

WINESTATE

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND WINE BUYING GUIDE

THE Cabernet COLLECTION

577 tasted

PLUS
tastings

McLaren Vale

Langhorne Creek

Fleurieu

Yarra Valley

Hawkes Bay (NZ)

Queensland

Semillon & Blends

Brandy, Cognac & Armagnac

September/October 2004

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September/October NEW RELEASES

334 TASTED
131 RECOMMENDED

Maybe it is a sign of the times, but the judges saw less overt oak character in many of the wines judged - a good thing. Financial considerations may be helping to produce more balanced wines, with the appropriate level of lifting oak. The judges were impressed this time with the old vine grenache, cabernet and shiraz, and, surprisingly, the merlots - a first! Pinot was poor, as were the shiraz blends, while in the whites sauvignon blanc and semillon continued to be green or bland. Chardonnay offered true fruit varietal flavours rather than tricked-up residual sugar.

sparkling

6 TASTED
4 RECOMMENDED

The judges discovered afterwards that two of the sparkling wines were in cans. "Quite acceptable products," they said, and "quite revolutionary".

Carindale Hunter Valley Sparkling Chardonnay NV ★★★★★

Some pretty aged accents on the nose with ripe apple and spice for company. Delivers a creamy mouthfeel with good structure, length and a tight acid backbone. \$27 CDO



Barokes Uniquely Carbonated SEA Chardonnay NV (250ml can) ★★★
Lifted aromas with guava and apple characters. A big, broad style with some yeasty complexity intermingled with citrus fruit notes. \$3.99



Barokes Uniquely Carbonated Cabernet Shiraz NV (250ml can) ★★★
Stewed plum and new leather aromas. This medium-bodied, oak-driven style offers good weight with a balanced sweetness on the finish. \$3.99

St Leonards Wahgunyah Sparkling Shiraz NV ★★★

Fresh fig and plum accents to the bouquet with a hint of vanilla and oak. A full-bodied, chewy wine with lovely structure and plenty of sweetness. \$27.50

Lindemans Cawarra Colombard Chardonnay 2004 ★★★

Green apple and ripe fruit aromas with a dash of savoury oak. The soft, richly textured palate shows a nice balance of sweet fruit flavours. \$6.95

other white varietals & blends

13 TASTED
5 RECOMMENDED

Dowie Doole Chenin Blanc 2004 ★★★★★1/2

Powerful flavours develop on the palate, yet an elegant sense of proportion is maintained, the pretty gooseberry and spice notes have great length and a refreshing acid backbone. "As good as chenin blanc gets," remarked one judge. \$15

McGuigan Vineyard Select Hunter Valley Gewurztraminer 2004 ★★★

Spicy lychee and perfume characters greet the nose. A full, viscous weight on the palate with big, broad flavours and an off-dry finish. \$15 CDO

Audrey Wilkinson Traminer 2004 ★★★

Rose water and spice-driven aromas with a hint of tobacco. This drier style of traminer has rich, ripe fruit flavours showing good varietal expression. \$20

judges



Peter Simic
Editor/publisher Winestate Magazine. More than 28 years' experience in the wine industry. Peter is also a regular wine commentator on national radio and television programs.



Stephen John
Owner/winemaker of Stephen John Wines. More than 30 years' winemaking experience. Has judged at Adelaide, National, and Barossa Wine Shows. Winestate regular panellist and chairman of judges.



Natasha Mooney
Chief winemaker for Xanadu/Normans for the past two years. Previously chief winemaker Barossa Valley Estate. Associate judge at Adelaide, Seymour Rutherglen, Barossa and Mildura.