Australian wines in today's market. They lead the luxury wine market for their style and typicity of place (without being typically common). Those at the peak of the Classification are wines that easily compete with their crowned contemporaries across the globe, from Bordeaux to Burgundy and beyond.

I am proud to lead a talented LANGTONS Auctions team who have worked hard to bring the new Classification 8th to life.

Congratulations to the wineries upon being listed in the 8th Edition of LANGTONS Classification of Australian Wine.

Michael Anderson

HEAD OF AUCTIONS &
SECONDARY MARKET



What is the Classification?

LANGTONS Classification is Australia's most respected secondary market guide to fine and luxury Australian wines. The Classification comprises the most sought-after Australian fine wines based on their strong track record at auction. First published by LANGTONS in 1990, the Classification has become an essential resource for collectors, investors, and enthusiasts seeking to navigate the Australian wine market effectively.

The Classification is based on demand at auction. The Classification is not based on the subjective opinions of wine experts or LANGTONS auctioneers. It is a true reflection of the zeitgeist of the Australian fine and luxury wine market. LANGTONS Classification lists wines of pedigree and enduring appeal and is, therefore, the most reliable guide for buying and selling fine and luxury wines in the Australian secondary market.

‘The Classification is based on *demand* at auction. The Classification is not based on the subjective opinions of wine experts or LANGTONS auctioneers.’



‘In 2010, Penfolds pulled away from the pack with nine Classified wines.’

Penfolds
Grange Hermitage
BIN 95
VINTAGE 1982 BOTTLED 2010

Grange Hermitage is generally recognised as Australia's finest wine and has received international acclaim. This great wine was created by Max Schubert, commencing with the 1952 vintage. Premium Hermitage grapes grown at selected vineyards in Australia and matured in small oak casks prior to bottling. During an extensive tour of the Bordeaux region of France, Max Schubert studied numerous wine-making practices and became an integral part of Penfolds wine-making techniques. He observed the practice of maturing wine in new oak casks, previously untried in Australia. The development of Grange Hermitage represented the beginning of a new era in Australian wine-making tradition. This knowledge combined with Max Schubert's lifelong dedication has resulted in Grange Hermitage, the world's classic dry red wine, acknowledged to be one of Australia's finest. It is recommended that Grange Hermitage should always be enjoyed with food.

PENFOLDS WINES PTY. LTD.

History

LANGTONS was established in 1988 in Melbourne by Stewart Langton, with the opening of a Sydney office soon following under the guidance of Andrew Caillard MW. The establishment of LANGTONS was a response to Australia's growing fine wine scene and rapidly expanding international interest in powerful and expressive 'new world' wines.

In 1990, LANGTONS published its 'Classification of Distinguished Australian Wine', a guide to the most sought-after fine and luxury Australian wines. The 1st Edition listed 34 wines across two tiers: Excellent and Outstanding. The top tier, Outstanding, was subdivided into 'A' and 'B', with the sole occupier of 'A' being Penfolds Grange Hermitage (now Penfolds Bin 95 Grange), a first amongst equals, as it were.

The Outstanding category listed dry red table wines only; there was no place for white wines. The remaining Outstanding wines included Henschke Hill of Grace, Mount Mary Cabernets (now Quintet), Penfolds Bin 707, Petaluma Coonawarra Cabernet, Wynns Coonawarra Estate John Riddoch, and Yarra Yering Dry Red No. 1.

The Excellent tier included wines such as Lake's Folly White Label Cabernet, Tyrrell's Vat Riesling (now Semillon), Leeuwin Art Series Chardonnay, Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon, and Brokenwood Hermitage (now Graveyard). All of these wines remain in the Classification today.

LANGTONS published the 2nd Edition of the Classification in 1996. The list nearly doubled in size to 63 wines. Outstanding 'A', the top tier, expanded

to include Hill of Grace and Quintet. The Classification saw a surge of South Australian reds, with Cabernet being the best represented. Clare Valley shone brightest of the new bunch with six wines, including the first appearance of Wendouree.

The 3rd Classification, published in 2000, continued the expansion with another 26 wines joining the list. To add more layers of detail, the hierarchy of the Classification expanded to four tiers: Exceptional, Outstanding, Excellent, and Distinguished. Leeuwin Art Series Chardonnay, Moss Wood Cabernet, Bin 707 Cabernet and Wendouree Shiraz joined the newly established Exceptional top tier. Wendouree added four new wines, a joint record five Classification berths along with Penfolds.

Five years later, in 2005, the 4th Edition reached 101 wines. The top tier of Exceptional expanded to include Bass Phillip Reserve, Rockford Basket Press, Giaconda Chardonnay, and Cullen Diana Madeline, reflecting a greater knowledge and appreciation of those wines with cult status.

LANGTONS, under new ownership, celebrated by publishing the 5th Edition of the Classification. Surging to 123 Classified wines in 2010, Penfolds pulled away from the pack with nine

Classified wines. Clarendon Hills Astralis Syrah, Brokenwood Graveyard Shiraz, Chris Ringland Dry Grown Barossa Ranges Shiraz, Torbreck RunRig Shiraz Viognier, Clonakilla Shiraz Viognier, and Grosset Polish Hill Riesling all joined the top Exceptional tier.

To celebrate 25 years, LANGTONS published the 6th Edition of the Classification in 2013. The Distinguished tier was retired, yet the list expanded to 139 wines and remains the largest Classification ever published. The Exceptional tier expanded to 21 wines with new entries: Wynns Coonawarra Estate John Riddoch, Jim Barry The Armagh, Henschke Mount Edelstone, and Seppeltsfield 100 Year Old Para Vintage Tawny.

The publication of the 7th Edition of the Classification celebrated LANGTONS' 30th anniversary. This list marked the first Classification where the number of wines in the list decreased while the top tier added just one wine, Best's Great Western Thomson Family Shiraz. LANGTONS took the 7th Edition on the road with a series of tasting events in five state capitals, which continue to be regarded by the wine-loving community as among the finest tasting events ever hosted in Australia.



Always *Classified*

In the 1st Edition of the Classification, Penfolds Bin 95 Grange sat alone, enthroned in its own private Classification of Outstanding 'A'. The remaining members of the Outstanding tier held the designation of Outstanding 'B', a subdivision nodding to the Saint-Émilion system of Classification, which, like its LANGTONS equivalent, is updated more regularly than its 1855 counterpart. Those great Australian wines that have thrived in the evolving fine and luxury wine market include Henschke Hill of Grace, Mount Mary Quintet, Penfolds Bin 707, Wynns Coonawarra Estate's John Riddoch, and Yarra Yering's Dry Red No.1. All of these wines remain in the Classification today.

The 1990 general Classification (then called Excellent) included the following wines: Brokenwood Graveyard, Cape Mentelle Cabernet Sauvignon, Henschke Cyril Henschke, Henschke Mount Edelstone, Lake's Folly Cabernet, Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay, Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon, Mount Mary Chardonnay, Mount Mary Pinot Noir, Penfolds St. Henri Shiraz, Tyrrell's Vat 1 Semillon, Tyrrell's Vat 47 Chardonnay, and Yarra Yering Dry Red No. 2. These wines, too, have stood the test of time, remaining true while dutifully evolving to remain relevant in the idiom of Australian fine and luxury wine.

The establishment



LANGTONS Classification of Australian Wine is based on product data we collect over years from our auctions.

Every bid, buy, sell, watch, and even those ‘passed in’ inform the list. Our 8th Edition is based on five years of record auction volumes and, therefore, the most robust dataset we have ever used to build a Classification. It has also produced some clear and observable patterns of behaviour by our auction customers.

A clear trend is a focus on established producers, with trust playing a vital role in customer decisions. We use the term ‘brand’ to specify that customers trust in more than just the winery, the vineyards or the label on the bottle. A winery’s brand combines the winemaker, vigneron, region and the winery’s place in it, heritage and, importantly, broader perceptions of the brand and a wine’s quality, rarity, price, and prestige.

Greatness or prestige in the wine industry is often associated with a brand’s flagship or top-tier wine. Collectors and wine lovers recognise these wines’ excellent quality, unique terroirs, meticulous production processes, and storied histories. Consumers perceive such wines as the epitome of the brand’s craftsmanship and dedication to winemaking. The positive reputation of these flagship wines is a halo which reflects their glory. This ‘halo effect’ has a positive influence over the entire brand and stable of wines.

Collector knowledge is another essential aspect of this ‘halo effect’. Knowledgeable, loyal consumers are more likely to explore a brand’s secondary wines when familiar with and appreciative of the brand’s story, winemaking techniques, and values. A well-informed consumer understands the craftsmanship that goes into the production of both the flagship and secondary wines, thus making an informed decision to try the latter based on their positive perception of the former.

The halo effect of a prestige wine brand on its secondary wines is a symbiotic relationship where the reputation and desirability of the flagship wine positively influence the perception, trust, and consumer knowledge associated with the entire brand portfolio.

Leveraging the brand story and narrative enhances this effect, compelling collectors to explore and appreciate a brand’s portfolio, while contributing to the winery’s overall success and presence in the Classification.

The clearest early example of this behaviour in the Classification

occurred at the turn of the last century. In 1996, LANGTONS published its 2nd Classification, introducing Wendouree Shiraz in a banner edition for Clare Valley wines. In 2000, our 3rd Classification listed all five of the wines from Wendouree and placed their flagship Shiraz in the top tier, where it has remained into this latest 8th Edition. This halo effect is not unlike that of the *deuxieme vin* or second wine appeal of the great châteaux of Bordeaux. These second wines imply a guarantee of quality by wearing the livery of the grand vin of the chateau. Another consideration of the appeal of second and third wines is that they give a certain proximity to greatness without the flagship price.

The longevity of a wine is also an indicator of quality and is desirable for its potential in the secondary market. Collectors may take a position on some wines in the knowledge that they might achieve a positive long-term return, while reserving the right to dip into their investment. Rarity has a similar effect, even for wines with a shorter cellaring potential than the many decades expected of more robust styles.

There is a small informal group in the top tier of the Classification, the members of which hold a special place in the minds of collectors. Exemplars in their respective métiers, the influence of these wineries, particularly their flagship heritage wines, has been profound.

‘Introducing Wendouree Shiraz in a banner edition for Clare Valley.’

‘Each Penfolds wine is the best in its class every year.’

Penfolds

More than any other brand, Penfolds exemplifies the halo effect in the Classification. Arguably the most brand-conscious producer in Australia, Penfolds has long been the standard bearer for Australian fine and luxury wine domestically and internationally. Penfolds has ultimately built its reputation on the quality of its wines. Its preeminence and heritage in South Australia give the winemakers privileged access to the best parcels of fruit in the state and beyond. In the winery, the guiding philosophy is more science than art, with technical perfection valued over any artistic flare. There is an argument that with access to the highest quality fruit of each vintage and the deepest access to resources, each Penfolds wine is the best in its class every year. Collectors and critics alike may argue this point, but what is indisputable is the consistent quality of the wines.



‘One of the most collected wines in Australia.’



Primary and secondary market collectors flock to Penfolds at auction because the wines are as close to bulletproof in the market. The wines are reliable in the best sense. Penfolds Bin 95 Grange is, of course, the king. No other Australian wine moves the amount of money in the secondary market as Penfolds Grange. However, while it may produce a greater financial return for long-term investors per bottle, it plays second fiddle to Penfolds Bin 389 in volume. One of the most collected wines in Australia, Bin 389 is (sometimes) called 'Baby Grange'. This moniker is, of course, marketing genius as Grange mainly comprises shiraz (~95%) while Bin 389 is a cabernet sauvignon dominant blend with shiraz playing support. The popularity of Bin 389 is the halo effect writ large in the Australian secondary market. Collectors who have opted out of Penfolds' inexorable march to \$1000+ flagship release prices have found succour and solace in

Bin 389 and, to a similar though less voluminous extent, St Henri, perhaps a better shiraz candidate for the 'Baby Grange' title, albeit without the American oak influence.

In the 5th Classification published in 2010, Penfolds pulled away from the pack with the most number of wines in the Classification. It has never relinquished the lead. In the 8th Edition of the Classification, Penfolds occupies eight of the one hundred wines, more than any other winery. Penfolds wines listed in the 8th Edition of the Classification are Bin 95 Grange Shiraz (1st Classified), Bin 707 Cabernet Sauvignon (1st Classified), Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz (1st Classified), Yattarna Chardonnay (1st Classified), St. Henri Shiraz, RWT Shiraz, Bin 407 Cabernet Sauvignon, and Reserve Bin A Chardonnay (new).

Henschke

Henschke has etched a storied history within the Classification since its first publication in 1990. After being appointed viticulturist in 1987, Prue Henschke began her journey into sustainable practices to care better for the vineyards.

The Henschke family's primary vineyard is the Hill of Grace, Australia's most famous, recognisable, and historic vineyard.

First planted in 1860, the same year the iconic church was built, Henschke's Hill of Grace Eden Valley Shiraz is Australia's most coveted single vineyard wine. The first vintage was produced in 1958 when the vines were already close to a century old. By the time LANGTONS introduced the Classification, Australian fine and luxury wine collectors were already sustaining demand for this living piece of Australian wine heritage.

‘Australia’s most coveted single vineyard wine.’



‘The quality here would shine regardless of the family name on the bottle.’



Hill of Grace occupies one of two Henschke berths in the top tier of the 8th Edition of the Classification along with the Mount Edelstone, a shiraz sourced from dry-grown, ungrafted centenarian vines, long regarded as one of Australia's very best wines. The latest addition to the Classification is Henschke's Hill of Roses, a shiraz made from 1989 planted vines in the Hill of Grace vineyard. While the relatively young age of the vines prohibits the inclusion in the flagship wine, the finesse of the Hill of Roses tells the truth of this unique terroir. A halo effect there may be, but the quality here would shine regardless of the family name on the bottle.

Founded in 1868 by Johann Christian Henschke, a German immigrant, the Henschke family laid the foundations for an enduring winemaking legacy in South Australia's Eden Valley. Over generations, the family's commitment to quality and innovation led them to produce wines that garnered national and international acclaim.

The sixth generation of the Henschke family is now firmly ensconced in the custodianship of the family legacy.

‘...a trust that approaches reverence.’

Collectors regard the Henschke name with a trust that approaches reverence. Hence, the only five wines in the Classification that hail from Eden Valley bear the Henschke arms. Henschke wines listed in the 8th Edition of the Classification are Hill of Grace Shiraz (1st Classified), Mount Edelstone Shiraz (1st Classified), Cyril Henschke Cabernet Sauvignon, Keyneton Estate Shiraz Cabernet Malbec, and Hill of Roses Shiraz (new).



Mount Mary

Mount Mary's Quintet, a single vineyard blend of five Bordeaux varietals, cabernet sauvignon, merlot, cabernet franc, malbec, and petit verdot, is the queen of the Yarra Valley. The winery sits on top of the hill overlooking a vineyard that produces four wines, three of which have also been in the Classification since the beginning. Indeed, it may be that the most conspicuous absence from the Classification in Australia is the Triolet, a white Bordeaux blend of sauvignon blanc, semillon, and muscadelle. A conspiracy of minuscule quantities produced and the unwillingness of collectors to sell means there is no market to classify what is undoubtedly one of the finest white wines in Australia.

Quintet has long been the first chair, but Mount Mary's Burgundy-inspired bottlings of pinot noir and chardonnay can be seen as the equal of their Bordeaux blend counterparts. Under the stewardship of third-generation Sam Middleton, the wines of Mount Mary have never been better. Equal parts protective of his family's legacy as the preeminent winery in the Yarra Valley and ambitious enough to put his stamp on the wines and lift them to new heights, his work has earned him a reputation as one of the finest winemakers in Australia.

Mount Mary's Quintet represents the winery's unwavering pursuit of crafting exceptional Bordeaux-style blends that showcase the unique terroir of the Yarra Valley, while demonstrating the Middleton family's passion for winemaking and heritage.

Mount Mary wines listed in the 8th Edition of the Classification are Quintet (1st Classified), Pinot Noir (1st Classified), and Chardonnay.

Leeuwin *Estate*

The crown jewel of Leeuwin Estate, the Art Series Chardonnay, has been ever present in the Classification. Appearance in the 1st Edition in the Excellent tier was when there was no room for any white wines in the top tier.

Leeuwin Estate was founded in 1974 by Denis and Tricia Horgan. They planted Margaret River's heroic Gingin clone chardonnay in 1975 and produced their first wine in 1979. Leeuwin Art Series Chardonnay burst onto the international wine scene with their second vintage release being ranked top in Decanter's 1981 international chardonnay blind tasting. Their reputation was sealed, and Leeuwin planted the idea for Margaret River chardonnay firmly in the minds of international collectors. Blocks 20 and 22 continue to produce Margaret River's (if not Australia's) flagship chardonnay.

The Art Series Cabernet Sauvignon was first released in 1980, along with its sister chardonnay. It first entered the 3rd Classification, while the chardonnay entered the top tier. The Art Series cabernet sauvignon is made up of the Houghton clone and a touch of malbec, structured and elegant in a classic southern Margaret River style.

Leeuwin Estate wines listed in the 8th Edition of the Classification are Art Series Chardonnay (Classified 1st) and Art Series Cabernet Sauvignon.



‘The wines
are rare and
challenging
to access.’



Wendouree

Wendouree has sustained a long-term cult following for its dedication to traditional winemaking practices, hand-harvesting, and crafting wines using age-old techniques. Tony and Lita Brady's commitment to producing small batches of high-quality wine, primarily red varieties like shiraz and cabernet sauvignon, garnered a devoted following.

Today, Wendouree remains a beacon of tradition and quality, maintaining its commitment to crafting fine wines that reflect the unique character and heritage of the Clare Valley. The winery's enduring legacy and dedication to producing wines of remarkable depth and complexity have solidified its position as one of Australia's most respected and sought-after wine producers. The wines are rare and challenging to access, with tiny allocations still offered to their most loyal customers by handwritten letters.

‘It was an
unprecedented feat
and one which has
yet to be equalled.’

Wendouree entered the 2nd Edition of Classification in 1996 with their flagship shiraz behind that grand old A.P. Birks label. In 2000, the shiraz entered the top tier and was joined in the Classification by the four other wines produced by the winery. It was an unprecedented feat and one which has yet to be equalled.

Wendouree wines listed in the 8th Edition of the Classification are Shiraz (1st Classified), Cabernet Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz Malbec, and Shiraz Mataro.



Chasing *perfection*

The halo effect inspires collectors to focus their efforts on the broader portfolios of wineries rather than an individual wine reflecting a trust in the producers. There is a reasonable assumption that if a winemaker is judicious, discerning and fastidious with their flagship wine, these values won't simply vanish when crafting their second and third wines. Wineries such as Bass Phillip, Wynns Coonawarra Estate, Tyrrell's, and Yarra Yering, with multiple Classified wines, are all imbued with generations of desire to chase unattainable perfection. The enduring desirability and demand for their wines is a manifestation of the trust collectors have in each vintage being as close to the best expression possible. This is because they know that these winemakers are never satisfied with anything less.

Emerging trends

The inclusion of new wines into the LANGTONS Classification illustrates the dynamic nature of Australia's fine wine market.

As always, newly Classified wines reflect tastes, style preferences, and market demand. As certain wines experience a surge in popularity and gain recognition for their quality and uniqueness, their entry into the Classification often follows.



‘Wines that emphasise elegance, finesse, and authenticity.’

Stylistically, modern consumers show a growing interest in wines that emphasise elegance, finesse, and authenticity. Winemakers are adjusting their approaches to meet this demand, focusing on sustainable and organic practices, minimal intervention and less invasive means to express the true terroir of their vineyards. Entry to the Classification merely reflects wines in

this new stylistic idiom gaining traction with the Australian market for fine and luxury wines. From new wave producers like Sami-Odi to venerable estates like Tyrrell's, the currency of Classification is relevance, new school or old.

Taste preferences have also evolved, while noting in particular the growing presence of pinot noir and chardonnay, with an increasing appreciation for

diversity and unique flavour profiles. Wines that deviate from conventional standards that provide a distinctive tasting experience are highly sought after. The Classification describes a diverse field of wines from across Australia representing a spectrum of terroirs, varieties, and philosophies. As collectors and enthusiasts explore various styles and regions, the demand

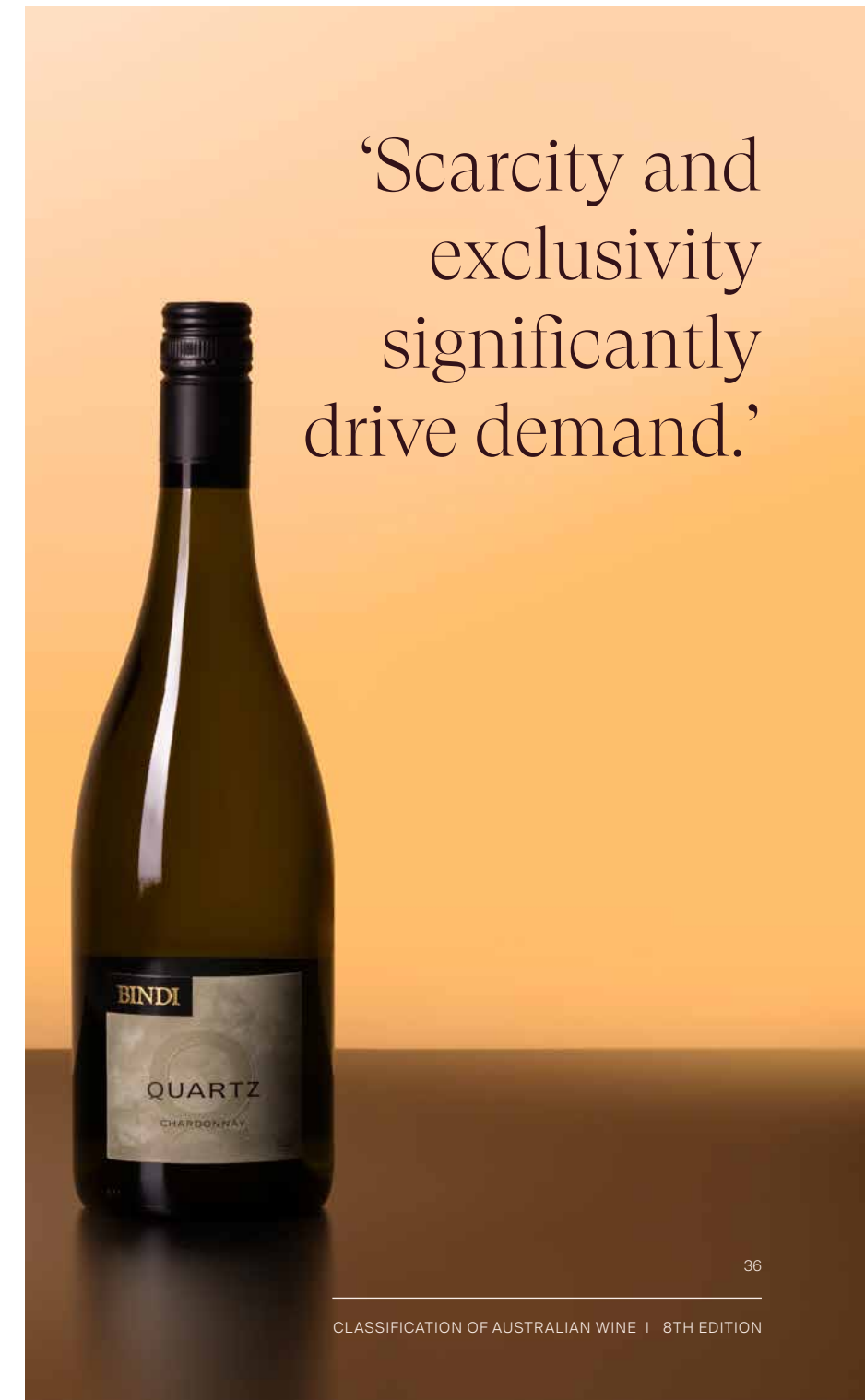
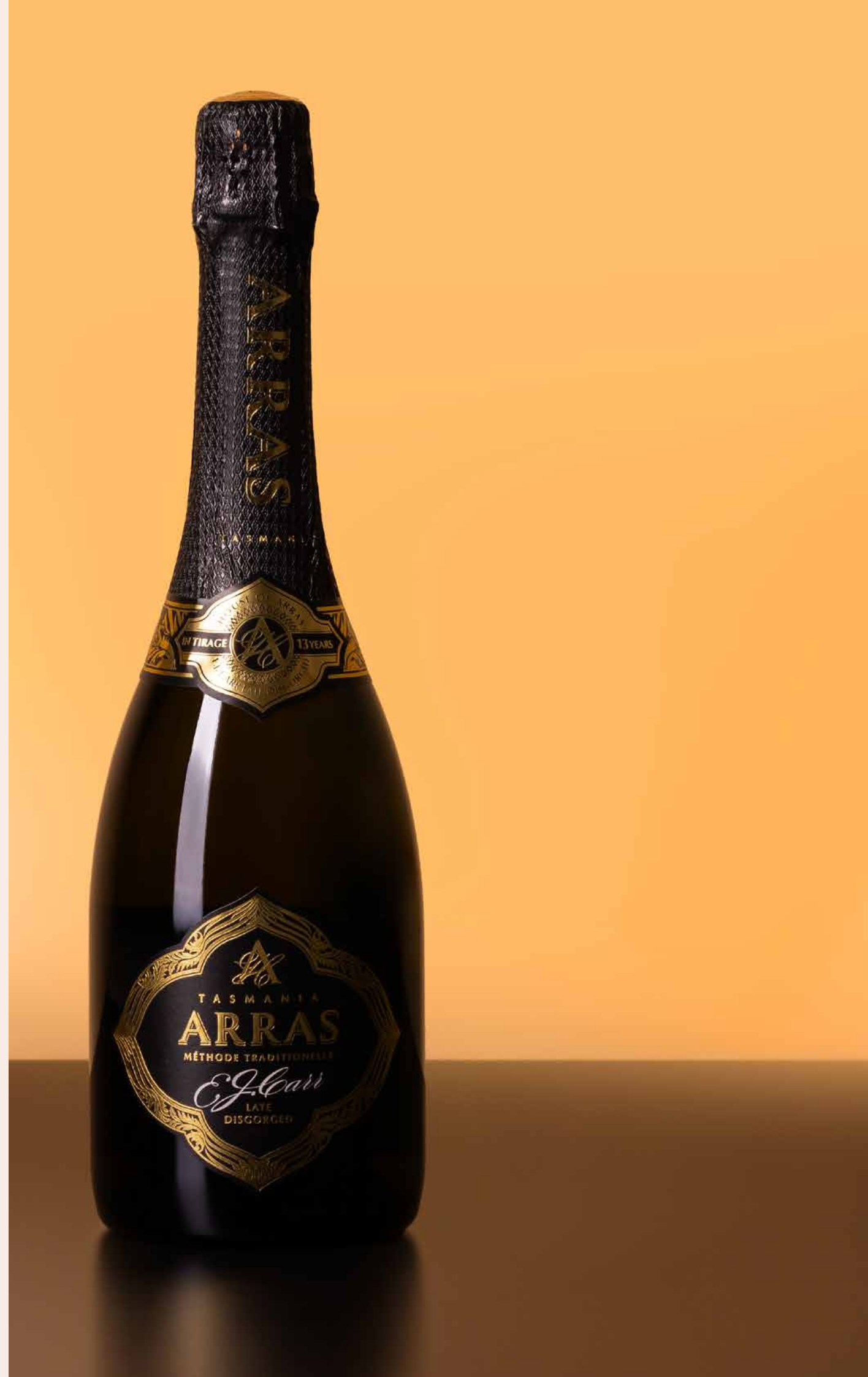
for these wines intensifies, sustaining demand and justifying their entry into the Classification.

In the market, scarcity and exclusivity significantly drive demand. Collectors love little more than wines they can't have. Limited production, historical acclaim, and critical ratings contribute to the desirability of a wine. Collectors vie for these prized bottles to add to their cellars, appreciating the investment potential and the sheer pleasure of owning a piece of wine history or cultural currency.

IN THE 8TH EDITION OF LANGTONS CLASSIFICATION OF AUSTRALIAN WINE, WE WELCOME 19 NEW WINES.

1. Arras EJ Carr Late Disgorged, TAS
2. Bass Phillip Premium Chardonnay, Gippsland SA
3. Bindi Quartz Chardonnay, Macedon Ranges VIC
4. Curly Flat Pinot Noir, Macedon Ranges VIC
5. Giaconda Estate Vineyard Shiraz, Beechworth VIC
6. Henschke Hill Of Roses Shiraz, Eden Valley SA
7. Moss Wood Chardonnay, Margaret River WA
8. Paringa Estate Estate Pinot Noir, Mornington Peninsula VIC
9. Penfolds Bin A Chardonnay, SEA
10. Rockford Rifle Range Cabernet, Barossa Valley SA
11. Sami-Odi Hoffmann Dallwitz Shiraz, Barossa Valley SA
12. Sami-Odi Little Wine Shiraz, Barossa Valley SA
13. Serrat Close Planted Shiraz Viognier, Yarra Valley VIC
14. Standish The Relic Shiraz Viognier, Barossa Valley SA
15. Standish The Schubert Theorem, Barossa Valley SA
16. Tolpuddle Vineyard Chardonnay, TAS
17. Tolpuddle Vineyard Pinot Noir, TAS
18. Torbreck The Steading GMS, Barossa Valley SA
19. Tyrrell's 4 Acres Shiraz, Hunter Valley NSW

The emergence of 19 new Australian wines in LANGTONS Classification signals a notable trend toward cool-climate viticulture, highlighting a shift in consumer preferences and the evolving landscape of Australian winemaking. Among these wines, a significant 65% originate from cool climates, which underscores the growing recognition of regions with cooler temperatures as producers of high-quality, elegant wines.



‘Scarcity and exclusivity significantly drive demand.’

What's *new*

The prominence of pinot noir and chardonnay, half of the new wines, speaks to the rising appreciation for these grape varieties. Pinot noir, known for its delicacy and difficulty to grow, and chardonnay, celebrated for its ability to express terroir and winemaking techniques, are gaining traction among collectors in the secondary market. This trend mirrors a global movement towards lighter, more nuanced wines that showcase the essence of the grape and place.

‘Showcase the true essence of the grape and place.’





The modest representation of 30% of new wines from South Australia suggests a broader acknowledgement of other Australian regions. While South Australia, with its renowned regions like Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale, has been a historical wine powerhouse, this shift signals the diversification of Australian fine wine production. Winemakers from regions beyond South Australia are gaining recognition for their distinctive expressions of terroir, contributing to a more comprehensive and varied appreciation of Australian wine.

‘A more comprehensive and varied appreciation of Australian wine.’



Additionally, the increasing emphasis on cool-climate wines aligns with the growing concerns about climate change. Cooler regions are now seen as potential solutions for grape cultivation as they offer a buffer against rising temperatures, allowing for the retention of acidity and delicate flavours in the grapes, so prized in fine wine.

These welcome new entries into the Classification highlight the evolving landscape of Australian winemaking and collecting. This steady growth beyond South Australia reinforces the wine market's dynamic nature and winemakers' ambition to be distinctive.

Two clear winners from the 8th Edition of LANGTONS Classification are The Standish Wine Company and Sami-Odi. Both distinguished Australian wineries have two new wines in the Classification, with Standish adding to his first entry in 2018 and Sami-Odi with a double on a maiden appearance.

The two wineries share a stylistic kinship rooted in their progressive winemaking approaches. They prioritise finesse and elegance, departing from the conventional Barossa Valley shiraz norm. Employing modern techniques like earlier harvests, whole bunch fermentation, and cooler, attenuated and gentler macerations, these wineries focus on preserving the inherent flavours of the grapes and achieving a more delicate, nuanced expression.

By embracing softer pressing, lower alcohol levels, and minimising the use of new oak, they craft wines with a heightened sense of balance and subtlety. Shares of their limited production are coveted by enthusiastic collectors making them quite hard to find and adding to their value in the secondary market.

They share a dedication to innovative methods, underscoring a broader movement within the Australian wine industry while emphasising a departure from heavy, extractive styles towards wines that prioritise elegance, allowing the fruit and terroir to be present in the wine.

It is relatively easy to achieve power and weight in shiraz in warmer climates, whether from South Australia or New South Wales. Poise, elegance, and layers of nuanced complexity can all be dominated and hidden by big fruit.

Outside the Barossa Valley, Henschke's Hills of Roses is made from organic and biodynamically managed fruit and handled in the winery with a clear ambition to achieve a fine wine of poise and elegance, with the lighter oak influence allowing pristine and prestigious fruit to shine through in the wine. Similarly, no other winery has a more profound cultural memory of the Hunter Valley than Tyrrell's. Their 4 Acres Shiraz explicitly evokes the lighter old Hunter River Burgundy or luncheon claret style of previous generations.

This more elegant idiom of shiraz tells a story beyond the limits of the variety. LANGTONS Classification reflects more significant long-term trends in Australian fine wine. This trend, whether driven by the demand of the market or the desire of the winemakers, is here to stay.



‘Collectors seek out single vineyard wines because of this fealty to place.’



Single vineyards

Single vineyard Australian wines hold a special place in the hearts of fine wine collectors, connoisseurs, and enthusiasts. They embody the epitome of craftsmanship, showcasing the unique character of a specific terroir, the meticulous attention to detail in the vineyard, and the winemaker’s skill and dedication. The appeal and importance of single vineyard wines in Australia can be attributed to the provenance of terroir, the distinctiveness of each wine, limited quantities, and the extraordinary care involved in their production.

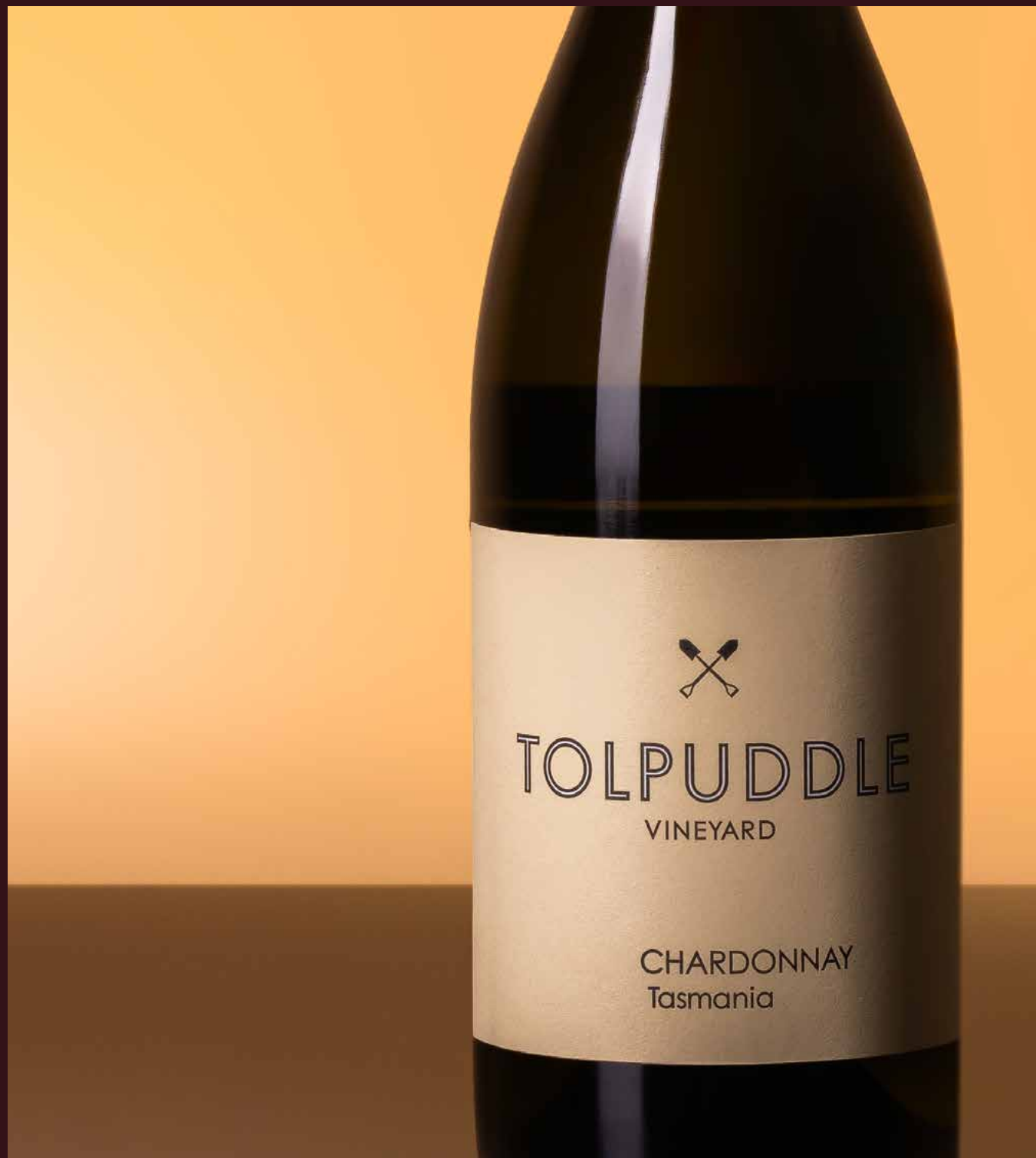
Terroir, an ambiguous word for the combination of soil, climate, geography, and culture of a specific vineyard, imparts a distinct character to the grapes grown on its vines. Single vineyard wines are a direct expression of this terroir. The soil composition, elevation, aspect, wind patterns, and other environmental factors shape the growing of the fruit, conferring a sense of place. Collectors seek out single vineyard wines because of this fealty to place – a precise and

limited piece of land suggesting a due of reverence. Why does a winemaker limit their palette to a single plot? Because it is unique, as is the wine it produces.

Among the notable single vineyard Australian wines is Giaconda in Beechworth. Giaconda’s meticulous approach emphasises terroir and embodies the distinct characteristics of the Beechworth region. The granitic soil composition and cool, sub-alpine climate contribute to its finesse and

elegance, making it a wine prized by collectors who appreciate the purity of terroir in their collection.

Tolpuddle in Tasmania is another revered example of single vineyard winemaking in Australia. Their chardonnay, grown in the Coal River Valley, demonstrates the impact of a unique climate on the grape’s flavour profile. Tasmania’s cool maritime climate is reflected in the wine, enticing collectors seeking wines with a genuine sense of origin and climate influence.



In the Eden Valley, Henschke Hill of Grace Shiraz epitomises the concept of a single vineyard masterpiece. The Hill of Grace vineyard's ancient vines produce grapes that capture the essence of the region's terroir. The attention to detail and care in both the vineyard and winery culminates in a wine that is valued by collectors for its finesse, complexity, and the story it tells through the land it comes from.

The Sami-Odi Hoffmann Dallwitz Shiraz in the Barossa Valley is a testament to the winemaker's dedication and the region's unique terroir. The meticulous care and ambition

of crafting this wine are reflected in its intensity and depth, making it a prized addition to any fine wine collection.

Collectors treasure these single vineyard Australian wines not only for their exceptional taste but also for the story they tell—the story of the land, the grapes, and the laborious process of creating a bottle of wine that captures a sense of place. Each bottle is a tribute to the dedication and passion of the winemakers who painstakingly nurture the vines and artfully craft the wine, making it a rare gem in the fine wine world.



'...prized collectors who appreciate the purity of terroir in their collection.'



Sustainability

Sustainable viticultural practices have experienced a significant transformation in perception and importance within the Australian fine wine industry, particularly within LANGTONS Classification. The shift in understanding sustainability, particularly organic and biodynamic practices, has evolved from being viewed as suspicious, to a genuine marker of quality and distinctiveness in fine wines. This transformation is underpinned by a deeper appreciation of the implications and the immense care these practices entail, ultimately resulting in wines of character and integrity.



‘Universal acclaim and a high demand at auction with the most recent vintages hailed as all-time greats.’

Some received organic and biodynamic approaches with a degree of scepticism and, to a degree, dismissed them as mere greenwashing, with doubts about their influence on wine quality. However, a nuanced understanding and appreciation has emerged over time, emphasising these practices’ holistic benefits. Sustainable viticulture focuses on nurturing the land and the vines without compromising future generations, leading to healthier soils, reduced chemical use, and more biodiverse ecosystems. Over time, this has been linked to wines that express a truer sense of terroir, character, and a distinctive identity, debunking earlier doubts. Moreover, organic and biodynamic practices go beyond mere sustainability in the vineyard; they are regenerative and develop natural resilience.

Pioneering viticulturists, such as Vanya Cullen (Cullen Wines, Margaret River) and Julian Castagna (Castagna Wines, Beechworth), have been pivotal in driving this shift. Vanya Cullen

has been a trailblazer in sustainable practices, including biodynamics. Their dedication to organic and biodynamic viticulture has become a hallmark of their brands, and their wines showcase the benefits of such practices—wines with heightened expression of terroir, exceptional purity, and a unique sense of place. Indeed, the wines have never been better. Having the determination, courage, and vision to embark on this difficult journey has yielded rich rewards that manifest in places beyond the balance sheet.

In Beechworth, Julian Castagna has embraced biodynamic principles in grape growing. His commitment to meticulous, hands-on farming has contributed to sustainable land management. It has also resulted in wines that resonate with a sense of authenticity and energy, affirming the transformation in perception regarding sustainable practices. This commitment requires more labour, more risk, and higher costs in the vineyard. Having landed the fruit in the winery, why then would a winemaker

over extract, entomb the wine in oak, or mask the identity of the terroir with various artefacts of winemaking? Julian Castagna wants to make wines that are unique from his piece of Beechworth, and not indistinct varietal wines with the conspicuous sense of anywhere.

In Eden Valley, Prue Henschke adopted this philosophy when the world was still guffawing at then Prince Charles for his ‘woo woo’ ideas (and those of the entire movement) about a more conscientious approach to agriculture. Prue Henschke’s dedication to organic and biodynamic approaches, since around the time of the 1st Classification in 1990, is evident in wines that express the region’s distinctiveness. The most recent vintages from Henschke are now subject to universal acclaim and a high demand at auction with the most recent vintages hailed as all-time greats produced by this historic winery.

The implied care and attention involved in sustainable viticultural practices are profound. The proactive planning and the increased labour involved, such as using cover crops and natural predators instead of pesticides, require a deep understanding of the ecosystem and an unwavering commitment to quality. These practices lead to reduced yields, making the resulting grapes more concentrated and flavorful and susceptible to environmental hazards. However, the careful balance and dedication to sustainable practices result in wines that stand out in quality and distinctiveness. Subsequently, demand soars among fine wine lovers and collectors.

Once viewed sceptically, sustainable viticultural practices have undergone a paradigm shift in the Australian fine wine industry. Now recognised as markers of quality and distinctiveness, these practices embody the care and attention necessary for crafting exceptional wines. Pioneering winemakers like Henschke, Cullen, and Castagna have illustrated the tremendous potential and positive impact of sustainable viticulture, reaffirming that responsible, holistic farming not only benefits the environment but also (perhaps moreover) yields living wines that capture the essence of their origin.

‘The *LANGTONS* Classification has helped to shape the Australian fine wine market since 1990.’



Purpose and *process*

The purpose of LANGTONS Classification is to inform collectors in the wine market by identifying the most in-demand fine and luxury Australian wines. It is a reliable benchmark, reflecting specific wines' historical performance and desirability in the secondary market.

The wines are not chosen by LANGTONS. Rather, the wines are Classified based on secondary market activity. By categorising and ranking wines, potential buyers and sellers can make informed decisions,

understand market trends, and gauge investment potential.

The new edition brings with it a simplified system, bidding farewell to the three tiers of its historic incarnation. Comprising 100 wines, every wine is LANGTONS Classified, with a select honour roll therein marked as 1st Classified. This epithet is a homage to the Premier Cru (First Growth) wines that sit atop the 1855 Bordeaux Classification, the original inspiration for the LANGTONS Classification.

The process of assembling the Classification involves a small team at LANGTONS accumulating and analysing extensive auction data since the last Classification was published in 2018. LANGTONS collects and assesses data considering parameters such as price achieved, demand, and market activity. The extensive dataset is then validated by assessing abnormal activity, e.g. price spikes or troughs owing to rare or unique bottles or variability of quality such as superannuated wines or questionable closures.

The dataset is continuously refined and enhanced, with record years of secondary market trade activity significantly bolstering its robustness and reliability. The accumulation of data over the years provides us with a comprehensive perspective on the evolution of the Australian fine wine market. Record years, especially those with heightened trading activity, offer valuable insights into market dynamics, emerging trends, and shifts in consumer preferences.

Key factors considered during the

Classification process include market demand and auction prices. Wines that drive strong demand and a consistent increase in auction prices over time will likely achieve Classification and even promotion to the top tier. The dataset is meticulously reviewed, cross-referenced, and evaluated to ensure accuracy and relevance, resulting in a refined and up-to-date Classification.

The LANGTONS Classification has helped to shape the Australian fine wine market since 1990, influencing buying decisions and investment strategies. It

is a resource for collectors and investors and a testament to the rich history and potential of the Australian wine industry. Providing a structured framework and reliable information fosters transparency and confidence in the market, encouraging a thriving ecosystem for fine and luxury Australian wines.



Classification *List*

LANGTONS Classification
of Australian Wine 8th Edition





Arras EJ Carr Late Disgorged Methode Traditionelle

REGION

Tasmania, Australia

Arras EJ Carr Late Disgorged Methode Traditionelle Tasmania is the pinnacle of Australian sparkling wine craftsmanship. Created by the esteemed winemaker Ed Carr, it is a testament to Carr's mastery of traditional method sparkling wines and Arras's unwavering commitment to this vision. The late disgorgement process enhances its autolytic depth, richness, and balance. The wine spends over ten years en tirage developing a mandala of textural detail with a bouquet of peat, truffle, hazelnut, fig and sea spray.



Balnaves Of Coonawarra The Tally Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

Coonawarra, South Australia

The richly concentrated The Tally Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon is an expressive terra rossa classic, derived from the very best parcels of the vintage. The refined tannins, associated with the localised ironstone belt, give the wine a sinuous line. Aged in new and seasoned French oak for 18 to 20 months. Mulberry, blackberry and dark liquorice, lacy structure and complex tannin flavours epitomise a rigorous selection and distinct voice of place.



Bass Phillip Premium Pinot Noir

REGION

South Gippsland, Victoria

The idiosyncratic, biodynamic and greatly admired Bass Phillip Premium Pinot Noir is aged in French Allier barriques for 18 months. In a nutshell, this is a defining Victorian pinot noir. Uplifting and memorable, this multitudinous wine reflects an obsession with terroir, founded on a low-cropping, four-hectare vineyard site at Leongatha. Laissez-faire principles are the mainstay, yet meticulous timing to nature's rhythms and a biodynamic approach result in sheer beauty. Black cherry, floral and game aromas, supple viscosity and underlying toasty oak unravel after five to eight years of bottle ageing.



Bass Phillip Reserve Pinot Noir

REGION

South Gippsland, Victoria

The intense and exquisitely balanced Bass Phillip Reserve Pinot Noir is derived from a remarkably low-yielding vineyard (9000 vines per hectare and just 270 grams of fruit per brand).

Anchored in deep mineral soils renowned for producing particularly intense and concentrated fruit, the Reserve Pinot Noir is primarily based on five rows of MV6 heritage clones, colonial vine stock material first imported to Australia by James Busby in 1832.

The balanced acidity and energy in the wine reflect a confluence between soil composition, cooler temperatures during the growing season and the relatively high humidity of South Gippsland.

The wine is a brilliant example of Australian terroir, where the signatures of the vineyard site and winemaker bring profound results. In 2020, Bass Phillip was purchased by Jean-Marie Fourrier of Domaine Fourrier in Gevrey-Chambertin.

THE WINEMAKING

Natural balance and optimum flavour development are a key focus and are achieved through minimal intervention. The vineyard management at Bass Phillip has been organic since 1993 and biodynamic since 2002. The Reserve Pinot Noir is unfiltered and matured in new Allier oak for 20 months.

THE WINE

Typically this wine possesses a multi-dimensional experience with superb fruit density and beautiful silken tannins. Expect evolution in the glass, with aromas of pure, dark cherries, red plums and cranberries, before transforming into frankincense, wood varnish and gardenia. These are typical descriptors for this immaculately crafted Australian pinot noir.

Bass Phillip Premium Chardonnay

REGION

South Gippsland, Victoria

Bass Phillip Premium Chardonnay is an exquisite expression of Australian cool-climate winemaking. Sourced from Bass Phillip's close-planted, dry-grown, old-vine Leongatha vineyard, the fruit is whole-bunch pressed into a mix of new and old oak for natural fermentation. Founder Phillip Jones was a Henri Jayer follower and passed the baton to fellow Jayer acolyte and new owner, Jean-Marie Fourrier of Domaine Fourrier in Gevrey-Chambertin. This exciting new era for Bass Phillip, one of Australia's most idiosyncratic wineries, cements its reputation as a world-class producer. Bass Phillip Premium Chardonnay is a textural apogee of finesse and sophistication.





Best's Great Western Thomson Family Shiraz

REGION

Grampians, Victoria

The rare and beautiful Best's Great Western Thomson Family Shiraz is a great Victorian tradition. Once called the Thomson Centenary Shiraz, this wine was first released in 1993 to commemorate a centenary of the Thomson family settling in the area of Great Western. Representing Australia's rich heritage of ancient genetic and pre-phylloxera vineyards, it is produced predominantly from 15 rows of Concongella clone shiraz vines planted by Henry Best in 1868.

THE WINEMAKING

The 150-year-old shiraz vines are dry-grown, cropped at less than four tonnes per hectare, and delicately hand picked, selected and sorted. Open fermentation in small tubs is followed by maturation in new (around 50%) and seasoned French oak for 18 to 24 months.

Only made in the very best vintage years, the original 15 rows yield very small amounts of fruit. Only 300 cases of the flagship wine are released in successful years.

THE WINE

This rich, generous wine shows intense blackberry and roasted chestnut aromas, white pepper, clove, iodine and smoked meats, compressed by cedary oak and svelte yet gravelly tannins, that disperse gracefully with extended bottle age. A complex and voluminous wine, distinguished among Australia's cool climate icons.



Best's Great Western Bin 0 Shiraz

REGION

Grampians, Victoria

Made from four Concongella shiraz clone blocks (planted in 1966, 1970, 1992 and 1994), the gorgeously perfumed and voluminous Best's Great Western Bin 0 Shiraz is one of Australia's oldest trademarked wines. Open fermented and matured for 18 months in new (20%) and seasoned French oak barriques and hogsheads, it is exemplified by blackberry, mulberry, violet and dried rose petal aromas, all framed by diaphanous tannins that grow in trajectory with air, melding with underlying savoury oak.

Bindi Original Vineyard Pinot Noir

REGION

Macedon Ranges, Victoria

Bindi Original Vineyard Pinot Noir shares an almost identical winemaking approach to the Block 5 Pinot Noir. The style epitomises the strength and authenticity of the organically farmed Original Vineyard and Bindi's minimal-intervention winemaking philosophy. Maturation occurs in French barrels (25% new) over 15 to 17 months. This pinot noir has ethereal redcurrant and strawberry aromas, sweet and supple textural precision, and chiselled mineral length.



Bindi Quartz Chardonnay

REGION

Macedon Ranges, Victoria

Bindi Quartz Chardonnay served as a forebear of the linear, pungent, mineral-infused style that defines the contemporary Australian template. The caveat, however, is that, unlike others that pushed the envelope too far, this sumptuous wine suffered no dearth of flavour from its inception until today. The wine brims with orchard and stone fruits sewn taut by judicious oak and cool-climate tension, as authoritative as sheerly delicious. The fealty to the meagre half-hectare-quartz-smattered block manifests as a stamp of uncanny persistence and tensile length.



Bindi Block 5 Pinot Noir

REGION

Macedon Ranges, Victoria

Block 5 Pinot Noir from Bindi, nestled in the Macedon Ranges, has a history rich in excellence. The vineyard, with its quartz-laden soils atop sandstone, mudstone, and clay, is a microcosm of life, teeming with minerals and microbes that breathe life into its vines. This unique terroir imparts a distinct character to the wine, reflecting the region's reputation for producing some of Australia's finest pinot noir. Bindi's Block 5 has carved a niche in the world of wine, celebrated for its ability to express the very soul of this exceptional terroir, making it a coveted and respected choice among pinot noir aficionados.

THE WINEMAKING

The Bindi Block 5 Pinot Noir undergoes meticulous winemaking, maturing for approximately 15 to 17 months. A harmonious balance is achieved through ageing in a combination of new (35%) and seasoned French oak, shaping this wine into a remarkable expression of its terroir and varietal character.

THE WINE

Defined by its distinctiveness, the Block 5 reveals a captivating melange of spicy, earthy autumnal notes of mulch, porcini and hung game, backed by redcurrant and black cherry fruits. The wine's chiffon-like texture belies its understated power and consummate grace.



Brokenwood Graveyard Vineyard Shiraz

REGION

Hunter Valley, New South Wales

Brokenwood's expressive Graveyard Vineyard Shiraz is the doyen of the Hunter Valley shiraz genre, following on from the great Lindemans Hunter River burgundies of the 1960s. The wine evokes superb individuality of the vineyard as well as showing profound regional definition, especially with the patina of age. It epitomises modernity and heritage yet retains a compelling freshness.

The wine is a culmination of the revolutionary work of Maurice O'Shea, the winemaking philosophy of Max Schubert, the original aspirations of James Halliday, John Beeston and Tony Albert and the intuitive winemaking of former veteran chief winemaker Iain Riggs.

The vines are descendants of colonial stock, including the James Busby collection, and are located on heavy red clay over loam with some pockets of ironstone, with a mean and shallow topsoil.

The first vintage of Graveyard Vineyard Shiraz was made in 1983, comprising a meticulous selection of the best parcels, mostly from the oldest plantings.

THE WINEMAKING

With a very low yield of two-and-a-half tonnes per hectare, typically the berries have a high skin-to-juice ratio, resulting in saturated colours and intense flavours. Matured in new (30-40%) and seasoned French oak barriques and puncheons for up to 14 months.

THE WINE

Medium-bodied, the Graveyard Vineyard Shiraz displays intense blackberry and aniseed aromas, savoury oak characters, brine, polished leather and floral to garden herb notes, giving way to opulent gamey characters that develop with time. Perfumed, sumptuous and seductive, this wine articulates the very best of savoury Hunter shiraz.



Cape Mentelle Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

Margaret River, Western Australia

The classic age-worthy Cape Mentelle Cabernet Sauvignon, with its beautiful fragrance, pure blackcurrant fruit, dried herb notes and sinewy structure, is an historic wine style of the Margaret River region. Deriving from the wind-protected Wallcliffe Vineyard, planted between 1970 and 1973, it is made using classic Bordelais techniques with an Australian twist. Each batch is gently basket pressed into new (50–60%) and one-year-old French oak for a maturation period of between 18 and 24 months.



Charles Melton Nine Popes Shiraz Grenache Mourvedre

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

Charmingly referencing Châteauneuf-du-Pape (in southeastern France) Nine Popes stands tall as one of the Barossa's most characterful and complex wines. Matured in predominantly 25% new and seasoned French oak barriques, it perfectly combines the essence of each variety. The wine is characterised by exotic, musky, mulberry, plum, kirsch and game aromas, ripe yet vigorous tannins, and superb richness of fruit.

Castagna Genesis Syrah

REGION

Beechworth, Victoria

Biodynamic viticulture, laissez-faire winemaking, and meticulous attention to detail give the Castagna Genesis Syrah a strong authentic personality embedding it into the pantheon of Australia's most Rhône-like articulations. Co-fermented with viognier, vinification is followed by maturation in tightly grained new and seasoned French oak for 18 to 24 months. A highly scented, beautifully defined style boasting scents of boysenberry, white pepper, clove, nori and lilac, with smoked meats defining an umami warmth, richness and length.





Chris Ringland Dry Grown Barossa Ranges Shiraz

REGION

Barossa, South Australia

The Chris Ringland Dry Grown Barossa Ranges Shiraz, originally Three Rivers, is a modern classic representing the best of Barossa terroir, early 20th-century vine stock, Australian inventiveness and modern winemaking practices.

The north-east facing vineyard, located on the corner of Flaxmans Valley Road and Stone Chimney Creek Road, was established by Thomas Randall in 1910. It was acquired in 1994 by winemaker Chris Ringland who gradually restored the vineyard.

The soils are shallow and skeletal, with granitic sandy loams over underlying clay and moisture-holding podzols. The dry-grown, ungrafted, low-yielding vines, are pruned hard to adapt to the growing season. As a consequence the postage stamp-sized vineyard, at only 1.5 hectares, is renowned for its unusually thick-skinned shiraz. Deep in colour, exquisitely concentrated and laden with tannins, the fruit character exemplifies the enduring quality of pre-phylloxera vine stock and typical Barossan weight and generosity.





Clarendon Hills Astralis Syrah

REGION

McLaren Vale, South Australia

Clarendon Hills Astralis Syrah holds its place at the front of the contemporary ultra-fine wine movement. Combining an outstanding vineyard, meticulous winemaking and personal expression, the resulting wine is extraordinary.

Winemaker and former biochemist Roman Bratasiuk was inspired by the classic South Australian wines of the 1950s and 1960s, particularly those of Penfolds. Since purchasing the old Elysium winery at Blewitt Springs in McLaren Vale, he has pioneered the path for contemporary winemakers.



Clonakilla Shiraz Viognier

REGION

Canberra District, New South Wales

The inventive and original Clonakilla Shiraz Viognier takes Australian shiraz in a completely new direction. A combination of a mature vineyard site, faith in nature and near-religious winemaking philosophies has resulted in a distinctive wine of extraordinary aromatic complexity, dimension, natural balance and completeness.

Doctor John Kirk planted a vineyard at Murrumbateman near Canberra in 1971. Kirk also planted a small plot of viognier in the mid 1980s, and the Clonakilla Shiraz Viognier came about in 1992 when Kirk's fourth son, Tim Kirk, co-fermented the viognier fruit with shiraz. He also included a tiny amount of pinot noir and mataro in the early trial blend.

The fruit is now sourced from the best shiraz and viognier parcels of the Murrumbateman Vineyard. Located on a gentle fold of the cool southern tablelands at 600 metres above sea level, the soils are granitic, with sandy brown and red loams over friable clay to deliver elegance, perfume and ample spiced complexity, embedding this revolutionary wine firmly in the domestic pantheon of greats.





Coriole Lloyd Reserve Shiraz

REGION

McLaren Vale, South Australia

Sourced from a single vineyard block planted by Geoffrey Kay in 1919, Coriole Lloyd Reserve Shiraz is a postmodern style. Combining concrete and steel open fermenters followed by barrel fermentation in new (25%) and seasoned French oak, for 18 months. This is a robust, concentrated, beautifully balanced wine, typified by intense ripe blackberry, baking spice and praline aromas, compressed by mocha oak and saline, maritime freshness.



Crawford River Riesling

REGION

Henty, Victoria

Established in 1874 as a cattle station, the isolated 11.5-hectare vineyard at Crawford River is positioned at the edge of a volcanic lava flow. The dry-grown vines planted in 1975 produce exquisite riesling fruit. Juice is settled with no filtration prior to fermentation, followed by six to eight weeks on gross lees and four to six weeks on fine lees before blending. With its intense pear to apple granita and fleshy lemon curd to pink grapefruit pulpy richness, persistent and finessed. Unusual for the Australian idiom, Crawford River Riesling also ventures into a pithy stone fruited spectrum. Superb thrust of fruit and parry of structure.



Craiglee Shiraz

REGION

Sunbury, Victoria

The distinctive retro-modern Craiglee Shiraz combines an 1865 heritage with low-impact contemporary practices. Vinification takes place in open fermenters, with a small portion barrel fermented. Maturation follows in new (20%) and old French oak for 12 to 15 months. Typified by aromatic and complex pepper, raspberry and spice aromas, supple mineral texture and fine but firm tannins.





Cullen Diana Madeline Cabernet Merlot

REGION

Margaret River, Western Australia

Cullen Diana Madeline Cabernet Merlot boasts a distinctive intensity, purity and resonance, reflective of the environment and minimalist, sustainable production methods, it is irrefutably one of Australia's most beautiful and authentic red wines.

Founders Diana and Kevin Cullen planted their first commercial vineyard at Wilyabrup in 1971, on the advice of Doctor John Gladstones, after first running sheep and cattle on the property. Further plantings took place in 1976 and 1988. Today the mature 28-hectare dry-grown vineyard represents a model of certified biodynamic farming with the belief that individuality of site can be achieved through working with nature holistically, rather than against it. Winemaker Vanya Cullen believes this translates to a profound consistency in the quality, freshness and character of the fruit.

THE WINEMAKING

Grapes are harvested by hand at optimum tannin ripeness, flavour profile and acid balance. Partially barrel fermented, then matured in new (30-70% depending on vintage) and seasoned, tightly grained French oak. The wine constitutes majority cabernet sauvignon (93%), merlot (5%), and a tiny portion of malbec and petit verdot, with each variety adding complexity.

THE WINE

This vibrant wine boasts persistent blackcurrant pastille, dried sage, olive brine and dark cherry accents, lifted by violet and subtle greenery. The structural latticework is supple, fine-grained and impeccably applied, expressing the very best of Australian viticulture and winemaking philosophy. Further complexity will develop with time while sustaining vivacity on the palate.



Cullen Kevin John Chardonnay

REGION

Margaret River, Western Australia

The classic Cullen Kevin John Chardonnay, named after founder Doctor Kevin Cullen, derives from 40-year-old vines grown through biodynamic viticulture. The wine is whole bunch pressed and fermented with wild yeast in barriques. Matured for 10 months in new (30%) and seasoned oak, the cellaring style is typified by intense notes of chamomile, yellow nectarine and grapefruit aromas, with a mid-palate redolent with creamed cashew, hazelnut and nougat. The finish is of a rapier-like intensity marked by al dente grip and a long skein of maritime acidity.



Curly Flat Pinot Noir

REGION

Macedon Ranges, Victoria

Curly Flat is one of the finest producers in the Macedon Ranges in Victoria, making some of Australia's most highly regarded pinot noir with a profound sense of place. Co-founder Jenifer Kolkka drives an ethos of exacting attention to detail with biodynamic practices, harvesting by hand in the estate's vineyard, and meticulous practice in the winery. In essence, a marriage of the sensory joy of pinot noir and the appreciation of terroir. Under the stewardship of winemaker Matt Harrop, the pinot noir flaunts lifted fruits from raspberry to plum, aromatic spices, autumnal mulch and svelte tannins are given direction by supple oak and juicy, succulent freshness.



Deep Woods Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

Margaret River, Western Australia

Deep Woods Estate's sustainable and minimal-intervention farming and new trellising systems to optimise exposure have brought the vineyard into the big time. Vinification on skins (12 to 22 days depending on the season) is followed by 16 to 22 months maturation in new (40%) and seasoned French oak barrels. The Deep Woods Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon is an emerging classic. This medium-bodied style is imbued with power and elegance, pure fruit definition, dried sage and bay leaf accents and fine-grained grape tannins melded to integrated savoury oak.

De Bortoli Noble One Botrytis Semillon

REGION

Riverina, New South Wales

The paradoxical De Bortoli Noble One is a unique Australian experience that confounds conventional thinking. Based on estate-grown semillon grapes, botrytised sweet juice is batch vinified with specially selected yeasts, followed by 12 months maturation in French oak barriques.





d'Arenberg The Dead Arm Shiraz

REGION

McLaren Vale, South Australia

Imagination, heritage and old vine stock material underpin the authenticity and character of d'Arenberg's The Dead Arm Shiraz. This powerful shiraz undergoes traditional winemaking practices, such as foot treading, barrel fermentation and maturation in new and seasoned French and American oak for around 18 to 22 months. The process results in a typically concentrated wine with blackberry, plum, baking spice, charcuterie and five-spice aromas, built on a foundation of fine, gravelly tannins, ample oak and underlying savoury nuances.



Domaine A Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

Coal River Valley, Tasmania

English country garden aromas, with nuances of Tasmanian brush and tomato leaf, give Domaine A Cabernet Sauvignon an evocative quality. Derived from the Stoney Vineyard, the oldest in the Coal River Valley, it represents a polarising and distinctive mid-weighted foil to the fuller cabernets of Australia's mainland. Matured in new French oak barriques for 24 to 36 months, the wine is typified by violets, roses and blackcurrant fruits, fine-grained tannins, inky texture and persistent mineral length.





Giaconda Estate Vineyard Shiraz

REGION

Beechworth, Victoria

The idiosyncratic, biodynamic and greatly admired Giaconda Estate Vineyard Shiraz is founded on the meagre, sub-alpine granitic soils that have come to define Beechworth's terroir and its inimitable expression of weight, intensity and drive, underlain by an uncanny levity of being. Giaconda Estate Vineyard Shiraz is an apogee of inimitable power and weightlessness, unravelling across a raft of violet, clove, peppercorn, dried nori and blueberry fruit accents, before a second wave of graphite, tapenade and charcuterie comes into play. The feel is one of richness, yet the finish is energetic, taut and almost balletic, serving as a springboard to impressive length and longevity.



Giaconda Estate Vineyard Chardonnay

REGION

Beechworth, Victoria

The fabled Giaconda Estate Vineyard Chardonnay is renowned for its precision, generosity, superb mineral structure and longevity.

Giaconda was established by a mechanical engineer, Rick Kinzbrunner, who purchased land in Beechworth at the foothills of the Victorian Alps. Deriving from an unusual, south-facing vineyard, sheltered from the full impact of the sun, the wine expresses a distinctive voice of place. The low-yield organically grown vines are located at 400 metres above sea level and sit on meagre, mineralised granitic loams underlain by decomposed gravel and clay.

Intuitive winemaking practices, a mastery of barrel work and a feeling for the natural environment gives this Beechworth chardonnay a special place in Australian wine.

THE WINEMAKING

Grapes are hand picked in the cool temperatures of early morning, lightly crushed and then basket pressed. Fermented and matured in new (30%) and seasoned French oak barrels for around 20 months, deep underground in a granite cave with naturally high humidity and a stable temperature of 16°C.

THE WINE

The style is exemplified by intense lemon curd, grapefruit, reductive struck-match notes and lanolin to stone fruits. The texture is creamy but taut, marked by a signature al dente grip and a fresh mineral cut. With age – up to five years for vintages under cork, longer for screwcap – this wine develops greater complexity and interest.





Grant Burge Meshach Shiraz

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

Named after Grant Burge's great grandfather, the powerful and generous Meshach Shiraz captures the heart of Barossa tradition. Sourced primarily from century-old vines, vinified with traditional techniques and matured in French and American oak hogsheads for 20 to 22 months, the classic style is exemplified by ripe blackberry, smoked meats, vanillin oak and praline to roasted chestnut and panforte nuances, rich and chocolatey.



Grosset Polish Hill Riesling

REGION

Clare Valley, South Australia

Grosset Polish Hill Riesling stands out as a defining style and champion for the modern day Australian wine aesthetic. Pure, exact and linear with superb depth and persistence, it expresses both integrity of the vineyard site and a prodigious technical accuracy.

The riesling is comprised of three clones – two German and one rare local clone – harvested exclusively from the eight-hectare, organically certified Polish Hill Vineyard in the Clare Valley. Located on hard rock, the site is gently sloping, sitting on silt and shallow shales over a thin crust of clay and gravel, all atop a bed of blue slate that is estimated at 500 million years old.

Lean, austere and naturally balanced fruit is the result of vines struggling to draw nutrients. Small, thick skinned, yellow tinged berries the vectors of mineral-infused tonic, sea spray, kaffir lime, pink grapefruit and preserved Moroccan lemon rind accents teeming long across the tensile finish. A wine with an enviable track record, built for the cellar.





Hardys Eileen Hardy Shiraz

REGION

McLaren Vale, South Australia

With fruit derived from 50 to 110-year-old vineyards in the McLaren Vale, the highly concentrated, tannin-ripe Hardys Eileen Hardy Shiraz is open fermented and basket pressed before maturation in new (25%–33%) and seasoned French oak for 16 to 20 months. Hallmarks of this wine include brambly ripe fruits alongside baking spice, clove and white pepper, with an underlying smokiness. An opulent expression built on finely wrought, silky tannins and assiduously used oak.



Henschke Hill Of Grace Shiraz

REGION

Eden Valley, South Australia

The atmospheric and beautiful Henschke Hill of Grace Shiraz is Australia's most famous single vineyard wine.

The vineyard was established at Parrot Hill in the Eden Valley (around 1860) by Nicolaus Stanitzki and has since been handed down through the generations to the Henschke family.

Four generations worked the vineyard for a century before Cyril Henschke produced the first Hill of Grace Shiraz in 1958. This coincided with the centenary of the Gradenberg Lutheran Church, the beautiful stone building that Hill of Grace vineyard takes its name from. This wine was shared as a village wine for more than 100 years.

Although first produced in 1958, it took nearly 30 years before the Hill of Grace Shiraz became truly famous, an effort inextricably connected to the hard work and dedication of Stephen and Prue Henschke.

THE WINEMAKING

Biodynamic principles underpin vineyard management. The four-hectare, ungrafted single vineyard is dry-grown on its own roots. The soils range from deep silt to sandy and silty loams over red clay interspersed with gravels.

The Hill of Grace vineyard is picked just before the full moon of Easter. Submerged cap fermentation is carried out in wax-lined, open top concrete fermenters. This is followed by maturation in new (58%) and seasoned French (85%) and American oak hogsheads for 18 months.

THE WINE

An intensely perfumed, concentrated and velvety wine, Hill of Grace is the quintessential Eden Valley shiraz. Blackberry pastille, sage, mocha nuances, lacy tannins, voluminous freshness, soaring violets and underlying savoury oak are hallmarks of the style. Age will develop roasted chestnut to espresso nuances underpinned by a cornucopia of further complexities.



Henschke Mount Edelstone Shiraz

REGION

Eden Valley, South Australia

The proliferation of vineyards in South Australia, combined with no known records, brings some mystery to the origins of the Mount Edelstone shiraz plantings. However, almost every avenue leads back to William Macarthur, Camden Park garden and nursery, and the James Busby collection. It is believed that Mount Edelstone Shiraz is sourced from dry-grown, centenarian vines planted in 1912 by Ronald Angas from stock sourced from William Gilbert at Pewsey Vale Station. South Australia's strict, but visionary quarantine laws of 1899 meant that new plantings in 1912 were made with existing material available in the state.

The 16-hectare vineyard, based on ungrafted pre-phylloxera genetic material, comprises fruit possessing remarkable sub-regional definition and acid balance. The vines are grown on their own roots over deep, sandy loam over gravelly red clay, overlying laminated siltstone. The use of biodynamic compost, with straw mulch in the vine rows, is an important aspect of vine management.

Cyril Henschke made his first Mount Edelstone Claret in 1952 from the then-40-year-old vines while the vineyard was still owned by Colin Angas. The Henschke family acquired the vineyard in 1974; by the early 1980s scientific trials were instigated to improve soil and vine health. With over 60 contiguous vintages Mount Edelstone Shiraz is one of Australia's greatest single-vineyard wines, capturing the Eden Valley floral aesthetic while showcasing the hallmarks of great terroir.

THE WINEMAKING

Traditional submerged cap fermentation in wax-lined, open-top concrete fermenters is followed by maturation in 34% new and 66% seasoned (81% French and 19% American) oak hogsheads for 18 months.

THE WINE

Mount Edelstone epitomises the aromatic beauty and cooler climate fruit flavours of Eden Valley shiraz. The pure blackberry, dark cherry, lilac, black pepper and sage aromas are underlain by a detailed matrix of tannin and torque. The wine reaches its optimal maturity after eight to 15 years, although the best vintages boast even greater ageing potential.



Henschke Hill Of Roses Shiraz

REGION

Eden Valley, South Australia

The Hill of Roses is an Australian equivalent of a lieu-dit or a specific, prized plot within a hallowed vineyard. In this instance, we are speaking of Australia's most famous single vineyard, Hill of Grace. The Hill of Roses plot was planted in 1989 as a nursery block, tended according to organic and biodynamic practices. The decision was made to keep its wines as a stand-alone articulation of younger vines, lacking the 35-year threshold of maturity to be included in the Hill of Grace cuvée. Yet the geological nuances here are distinctive, making for a floral, svelte and energetic wine marked by kirsch, tapenade, dried sage and typically Eden Valley florals and tea leaf. Whether this nuanced cuvée is eventually incorporated into the Hill of Grace Shiraz remains unknown. What is certain is that it is an absolutely delicious wine deserved of its place in the LANGTONS firmament.



Henschke Cyril Henschke Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

Eden Valley, South Australia

The beautifully perfumed, single vineyard Henschke Cyril Henschke Cabernet Sauvignon blend evokes an unforgettable sense of place. Vinified in headed-down open fermenters and completing fermentation in new (42%) and seasoned French oak, a further 18 months' maturation allows the wine to develop intense blackcurrant and violet aromatic complexity, finely knit tannins, inky suppleness and integrated cedar and vanilla notes.



Henschke Keyneton Euphonium Shiraz Cabernet Malbec

REGION

Eden Valley, South Australia

The classic Henschke Keyneton Euphonium Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot, with a skerrick of cabernet franc (2%), is an Eden Valley-dominant Barossa blend, drawing from Cyril's original plantings of shiraz in the Eden Valley in the 1960s. Traditional vinification and maturation in new (15%) and seasoned French and American oak hogsheads for 18 months results in a sinuous wine of ripe, dark berried fruits, tea tree, dried herb notes and plush, velvety textures.



Jim Barry The Armagh

REGION

Clare Valley, South Australia

Named after the Clare Valley settlement founded by Irish settlers in 1848, The Armagh Shiraz comprises opulent and muscular shiraz fruit that explodes with aroma and flavour.

While stylistically different, the original winemaking philosophy of The Armagh Shiraz was in part inspired by neighbouring vineyard Wendouree. The Jim Barry wine sits somewhere between the vigorous, elegantly structured muscular style of Wendouree and the chocolatey richness of Penfolds Grange.

This beautifully concentrated shiraz is sourced from a low-yielding vineyard that was planted in the Clare Valley in 1968, on a north-west-facing sandy gravel slope. Elevated at 400 metres, the position ensures maximum sun exposure, resulting in fully ripe fruit and typically powerful, age-worthy wines.



Katnook Estate Odyssey Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

Coonawarra, South Australia

Distinctive and age-worthy, Katnook Estate Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced from prime terra rossa vineyards, established around 1970. After classic vinification the wine is matured in new and seasoned French and American oak for 15 to 18 months. Intense blackcurrant and mulberry aromas, generous pure fruit flavours, fine-grained but vigorous tannins, and underlying mocha notes are typical of the claret style.

John Duval Plexus Shiraz Grenache Mourvedre

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

John Duval's Plexus Shiraz Grenache Mourvedre, with its interlaced parts and characters, is a retro-modern style borrowing from traditional winemaking techniques. These include partial barrel fermentation of shiraz parcels and maturation in new (10%) and seasoned French oak hogsheads and puncheons. Sourced primarily from mature vineyards (principally in the Tanunda, Light Pass and Ebenezer districts of the Barossa), this wine is exemplified by dark and red berry fruits, espresso notes, attractive volume and density. As the former winemaker of Penfold's Grange, Duval is a master of polished exactitude.



Lake's Folly White Label Cabernet Blend

REGION

Hunter Valley, New South Wales

The highly individual, expressive and important Lake's Folly Cabernet Blend comes from Australia's original boutique winery, founded by food scientist Max Lake. Deriving from vines planted in volcanic, ferrous alluvial soils, the wine is open fermented and then aged in a combination of new and three-year-old French oak barrels for 12 months. The blend of cabernet sauvignon, shiraz, merlot, and petit verdot is an elegant, perfumed, distinguished mid-weighted style, redolent with violet, blackcurrant, typical Hunter terracotta and earthy characters, neatly compressed by fine-grained tannins and underlying savoury oak. The track record is one of prodigious ageability.





Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay

REGION

Margaret River, Western Australia

The Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay is a timeless representation of the Margaret River region. Tricia and Denis Horgan purchased the land in 1969 as a cattle farm, and under the advice of Napa Valley winemaker Robert Mondavi, identified it as ideal for premium wine production. Leeuwin Estate was born and the rest is history.

The unirrigated Block 20 Vineyard is planted with the Gin Gin clone and is Margaret River chardonnay's mother vineyard. Now more than 40 years old, many cuttings from this vineyard were used to establish many other wineries in the region. The pristine fruit definition and winemaking philosophies of Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay inspired other local producers to pursue a similar paradigm of excellence. Today, the Gin Gin clone and Margaret River chardonnay are inextricably linked as a result of the Horgans' vision.

Leeuwin Estate's Art Series wines are the most opulent and age-worthy in their collection, complemented by paintings commissioned by leading contemporary Australian artists.

THE WINEMAKING

Moderate, Mediterranean conditions allow the vines to grow under very little stress, on top of a gravelly soil profile. Fruit is hand picked, fermented in new French oak barriques and matured in the same barrel for 11 months. Bâttonage enriches the wine, conferring texture, complexity and structure.

THE WINE

Leeuwin Estate Chardonnay is a long-lived wine boasting superb fruit definition, clarity and regional provenance. The palate is creamy, yet a skein of maritime acidity evinces authority, life and incredible length. Bottle ageing results in greater harmony with grapefruit, stone fruit allusions and cantaloupe meshed with complex lanolin nuances, toasted nuts and nougatine.



Leeuwin Estate Art Series Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

Margaret River, Western Australia

Leeuwin Estate Art Series Cabernet Sauvignon is made up of the Houghton clone and a touch of malbec. Batch vinification is followed by maturation in new (50%) French oak and one-year-old "chateau" barrels for up to 24 months. In classic southern Margaret River style, this wine is typified by blackcurrant, cassis and tobacco leaf aromas, underlying savoury, new oak and fine tannic detail.



Main Ridge Estate Half Acre Pinot Noir

REGION

Mornington Peninsula, Victoria

Main Ridge Estate's highly prized and rare Half Acre Pinot Noir's tiny half-acre block was planted in 1975 on very shallow red basalt soils, and has since tripled in size (to a still minuscule 1.5 acres, or 0.6 hectares). Burgundian winemaking techniques are followed by maturation in new and one-year-old French oak barriques for around 17 months. Renowned for its glorious perfume, silky smooth texture, fruit complexity and mineral length, the Main Ridge Estate Half Acre Pinot Noir is a compelling reflection of site and meticulous winemaking.



Majella The Mallea

REGION

Coonawarra, South Australia

The generously proportioned and voluminous Majella The Mallea is vinified in headed-down fermenters before completing fermentation in barrel. Maturation takes place in new, tightly grained French oak hogsheads for around 16 months. With its intense mocha and berry aromas, ripe tannins, attractive savoury oak and meaty complexity, the Mallea epitomises the classic Australian marriage of cabernet sauvignon and shiraz.

Moss Wood Chardonnay

REGION

Margaret River, Western Australia

Moss Wood's Chardonnay is a rich and expressive masterpiece of Margaret River winemaking. Nestled in the pristine Willyabrup sub-district, this chardonnay reflects the region's excellence. With the first vintage produced in 1980 (the first commercial release was in 1983), Moss Wood's Chardonnay has become renowned for its remarkable balance between power and finesse. The wine offers vibrant citrus and stone fruit flavours, harmoniously blended with hints of oak, creating a complex and layered palate. Its crisp acidity provides structure and longevity, while subtle mineral undertones add depth. This chardonnay is a testament to Moss Wood's commitment to crafting wines of elegance, purity, and lasting distinction – a fine addition to the Classification.





Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

Margaret River, Western Australia

The doyen of Margaret River cabernet sauvignon commands a distinct character and voice of place. Its soaring aromatics, classical structure and voluminous flow reflect the rolling Wilyabrup landscape, and imaginative and consistent winemaking philosophies.

Established by Doctor Bill and Sandra Pannell in 1969, the inaugural release of the Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon was in 1973, where only 250 dozen bottles were produced. The wine has since become highly celebrated, largely due to its reputation for graceful ageing.

The unirrigated, dry-grown 15-hectare vineyard is located on north-east-facing, gently sloping sandy and gravelly red-brown loams over clay. Now owned by winemaker Keith Mugford and his wife Clare, the vineyard's management is focused on sustainable farming practices and optimisation of fruit quality.





Mount Mary Chardonnay

REGION

Yarra Valley, Victoria

The refined and beautiful Mount Mary estate-grown chardonnay is a pioneer of the contemporary chardonnay aesthetic. Typically barrel fermentation and maturation take place in 30% new French oak, older barriques and puncheons with regular bâtonnage. This age-worthy classic possesses nectarine, pear and grapefruit aromas, lanolin nuances and fresh mineral textures (an absence of malolactic fermentation preserves the natural acid balance) developing breadth and complexity with age.



Mount Mary Pinot Noir

REGION

Yarra Valley, Victoria

Mount Mary's original pinot noir vines, a mix of many clones, were sourced from Western Victoria in 1971 – material acquired prior to the consideration of individual clonal selections. These have been supplemented by newer plantings (including MV6, 777 and 115 clones) on American rootstocks. Mount Mary Pinot Noir, an exemplar of Australian winemaking, is one of the most coveted wines in the country. With limited production and insatiable demand, it has become an icon of exclusivity, hence its position in the Classification.

THE WINEMAKING

Mount Mary Pinot Noir fruit is crafted delicately with the grapes undergoing an 8-10 day fermentation period, followed by 16 months of ageing in French oak barriques, 25% new. The wine is gently nurtured with minimal fining and filtration before bottling, preserving its pure, unadulterated character.

THE WINE

Mount Mary Pinot Noir is typified by fragrant strawberry, quince paste and cherry aromas married to a supple, evenly proportioned palate. This wine embodies the essence of the Yarra Valley, offering a harmonious balance between power and finesse, resulting in a truly remarkable expression that lacks no dearth of savoury tannins, a quality that makes Sam Middleton prize. Mount Mary Pinot Noir is rabidly sought by enthusiasts and collectors alike.



Mount Mary Quintet Cabernet Blend

REGION

Yarra Valley, Victoria

The expressive and ethereal Mount Mary Quintet is recognised as one of Australia's greatest cabernet styles. With its distinctive character and evocative scent of place, it is a profound hallmark of Yarra Valley terroir and three generations of family effort.

Established in 1972, the low-yielding, dry-grown 17-hectare vineyard is located on sandy clay loams over degenerating Silurian shales. The north-facing vineyard is planted with cabernet sauvignon (50%), merlot (25%), cabernet franc (15%), malbec (5%) and petit verdot (5%). Seasonality, fruitfulness of the vines and the personality of the fruit in each vintage determine the final outcome of the blend.

Mount Mary's Quintet style has evolved over the decades reflecting the age of the vines, the transparency of the vineyard site and refinements in winemaking techniques. Yet this medium bodied wine of understated power still references the ambitions and philosophies of Dr John Middleton, who revolutionised the fine wine scene during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

THE WINEMAKING

Temperature controlled vinification, including 12-14 days on skins to optimise aromas, colour, tannin and flavour, is followed by 22 months of maturation in various types of oak barrels; around 25% in large format (1500L or larger), 30% in new barriques and the remainder in two to five-year-old barriques.

THE WINE

Counterintuitive and alternative, Mount Mary pioneered a new genre of cabernet where pristine fruit, fine-grained tannins, silky texture and empathetic oak maturation resulted in poise, elegance and flow. These elements, superb definition and proven ageing potential exemplify the individuality of vineyard. With a reputation for longevity, expect the development of graphite, beef bouillon, roasted chestnut, a verdant lilt and cigar box characters.



Mount Langi Ghiran Vineyards Langi Shiraz

REGION

Grampians, Victoria

The Langi Shiraz block at Mount Langi Ghiran is planted with Swiss clonal material originally sourced from nearby Best's Concongella Vineyard. Postmodern vinification includes open fermentation with some whole bunch and regular hand plunging, followed by partial barrel fermentation. Maturation takes place for around 14 months in new (45%) and seasoned French oak. The expressive Langi Shiraz is typified by ethereal blackberry, brambly dark cherry, menthol and pepper aromas, married to supple textures and underlying savoury oak.





Mount Pleasant Lovedale Semillon

REGION

Hunter Valley, New South Wales

Planted in 1946, the highly prized Lovedale Vineyard is the source of the Mount Pleasant Lovedale Semillon, one of the region's great wine styles. Early picked and cool vinified, the wine is tightly concentrated and austere with floral lemon curd aromatics, a core of sweet fruit and strong, assertive acid cut. Bottle ageing under screwcap enables the wine to develop into something special. The colour deepens to gold and toasty, while lanolin and barley water characters develop as richness and further complexities emerge.



Oakridge 864 Chardonnay

REGION

Yarra Valley, Victoria

The pristine, expressive and genre-leading Oakridge 864 Chardonnay profoundly reflects the power of the Yarra Valley landscape and empathy of spirit. Low-cropping vineyards, hand picking, whole bunch pressing, oxidative handling, natural yeasts, high solids, warm ferments and maturation in oak puncheons result in a wine of superb white peach and flinty aromatics, fine, chalky yet supple textures, and a precise line of purity.

Mount Pleasant Maurice O'Shea Shiraz

REGION

Hunter Valley, New South Wales

Maurice O'Shea Shiraz is made from exquisite old vine material. In a salute to the heritage of Mount Pleasant, the fruit is derived from the Old Hill Vineyard planted in 1880 and the 1921 Old Paddock, both established on heavy, rich, volcanic soils. The wine completes fermentation and is matured in new and seasoned large format French oak. Intense bramble, plum and mocha aromas, generous fruit sweetness, lacy tannins and balanced vanillin oak exemplify the style.



Paringa Estate Estate Pinot Noir

REGION

Mornington Peninsula, Victoria

Paringa Estate is among the pioneers of cool climate viticulture on the Mornington Peninsula. While maker Lindsay McCall was not the first vigneron, he was among an early handful, unsure of what varieties were best suited to the challenging maritime climate. Pinot noir, of course, became the beacon of light that shone on an illustrious future. In 2017, Lindsay's son, Jamie McCall, seized the reins. A warming climate and ensuing higher alcohols have been toned by precise viticulture, achieving optimal ripeness at lower baumé. The wines have never been better! Think lustrous blue fruits, a smattering of whole bunch spice here and there and sinuous, savoury tannins that corral the fruit while compressing the whole into a bone of welcome tension.





Penfolds Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz

REGION

South Australia

First produced in 1960, Penfolds Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz has built a prodigious reputation in the world of wine. Inextricably linked to Penfolds flagship Bin 95 Grange, Bin 389 is affectionately known as “Baby Grange”. This exceptional blend has earned its place as an Australian wine icon. The combination of cabernet sauvignon and shiraz, skillfully crafted, results in a wine that embodies Penfolds’ commitment to excellence. Its rich, complex, and age-worthy character has consistently delighted connoisseurs and collectors for decades. Bin 389’s enduring reputation rests on its ability to offer both approachability in its youth and a remarkable capacity to evolve, gaining complexity and depth over time. It stands as a testament to Penfolds’ dedication to crafting remarkable wines.

THE WINEMAKING

Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz showcases the meticulous craftsmanship for which Penfolds is known. It undergoes vinification and maturation in new (32%) and seasoned American oak hogsheads sourced from ex-Grange and Bin 707 barrels. Aged for 12 months, this process imparts rich flavours and depth, contributing to the wine’s distinctive character and complexity.

THE WINE

Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz is renowned for its rich and harmonious flavour profile—a brilliant fusion of cabernet sauvignon and shiraz. The wine offers a bold and complex palate featuring lush black fruits, dark chocolate, and hints of vanilla from the American oak. This opulent combination of flavours is seamlessly balanced by fine-grained tannins, providing structure and longevity. Expect a symphony of ripe plum, cassis, and subtle spiciness, making it a wine that unfolds beautifully, showcasing its exceptional depth and complexity.





Penfolds Reserve Bin A Chardonnay

REGION

Adelaide Hills, South Australia

Penfolds Reserve Bin A Chardonnay has been, at the time of Classification, one of the most exciting wines in the Penfolds stable vintage after vintage. It has been on a long journey to stand amongst some of the finest chardonnays produced in Australia. A single-region wine, the fruit is now sourced only from Adelaide Hills, which has long been the backbone of its rise to acclaim. Hand-picked grapes are gently whole-bunch-pressed, with a portion undergoing natural fermentation. Each French oak barrique, new or seasoned, becomes a 225-litre microcosm of flavours. Contemporary and expressive, Bin A achieves complexity through maturation on lees with regular bâtonnage and 100% natural malolactic fermentation.



Penfolds Bin 707 Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

South Australia

The powerfully expressive and generous Penfolds Bin 707 Cabernet Sauvignon is formed from multi-regional sources across Coonawarra, Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale and Padthaway. With its origins steeped in the ambitions of a great Australian claret, it combines almost identical philosophies and winemaking techniques as Penfolds Grange.

With the first vintage released in 1964, this cabernet sauvignon represents the Penfolds house red style at its rich and powerful best. Max Schubert was forced to stop making Bin 707 after the 1969 vintage due to fruit inconsistencies, but the wine was reinstated in 1976.

Penfolds Bin 707 takes its name from the Boeing 707 – rather than the storage bin number tradition. The namesake aircraft brought Australia closer to the rest of the world in the 1960s, and it also flew low over the Penfolds' HQ near Sydney airport.

THE WINEMAKING

The best parcels of fully ripe cabernet sauvignon are picked and fermented in open wax-lined stainless steel fermenters. Partial barrel fermentation is followed by maturation in new American hogsheads for 20 months.

THE WINE

Immensely concentrated, the intense, voluminous dark berry and dark chocolate fruit is balanced by the mocha of new oak and and lengthened by ultra fine-grained textures and strong but not overwhelming tannins. With medium to long-term cellaring potential, Bin 707 builds complexity and interest with age.



Penfolds Bin 95 Grange Shiraz

REGION

South Australia

Penfolds Grange Hermitage represented a wave of new optimism and ambition within post-war Australia, where Ray Beckwith's groundbreaking science and Max Schubert's imaginative winemaking skills collided with conservative forces and resistance.

Schubert journeyed to Europe after World War II to study sherry production in an effort to create wine with difference and longevity. A side trip to Bordeaux in 1949 resulted in the development of the first experimental Grange, produced in 1951. It wasn't received well, and Penfolds ordered an end to Grange production in 1957. The winemaking team continued to make it in secret, with hidden vintages from 1957 to 1959. These vintages are now hard to find and highly sought after, as are the experimental vintages of 1951 to 1956.

The Grange story, steeped in drama and persistence, created a modern folk tale that resonates with Australians from all walks of life. Today, Penfolds Grange is one of Australia's most recognised wines.

THE WINEMAKING

Bin 95 Grange Shiraz is typically a multi-vineyard, multi-region blend focused on warm-climate, fully ripe shiraz fruit. While predominantly shiraz, cabernet sauvignon material is also utilised. Barrel fermentation in the final stage of vinification is followed by maturation in new American oak hogsheads for 20 months.

THE WINE

This beautifully perfumed and concentrated wine is memorable for its intensely rich fruit, ripe tannins of shiraz and the complementary nuances of new, fine-grained American oak. The best vintages possess a lasting quality of more than 50 years.



Penfolds Bin 144 Yattarna Chardonnay

REGION

South Eastern Australia

A commitment to finesse and character marks the history of Penfolds Bin 144 Yattarna Chardonnay. A testament to modern Australian chardonnay, it draws its grapes from the cool climates of the Adelaide Hills, Derwent Valley, and occasionally Victoria, representing a tapestry of regions. Its reputation for elegance and restraint reflects Penfolds' pursuit of excellence. The terroir, rooted in diverse vineyards and climates, enriches the wine with a complex character, resulting in a chardonnay that is a testament to contemporary Australian winemaking's beauty. Penfolds Bin 144 Yattarna is a true embodiment of Australia's ever-evolving chardonnay style.

THE WINEMAKING

Yattarna exhibits an elegant Burgundian style shaped by meticulous winemaking techniques. Aged in French oak, with up to 50% new barrels, it presents a harmonious fusion of toasty, vanilla-infused oak and a vibrant core of fruit flavours. This wine is a stunning example of modern Australian chardonnay craftsmanship.

THE WINE

The Bin 144 Yattarna shows remarkable fruit complexity and a refined flavour profile. A textured palate balances finesse with minerality. The wine's extended mineral length adds depth and sophistication to its character, making it one of Australia's leading chardonnays.





Penfolds St. Henri Shiraz

REGION

South Australia

Penfolds St. Henri Shiraz possesses a unique stature, an emblematic story and enduring quality in the canon of fine Australian wine. This multi-vineyard, multi-regional blend is batch fermented and then aged in old 1460-litre vats allowing minimal oak influence. Fresh mulberry, blueberry, dark chocolate, charcuterie and liquorice. Mid-palate richness, fruit sweetness and fine chocolatey tannin structure typify the St. Henri style.



Penfolds Bin 798 RWT Shiraz

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

The Penfolds RWT Shiraz is made up of the best parcels of Kalimna, Koonunga Hill, Moppa, Ebenezer, Stonewell, Marananga and Seppeltsfield vineyards. This distinctly modern wine articulates the Barossa terroir with Penfolds' signature method of winemaking. Matured in new (70%) and seasoned French oak for 17 months, the RWT Shiraz is typically dark-fruited with inky, deep concentration, chocolatey tannins and savoury oak complexity.

Penfolds Bin 407 Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

South Australia

Primarily sourced from the Limestone Coast including Coonawarra, Robe and Bordertown, Penfolds Bin 407 Cabernet Sauvignon is the result of classic Penfolds winemaking. With new French (15%), new American (15%) and seasoned oak maturation, the style is a pared-down version of Bin 707, with pristine varietal blackcurrant and cassis aromas, fine-grained tannins and savoury oak. Selected parcels of Clare Valley, Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale are sometimes included.



Peter Lehmann Stonewell Shiraz

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

Immensely concentrated, low-yielding, highest quality fruit and traditional winemaking techniques are the foundation of this classic Australian shiraz. Mostly old-vine material sourced from the western slopes of the Barossa Valley, with inclusion of fruit from Eden Valley vineyards for some vintages. Aged in new (50%) and one to four-year-old French oak, this wine shows typical panforte, plum, and chocolate characters, structured tannins and well-seasoned oak.



Rockford Rifle Range Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

Rockford Rifle Range Cabernet Sauvignon pays homage to its historic roots along Rifle Range Road, an iconic path winding through the Barossa Valley. Once home to a rifle range, this road now frames the valley's heart, leading up to Kaiser Stuhl National Park. The old range is gone, but the vineyards remain, supplying the grapes for this wine since Rockford's inception. It embodies the essence of varietal and regional characteristics, guided by Rockford's timeless approach. Aged for two years in large, seasoned oak vats and hogsheads, it showcases rich, soft, and full-bodied flavours of plum, currant and chocolate, underlain by cabernet's clear voice of dried sage and verdant garden herb hints. Among Barossa's finest cabernet sauvignon grapes, the Rifle Range is a classic from cult winery Rockford.



Rockford Black Sparkling Shiraz

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

Rockford's Sparkling Black Shiraz is made from a base wine originating from a 200-dozen bottle treasure trove of mature shiraz made by Robert O'Callaghan in the late 1970s. Open fermented, basket pressed and matured in seasoned oak, this aged material is the mother lode of Rockford's modified solera, a three-year fractional blending system. Oxidised base material provides soft textures and flavours. Hallmarks of this celebratory and timeless sparkling red wine are velvety, smooth, aged textures and richness of fruit.



Rockford Basket Press Shiraz

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

Robert O'Callaghan's evocative Rockford Basket Press Shiraz is a tribute to the Barossa's 19th and early 20th-century heritage.

Made from grapes sourced from 60 to 140-year-old dry-grown vineyards (most from independent growers) across a range of Barossa soils, altitudes and micro-climates, the wine represents a rare and important post-colonial Australian aesthetic.

This soft and medium bodied style, with an earthy quality showing through bottle age, echoes the landscape of the Barossa and references the great mid 20th-century wines of legendary winemaker Colin Preece.

Labour-intensive winemaking practices, a culture of craftsmanship and meticulous attention to detail culminate in one of Australia's greatest and most-loved wines

THE WINEMAKING

Fruit is hand picked then vinified using classic Barossa techniques including a 19th-century wooden Bagshaw crusher, open fermentation and basket pressing. Matured primarily in seasoned 300-litre French and American oak hogsheads and 2500-litre vats for two years.

THE WINE

Neatly juxtaposed between powerful and elegant, the Rockford Basket Press Shiraz is beautifully tensioned with exquisite dark berry fruits, inky complexity, underlying roasted chestnut notes and long, muscular but precise tannins.





Sami-Odi Hoffmann Dallwitz Syrah

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

The Hoffman Dallwitz Syrah is the flagship of the modern cult winery Sami-Odi. A remarkable piece of living history, the fruit is sourced from two blocks in the famed Hoffmann Vineyard, planted in 1888-1912 and 1927, respectively. The wine sees 20 months of maturation in Burgundian oak barrels and is bottled without fining or filtration. Fraser McKinley reimagines the Barossa's narrative as a lighter, fresher and eminently drinkable one. This idyll is shaped with organic vineyard practices and whole-bunch winemaking. The region's latent power builds gracefully, without any overt obviousness. Elegance over brute force is the signature here and long may it reign.

Sami-Odi Little Wine Shiraz

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

Sami-Odi 'Little Wine' Syrah transcends vintages, comprising casks from various years, typically with a dominant recent vintage, given layers of depth and complexity with judicious selection from older cellar holdings. The fruit is sourced from plots within Hoffmann's 'Dallwitz' vineyard, with vines dating back to 1927 and earlier. Fraser McKinley's unique aesthetic approach, informed by his fine arts background, combines organic practices and whole-bunch winemaking with minimal intervention. The confines of a single vintage blended free to raise a wine of depth, grace, immaculate poise and uncanny freshness, as a testament to Sami-Odi's more elegant interpretation of the Barossa idiom.



Serrat Close Planted Shiraz Viognier

REGION

Yarra Valley, Victoria

Serrat is the brainchild of Tom and Nadège Carson. Tom has been a formidable presence in Victoria's winemaking scene since 1996. Their small, Burgundian-inspired private label, Serrat, has garnered a strong reputation for quality in Australia.

The Serrat Shiraz Viognier, cultivated in their close-planted Yarra Glen vineyard, draws inspiration from the renowned wines of Côte-Rôtie. Achieving a balance between elegance and power, it has swiftly gained recognition as one of the country's most sought-after examples of the shiraz viognier blend. Expect blueberry, lilac, iodine, pepper grind and clove, with an underlying burr of smoked meats. The wine is a testament to Tom and Nadège's dedication to exceptional winemaking, featuring a shiraz block planted in 2003.



The Standish Wine Company The Relic Single Vineyard Shiraz Viognier

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

Dan Standish, the visionary winemaker behind Standish Wine Co, epitomises the future of Barossa winemaking. Barossa meets Côte-Rôtie, the Relic Shiraz Viognier has been a revelation for shiraz enthusiasts. A sixth-generation Barossan, Dan Standish is the experienced former head winemaker at Torbreck, no stranger to the Classification. The Relic showcases the explosive potential of Dan's old-vine fruit. Sourced from the Standish Family Vineyard, with vines dating back to 1912, it features a small dollop of viognier, conferring a youthful vigour, while promising a future that demands patience. The Relic is one of the new wave Barossa wines that brings the region's traditional style into the contemporary zone.



The Standish Wine Company The Schubert Theorem Shiraz

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

Dan Standish is one of the new masters of Barossa shiraz, deeply immersed in the craft, employing an exceptionally meticulous approach to each creation. The Schubert Theorem stands as a testament to his patience and expertise. Eight years in the making, this single vineyard shiraz from Roennfeldt Road in Marananga is a masterpiece. Bursting with blue and black fruit richness, intricate spice notes, and earthy layers, it reflects Standish's artistry. It's a wine that demands ageing and is destined to evolve into an even more profound expression of Australian shiraz. Standish's dedication to showcasing premier vineyard sites has yielded bold, seductive, and quintessentially Australian wines, but their rarity requires swift acquisition.



The Standish Wine Company The Standish Shiraz

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

The dry-grown, organically farmed The Standish Single Vineyard Shiraz derives from the western edge of the Barossa Valley. Careful hand selection of fruit and traditional vinification – including foot stomping – is followed by maturation in new (20%) and older French oak. This full-bodied, modern and expressive style is exemplified by intensely concentrated dark fruit flavours, fine chocolatey but vigorous tannins and integrated oak characters.





Tolpuddle Vineyard Pinot Noir

REGION

Tasmania

Hailing from Tasmania's renowned Tolpuddle Vineyard, this pinot noir is an intensely aromatic wine with a medium body graced by savoury spice notes. What truly sets it apart is its unwavering commitment to the purity of varietal expression, with fresh acidity and ripe, structured tannins seamlessly integrated with waves of savoury fruit accents, blue to red, shimmering in the glass.

Established in 1988, the Tolpuddle Vineyard takes its name from the Tolpuddle Martyrs, English convicts exiled to Tasmania. Custodians of this precious piece of the island include Michael Hill Smith MW and Martin Shaw. The site rapidly gained recognition as one of Tasmania's iconic pinot noirs, making allocations smaller by the vintage and coveted all the more on these shores and abroad.



Tolpuddle Vineyard Chardonnay

REGION

Tasmania

The Tolpuddle Vineyard's unique location in Tasmania's Coal River Valley, with mature Chardonnay vines facing northeast on a gently sloping terrain, boasts light silica over sandstone soil, nurturing vines that produce grapes brimming with flavour and intensity. As a result, Tolpuddle Chardonnay has rapidly gained acclaim as one of Tasmania's (if not Australia's) most coveted chardonnay releases.

The Chardonnay embodies the classic Tolpuddle style. Characterised by a vibrant backbone of acidity and a pungent mineral undertow, the vibrant yet powerful style delivers grapefruit, lemon pith, and a touch of flinty wet pebblestone. The intensity is belied by beautiful balance, lightness, delicacy, and texture.



Turkey Flat Shiraz

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

The Turkey Flat Shiraz is based on heritage clones from the Bethany and Stonewell sub regions of the Barossa, including the estate's original vine material planted in 1847. The wine is vinified in open stainless steel fermenters, followed by 18 months maturation in new and seasoned French oak hogsheads. Dark cherry and plum aromas and ripe chocolatey tannins are typical.



Torbreck RunRig Shiraz

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

The expansive and sensuous Torbreck RunRig Shiraz is a leading contemporary expression of the traditional Barossa style. Named after a forest in Scotland, Torbreck also nods to the Celts with the name RunRig, referring to a system of land distribution.

The perfumed and densely concentrated wine is created from a blend of shiraz and viognier (around 2%), derived from eight different dry-grown vineyards growing 80 to 160-year-old vines and located on red-brown loams and clay. Mostly positioned on the north-west fringe of the Barossa, selected vineyard blocks include Greenock, Moppa, Ebenezer, Rowland Flat and Lyndoch.

Founder and former owner Dave Powell developed the style of Torbreck's RunRig Shiraz utilising winemaking techniques learned at Robert O'Callaghan's "Rockford School".

THE WINEMAKING

Sustainable farming practices are followed and grapes are hand picked and de-stemmed. Batch vinification occurs in open wood and concrete fermenters, followed by basket pressing, partial barrel fermentation and maturation in new (50%) and seasoned French oak for up to 30 months.

THE WINE

A wine of great opulence, generosity and presence with blackberry and musky violet aromas, supple, velvety tannins and underlying savoury oak. There is a brashness, generosity and ease about the style.



Torbreck The Steading

REGION

Barossa Valley, South Australia

The fruit is drawn from old vines held by a legion of growers, complemented by Torbreck's own fruit. The Steading is a mantle, if you will, of sustenance, local rapport and Barossan culture. A quintessential grenache-dominant lead laden with kirsch and white pepper, is bolstered by shiraz's florals and mataro's ferruginous burr and charcuterie accents, each serving as complex backing vocals. The Steading's track record is unsurpassed amidst the pantheon of GSM blends, as typically southern Rhône as they have become Barossan. After all, a blend as classy as this transcends the mere sum of its individual parts to unravel in the cellar with consummate grace.



Tyrrell's 4 Acres Shiraz

REGION

Hunter Valley, New South Wales

4 Acres Shiraz comes from a prized block of old, dry-grown vines that were planted in 1879, making them among the very oldest in the country. The soils are a ferrous red to yellowish clay, with Brokenback looming beyond. A lower Hunter landmark, its silhouette shimmies into the stretch of the Great Divide, just as the pixelated freshness, consummate elegance and classy mid-weighted restraint of the 4 Acres lingers long into the memory bank. Maker Chris Tyrrell opts to glean colour, aromatic compounds and tannin via long, gentle macerations rather than with aggressive extraction techniques. Easy and gentle is the creed that transports one back to a Hunter of savoury wines of poise, exactitude and drinkability. Here they are again, serving as a regional flagship that belies the obvious power of shiraz from other regions. 4 Acres Shiraz is a wine that boasts fidelity to place, but moreso, an inimitability suffused with an indomitable Hunter spirit.

Tyrrell's Vat 47 Chardonnay

REGION

Hunter Valley, New South Wales

The historic Tyrrell's Vat 47 Chardonnay remains at the vanguard of the Australian chardonnay genre. Sourced from the cane-pruned, dry-grown Short Flat vineyard (based around an original vineyard planted in 1968 with material from Penfolds HVD Vineyard) fruit is hand harvested and 100% basket pressed. After partial vinification in stainless steel, the wine completes fermentation in small new (20%) and seasoned French oak barriques and puncheons followed by 10 months maturation. Lemon curd, grapefruit and flinty aromas, mid-palate creaminess and mineral acidity typify the style.



Tyrrell's Vat 1 Semillon

REGION

Hunter Valley, New South Wales

First produced in 1963 under the name Hunter River Riesling, Tyrrell's Vat 1 Semillon is an iconic wine with a storied heritage. Largely sourced from the historic Short Flat Vineyard, home to vines dating back to 1923, this wine exemplifies the classic Hunter Valley Semillon. It's meticulously crafted with early picking, stainless steel fermentation, and up to 10 weeks of lees ageing, conferring greater breadth and textural generosity than in the distant past. In its youth, it showcases a crisp, lemony profile with a tensile backbone. Yet as it matures, it transforms into a golden-hued, complex beauty. With honeyed aromas and a rich, multifaceted palate marked by lemon curd, barley sugar and truffle. Vat 1 Semillon is a timeless reference point for this distinguished wine style that is possibly Australia's greatest gift to the wine world and certainly, the most unique.

THE WINEMAKING

Tyrrell's Vat 1 Semillon is crafted meticulously. The grapes are harvested early, capturing vibrant acidity. After a brief cold soak, they're gently pressed. The juice undergoes a long, cool fermentation, preserving its pristine fruit flavours. The wine is aged in stainless steel tanks to retain its natural freshness, resulting in a renowned Hunter style that grows in trajectory across the palate after around eight to 10 years in bottle.

THE WINE

Typically quite tight and lemony when young, with a clean, steely backbone. With age it develops a golden colour, honeyed, straw aromas, truffle accents and a soft, immensely complex and flavoursome palate that is nevertheless, underlain by a febrile vibrancy.



Vasse Felix Heytesbury Chardonnay

REGION

Margaret River, Western Australia

The glorious and expressive Vasse Felix Heytesbury Chardonnay is made up of individual sections of the Gin Gin clone. It evokes an exquisite balance between vineyards, emotional sensibility and technical brilliance. Batch vinification, bâtonnage and maturation for nine months in around 60% (barely detectable) new and seasoned French oak results in a benchmark style with superb grapefruit and flinty aromatics, al dente textures and creamy complexity.



Vasse Felix Tom Cullity Cabernet Blend

REGION

Margaret River, Western Australia

Sourced from the original vines planted in 1967 by Doctor Tom Cullity, the Tom Cullity Cabernet Sauvignon Malbec represents a multi-generational journey of innovation based on trial and error. Based on Houghton clone cabernet sauvignon and malbec, refined vinification techniques and maturation for 18 months in French oak, this wine validates and continues the Heytesbury narrative. Vibrant blackcurrant and herb garden aromas, fine-grained tannins, sous-bois (forest floor) notes, sage, generous concentration and integrated new oak mark the style.



Wendouree Shiraz

REGION

Clare Valley, South Australia

The celebrated Wendouree Shiraz derives from the estate's original 1893 plantings, which is in all likelihood genetic material derived from the original James Busby collection.

Located on an easterly ridge towards the northern edge of the Clare Valley, the soils of the unirrigated Wendouree vineyards are shallow and meagre with red loam over limestone. The low-yielding old shiraz vines produce small berries with thick skins and a very high seed content.

Despite its reputation and heritage, there are remarkably few older bottles in circulation. This is largely explained by the way Wendouree wine was sold. Until 1974 the wines were sold in bulk and bottled and marketed by merchants. Most blended and single varietal shiraz wines were almost never seen.

THE WINEMAKING

The recently implemented vertical shoot positioning trellising system optimises exposure to sunlight and protects the fruit from ultraviolet light. Vinified in stainless steel lined open fermenters, and matured in new (20%) and seasoned oak for around 12 months.

THE WINE

The wine typically possesses a core of blackberry, with black olive aromas, clarity and buoyancy of fruit on the palate, persistent, muscular tannins and underlying oak. The style of this shiraz has been described as an iron fist in a velvet glove.



Wendouree Cabernet Malbec

REGION

Clare Valley, South Australia

Wendouree Cabernet Malbec is based on rare 19th-century vine stock material including malbec plantings from between 1898 and 1960, which provide the wine complexity, interest and a variation of theme. After traditional vinification, maturation takes place in new (20%) and seasoned French oak. This is a profoundly individual wine with intense, bright fruit, underlying maturation notes and firm but pronounced tannins.



Wendouree Shiraz Malbec

REGION

Clare Valley, South Australia

The impressively beautiful and concentrated Wendouree Shiraz Malbec is an authentic Clare Valley style harking back to late 19th-century winemaking traditions. Vinified in open stainless steel lined fermenters and matured for 12 months in new (20%) and seasoned French oak, it is typified by voluminous blackberry, plum and mulberry fruit, a touch of eucalypt and rusty and persistent tannins driving lasting power.

Wendouree Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

Clare Valley, South Australia

Wendouree Cabernet Sauvignon derives from two main blocks of the historic Wendouree vineyard. The central block with its smaller berries provides spicy characters and firm tannins, with floral notes and a softer structure deriving from the western side of the vineyard. After traditional vinification, maturation takes place in new (25%) and seasoned French oak for 12 months. Dark chocolate, cassis and herb aromas, fine, strong, sinewy tannins and underlying savoury oak are typical of this cabernet sauvignon.



Wendouree Shiraz Mataro

REGION

Clare Valley, South Australia

Wendouree Shiraz Mataro is made from fruit that is generally larger and more medium bodied compared to other blocks, and treated with traditional winemaking practices. Vinification takes place in open stainless steel lined slate fermenters with regular plunging. The wine is matured in fine-grained new (20%) and seasoned French oak for 12 months. Its deep colour, blackberry and liquorice fruit and iron-fisted tannins make it a striking Clare Valley wine representative of its provenance.





Wine By Farr Sangreal Pinot Noir

REGION

Geelong, Victoria

The triumphant single-vineyard By Farr Sangreal Pinot Noir, based on 114 and 115 clones, is both albatross and phoenix. It represents a far-reaching deliverance of the imagination and the superb potential of Geelong's terroir. Vinified by classic Burgundian techniques, including whole bunch fermentation and French oak maturation, it is a singularly expressive wine with black cherry aromas, supple, lacy textures and integrated savoury new oak notes.



Woodlands Family Series Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

Margaret River, Western Australia

The exquisite estate-grown Woodlands Family Series Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced primarily from dry-grown 1973, 1974, 1976 and 1985 south-facing plantings at Wilyabrup. Named the Family Series because each vintage honours a family member or friend, the name changes on the wine label each release. Batch vinification occurs in stainless steel fermenters and small parcels of malbec optimise fruit complexity. Typically it shows cassis, sage, Karri bush and red fruit notes. The cedar aromas reflect the fine-grained oak tannins that curtail any excess while compressing the finish into a skein of tension and savouriness.

Wine By Farr Tout Pres Pinot Noir

REGION

Geelong, Victoria

The very cozy close-planted Tout Pres vineyard is made up of lush, assertive fruit. The pinot noir comprises 113, 114, 115, 667, 777 and MV6 clones, located on three slopes of varying soil types. Whole bunch fermented and matured in generally 100% new French oak barriques, Tout Pres Pinot Noir is one of the most expressive and beautifully aromatic wines in the Australian fine wine canon. Black cherry, spice and herb garden aromas meander across slinky textures, whole bunch spice and indelible richness.





Wynns Coonawarra Estate John Riddoch Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

Coonawarra, South Australia

Steeped in the historic bloodlines of the region, Wynns Coonawarra Estate is the region's most recognised wine producer with substantial vineyard holdings on classic terra rossa soils. Based on the best parcels of each vintage, the John Riddoch Cabernet Sauvignon articulates the magical qualities of the Coonawarra's terroir, climatic influences, precision viticulture and profoundly intuitive winemaking.

With the first vintage released in 1982, the John Riddoch Cabernet Sauvignon was designed to be a flagship wine for Wynns Coonawarra Estate. Made only when fruit of ultimate quality is available, it uses less than one per cent of the top cabernet grapes.

Recognised alongside the 1962 Penfolds Bin 60A Cabernet Shiraz, the John Riddoch Cabernet Sauvignon identifies as representing the essence of the Coonawarra, and kick-starting its fame as a wine-growing region.

THE WINEMAKING

Crushed and fermented to extract ripe tannins and flavours while still retaining structure and fruit sweetness. Aged in new (up to 30%) and seasoned French oak hogsheads and barriques for 16 to 20 months depending on vintage conditions.

THE WINE

The John Riddoch Cabernet Sauvignon is ample in structure, yet fine-grained and supple. It is typified by intense liquorice, blackcurrant and garden herb aromas, violet and chamomile. The structural latticework is marked by chocolatey, rich tannins and saline freshness.





Wynns Coonawarra Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

Coonawarra, South Australia

The refined and beautifully tensioned Wynns Cabernet Sauvignon is a great Coonawarra tradition, based on extraordinary vineyards and classic terra rossa soils. This full-bodied style is vinified in stainless steel before maturation in new (up to 25%) and seasoned French oak for between 12 and 18 months. Pristine dark berry and cassis aromas, fine-grained tannins and underlying savoury nuances mark the style.



Wynns Coonawarra Estate Michael Shiraz

REGION

Coonawarra, South Australia

The vivid, pure fruited and richly textured Wynns Coonawarra Estate Michael Shiraz hails from estate-grown terra rossa vineyards, and is a benchmark Coonawarra style. After vinification the wine is matured in a combination of new (up to 20%) and seasoned French oak. Blackberry, redcurrant, tea tree and espresso aromas reverberate across a lattice of firm, chalky tannins and underlying mocha oak.



Xanadu Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION

Margaret River, Western Australia

The multi-vineyard Xanadu Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon is composed of Houghton Clone sourced from vineyards in the coastal region of Wilyabrup, northern Margaret River and the sub-region of Wallcliffe. Small-batch fermentation and 12 to 14 months maturation in new (40-55%) and seasoned French oak barriques results in a wine with intense blackcurrant and herb garden aromas, superb richness and concentration, and vigorous, fine, chalky tannins. Also includes roughly 5% malbec and 5% petit verdot.



Yalumba The Octavius Old Vine Shiraz

REGION

Barossa, South Australia

The profound and authentic Octavius Old Vine Shiraz derives from venerable Barossa vineyards established between the turn of the 20th century and World War II. The oldest vineyard was planted in 1854. After traditional vinification, the wine is matured in Yalumba-coopered French and American octaves, barriques and hogsheads for 20 to 22 months. The style is typically rich and dense with dark chocolate, mocha aromas, chalky tannins, and roasted chestnut oak.



Yalumba The Signature Cabernet Shiraz

REGION

Barossa, South Australia

The Signature Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz is an Eden Valley and Barossa Valley blend. It reflects the strength of teamwork and authentic Australian winemaking, as each release is a salute to an employee or person who is recognised as contributing significantly to the culture and traditions of Yalumba. Matured in estate-coopered new (32%) and seasoned French, Hungarian and American barriques and hogsheads, it is typified by generous plum, chocolate and panforte fruit, framed by dense, chalky tannins.



Yarra Yering Dry Red Wine No.1 Cabernet

REGION

Yarra Valley, Victoria

Yarra Yering's Dry Red Wine No.1 has a rich historical tapestry that weaves through the heart of the Yarra Valley. Established by the visionary Dr. Bailey Carrodus in 1969, this vineyard quickly became a viticultural icon. Carrodus, a true pioneer, hand-planted the vineyards and employed Bordeaux varieties, giving birth to a Victorian claret style. This Bordeaux blend showcased his forward-thinking approach. The wine's 18-month maturation in French oak barriques pays homage to Carrodus's winemaking acumen. Under the stewardship of winemaker Sarah Crowe, Yarra Yering has achieved new heights with the Dry Red No.1 blossoming, yet remaining true to its heritage.

THE WINEMAKING

Yarra Yering's Dry Red Wine No.1 epitomises the classic Victorian claret style, sourced from a sprawling north-facing vineyard. This red blend, mainly cabernet sauvignon with merlot, malbec, and petit verdot, matures for 18 months in a mix of new (80%) and seasoned French oak barriques.

THE WINE

A blend of cabernet sauvignon, merlot, malbec, and petit verdot, it showcases bright, generous blackcurrant fruit, savoury complexity, and fine-grained tannins. This wine is all about elegance, depth, and rich fruit flavours, making it a timeless delight.

Yarra Yering Dry Red Wine No.2 Shiraz

REGION

Yarra Valley, Victoria

The idiosyncratic and distinctive Yarra Yering Dry Red No. 2 Shiraz is created primarily with fruit from vines planted in 1969. Co-fermented with minute proportions of viognier, mataro and marsanne, after small-batch vinification the wine is aged in French oak for 12 to 18 months. This highly perfumed, seductive wine is richly flavoured in style with intense blackberry, apricot aromas, supple textures and integrated vanilla notes.



Yeringberg Cabernet Blend

REGION

Yarra Valley, Victoria

Yeringberg winery was established in 1863 and operated until 1921, before being replanted in 1969 and expanded on since. The Yeringberg Cabernet Blend comprises cabernet sauvignon (60%), merlot (15%), cabernet franc (15%), malbec (5%) and petit verdot (5%). After batch vinification in open fermenters, maturation follows in new (40%) and seasoned French oak barriques for 20 to 22 months. This claret style is typified by fresh cassis and violet aromas, fine-grained tannins, minerally texture and underlying savoury oak.

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