

THE WINE FRONT

TOP

TEN

July / August 2010



Glaetzer-Dixon Family Winemakers üBerblanc Riesling 2009

The Glaetzer is Nick Glaetzer, who not only has a famous winemaking family, but also works as a winemaker at the Frogmore Creek winery in Tasmania. Glaetzer's winemaking journey includes time working with Weingut Eugen Muller in Pfalz. Thereafter riesling was always going to be on his radar. Tassie's gain ...

This riesling really grabbed me. It's got a lilt to it – or a shape to it – hard to describe, but it's the way the wine flows and feels in your mouth that is the thing, rather than the flavour. Not that it's lacking flavour in any way; it's zesty, limey, minerally and juicy. It's undeniably and unmistakably riesling. Maybe it's the naturalness of the acid that does it – but it's both alarmingly persistent, and alarmingly drinkable, and young Australian rieslings are rarely both. A super wine. CM

Rated : 94 Points

Alcohol : 11.9%

Price : \$24

Closure : Screwcap

Drink : 2010 - 2017



Wynns V & A Lane Cabernet Shiraz 2008

This new release from Wynns is a blend of cabernet sauvignon (66.6%) and Shiraz (33.3%) with (and it shows, but works) a mix of 29% new American oak alongside 41% new French oak.

Vanilla and cocoa, black fruit and a pinch of pepper with mint being a minor player. It's ripe but beautifully balanced, sporting a mesh of ripe fine grained powdery tannins and fairly lively acidity, but best of all – no noisome alcohol. Treat it with a little patience and it'll show you a few red berries too. Classic Australian styling where the blend, region and winemaking coalesce to create something greater than the sum of the parts. It's a wine to be proud of. GW

Rated : 95 Points
Alcohol : 13.5%
Price : \$42.99
Closure : Screwcap
Drink : 2014 - 2028



Starvedog Lane Cabernet Merlot 2007

The Starvedog Lane reds are really kicking goals – or the wine in the bottle is. They don't get a lot of love in a PR sense.

I loved drinking this wine. It's got flesh and tannin, sex appeal and length. A complete package. Has flavours of mulberry and blackcurrant, polished cedary oak and a chocolatey bitterness. Can't fault it. Length and style. Hunt around and snap some up, I say.

(And just quietly, the 2008 Starvedog Lane Shiraz Viognier – same price – is equally as good. The 2007 Starvedog Shiraz Viognier won a major gong in last year's Big Red Wine Book but the 2008 is arguably better; or certainly more user-friendly). CM

Rated : 94 Points

Alcohol : 14%

Price : \$25.50

Closure : Screwcap

Drink : 2013 - 2019



Elderton Eden Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2009

This little beauty spent eight months in old French hogsheads – those big 300 litre babies. The folks at Elderton have been so impressed by the grapes they've been buying out of the Eden Valley that they recently bought their own Eden Valley vineyard. No wonder ...

Blackcurrant and red berries with low level nutty oak and mint. What's lovely about this wine though is the juicy freshness and balance it has – invigorating almost. Has length and drinkability and may well age handsomely too. Dynamite for the price. GW

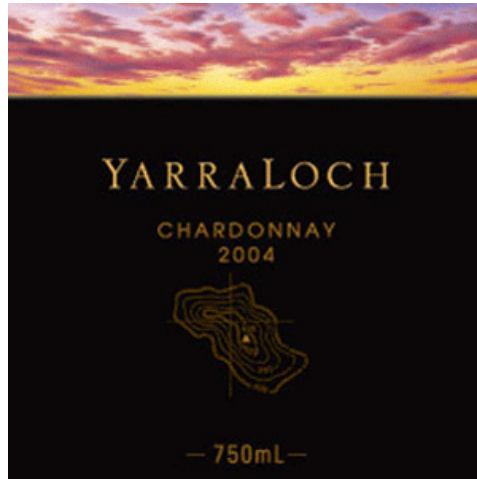
Rated : 92 Points

Alcohol : 14%

Price : \$19

Closure : Screwcap

Drink : 2011 - 2017



Yarraloch Stephanie's Dream Chardonnay 2008

Yarraloch's standard chardonnay from 2008 rated highly on the site, so there was a good chance that this 'reserve' version might be good. It is stunningly so.

This takes the cake. It's a ripsnorter. It's tight and long and focussed and detailed and all kinds of snazzy good things. It tastes of grapefruit and spice and cedarwood and coconut and it's so well honed it takes your breath away. Or it does if you're of a particular chardonnay-esque persuasion anyway. Awesome wine.

(Note: image above is for the standard chardonnay, not the Stephanie's.) CM

Rated : 96 Points

Alcohol : 13%

Price : \$45

Closure : Screwcap

Drink : 2012 - 2018



BABO Rosso L'Isolano IGT Sicilia 2008

This wine's made from Nero d'Avola, which seems an entirely appropriate thing to drink when your fiddling causes Rome to burn (ie. it's been a hard day at the office). This is made by Justin Bubb and it's Bubbolicious

Sour cherry, black and red jelly beans, almonds and dried herb. It ably combines sweetly juicy red fruit with more savoury leather and dried herb flavours. Has lightly grainy tannins, good freshness and length, but most importantly, drinks beautifully whilst retaining your interest. Not a great wine, but a very good drink. GW

Rated : 90 Points
Tasted : Aug10
Alcohol : 13.5%
Price : \$18.99
Closure : Screwcap
Drink : 2010 - 2014



Moppity Vineyards Shiraz 2009

This is the wine to bring the name Moppity Vineyards into the hearts and minds of general consumers. It's cropped at just 2 tonne/acre and includes 2 percent co-fermented viognier. It's very young and needs an hour in the decanter, but thereafter ...

This baby really sings. It's got spice and flesh, sweet blueberryed fruit and floral overtones. It's complex and seductive at once. I had a question mark over its persistence at first – but with air it slowly uncoiled. It's got good length, excellent drinkability and an array of flavours. Tannins massage impressively through the finish. Bonza. CM

Rated : 93+ Points

Alcohol : 13.9%

Price : \$22.99

Closure : Screwcap

Drink : 2012 - 2017



Derwent Estate Chardonnay 2008

Derwent Estate is just 20 kilometres from Hobart and this release from 2008 is a seriously impressive wine. We're not the only (or first) ones to cotton on to the quality of chardonnay being grown on this vineyard; some big name, (very) high priced wines are sourced from here.

Power. This wine has it in spades. It tastes overtly mineral and grapefruit-like though it has spicy, leesy, toasty characters too. Bitter on the finish in a very, very good way. Huge amount of juicy, succulent acidity. Great length. It's still a baby – and needs lots more time – but it looks to have a terrific future ahead of it. CM

Rated : 94 Points

Alcohol : 13%

Price : \$33

Closure : Screwcap

Drink : 2012 - 2017



Mike Press Shiraz 2009

It's easy to be a fan of Mike Press' Adelaide Hills Shiraz – bargains rarely come much better. It's not just some opportunistic prey-on-the-misfortune-of-others gambit either; it's the wine of real people, farming their own land, making their own wine.

I reckon this is the best Mike Press Shiraz so far. Fresh, bright, boy-senberried fruit laced with saucy, spicy oak. It feels modern and old-fashioned at once. Its acidity is lively, its tannin fine and ripe, its finish satisfying. It's seductive and textural and while it gets you in from the first sip – it evolves nicely in the glass too. Buy it for the quality; treat the price as a bonus. CM

Rated : 93 Points
Alcohol : 14%
Price : \$12.50
Closure : Screwcap
Drink : 2011 - 2017



Houghton Gladstones Cabernet Sauvignon 2005

No mention on the back label but it's hand-picked from a single vineyard (Batley) in the Wilyabrup sub-region of Margaret River.

Dark fruit, dusty regional bay leaf and cocoa. Top quality oak – it's there in support but you barely notice it. Medium to full in weight, not a big heavy style, but beautifully pitched and weighted with a mesh of firm ripe powdery tannins on which you can chomp to your full satisfaction. There's some cherry flavour in there too, especially on the finish. Complete wine. Approachable now but should age a treat. GW

Rated : 96 Points

Tasted : Jun10

Alcohol : 14%

Price : \$70

Closure : Cork

Drink : 2012 - 2025

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