

Volume 2 Round 4 November 1999
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BATISTA ESTATE PINOT NOIR 1998: Winemaker Bob Peruch.

Winemaker's Notes: "This wine has deep colour, strong earthy Pinot characters, soft, rich, spicy blackcurrant flavours that linger to a long fruit-sweet finish and mouthfeel".

BLACKWOOD CREST CHARDONNAY 1999: Winemaker Max Fairbrass

Winemaker's Notes: "A young fresh wine green to light straw colour. Bouquet of pineapple and citrus. The palate is quite elegant as bouquet promises with pineapple and citrus in harmony with light spicy oak of French Nevers and Vosges, finishing with crisp acid."

CANOBOLAS-SMITH ALCHEMY 1996: Winemaker Murray Smith.

Winemaker's Notes: "As grapes were picked they were crushed and fermented separately. All wines were then racked into new and older wood for the next twelve months where constant quality assessment was carried out. From a very good vintage, the search for Alchemy was carried out with rich and ripe fruit the main criteria. Once done, the wines were blended and returned to the best wood available for a further twelve months."

FERMOY ESTATE SEMILLON 1998: Winemaker Michael Kelly.

Winemaker's Notes: "Initial aromas of toasty oak and green asparagus. As the wine opens up that distinctive grassy, nutty aromas of Margaret River Semillon show through. The palate has good weight and lovely balance, with a crisp acid finish. Flavours persist and I think the wine is showing remarkable complexity for a wine so young. Drink now or cellar for up to five years."

GARDEN GULLY SHIRAZ 1998:
Winemakers Brain Fletcher & Warren Randall

Winemaker's Notes: "Lifted spicy fruit and vanillin oak dominate lead to a palate impression of a classic Great Western Shiraz. The medium to full bodied style displays rich yet soft ripe berry, cherry, spice fruit characters with underlying vanillin oak flavours and firm tannins indicating great cellaring potential for this wine. Less use of new American oak has lead to a fruit driven style that is particularly suited to this region. A wine that will drink well now while begging for the opportunity to develop graciously over the medium to long term with careful cellaring."

LELAND ESTATE SAUVIGNON BLANC 1999: Winemaker Robb Cootes

Winemaker's Notes: "Made from grapes grown by me at Leland Estate. After a dry winter and warm summer broken with wet patches, grapes were picked during the last week of March and the first week of April. The wine shows vibrancy and intensity of pure varietal definition with lovely gooseberry and tropical fruit flavours, excellent mouth-feel and lingering finish. Just the thing for steamed asparagus in hollandaise sauce."

MOUNT PLEASANT Hunter Valley MERLOT 1997: Winemaker Phil Ryan

Winemaker's Notes: "Grapes were fermented for eight days using the submerged cap technique with constant pumping over and temperature. At approx 1 degree baume a portion of the blend was drained, pressed and fermented dry in American oak barrels for 15 months prior to bottling. Deep ruby red with purple hues. Perfumed raspberry, plummy and violet aromas. Rich chocolate, berry and plain fruit flavours balanced by soft velvety tannins and a fresh finish."

SHOTTESBROOKE MERLOT 1998: Winemaker Nick Holmes

Winemaker's Notes: "The aroma shows ripe cherry and berry characters backed with a touch of spice. A mixture of new and one-year-old American oak were used to age the wine for approximately one year, producing a wine with fine tannin structure. This style is known for showing a full middle palate and having a lovely soft silky finish. This medium bodied wine can be enjoyed young or will gracefully cellar for 5-6 years."

BRONZE WING MERLOT 1997: Winemakers John & Anthony Kosovich

Winemaker's Notes: "Grapes were picked at 12 degrees Baume. After four days on skins the wine spent 12 months in new to three-year old French oak before a course filtration prior to bottling. The early ripening Merlot variety enables us to achieve full ripeness in the cool Manjimup area. Sweet berry and plummy aromas. Soft tannin structure. Rich soft fruit flavour complemented by subtle oak influence. Finishes with good length. 4-5 years cellaring."

WILSON VINEYARD MANDALA SHIRAZ 1997: Winemaker John Wilson

Winemaker's Notes: "Spicy and peppery aromas carry onto the palate and blend with blackberry jam flavours, forming a good balance with American oak. The wine shows excellent length finishing with chocolate and coffee, touched up with coconut."

WOODY NOOK SHIRAZ 1998:

Winemaker Neil Gallagher

Winemaker's Notes: "A powerful firmly structured wine with fresh blackberry flavours enhanced by well balanced toasty oak. Drinking well now or cellar up to 10 years."

YUNBAR ESTATE BUSHVINES SEMILLON 1999:

Winemaker Vicky Louise Bartier

Winemaker's Notes: "Whole bunched pressed and fermented in new French and American oak, the wine is dry with a lifted orange blossom and spice bouquet. Following through to an intense lemon and orange zest flavours on the palate, well structured and balanced this Semillon is a pleasure to drink young and will continue to reward for a minimum of 20 years if cellared correctly."

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BATISTA PINOT NOIR 1997: Winemaker Bob Peruch.

Winemaker's Notes: "The label design looks very French and the name sounds like it should be part of a revolution, but it is actually a new and exciting debut from Manjimup in Western Australia. The colour is dense and the nose has dark cherry and plum aromas. The palate is solid and tight with strong plum and cherry flavours that are laced with spices. The finish offers solid tannins with loads of grip. It should cellar well and the alcohol is 13.5% A/V."

DOWIE DOOLE CHENIN BLANC 1998: Winemaker Brian Light.

Winemaker's Notes: "Tropical notes emanate from this fresh clean white wine. These tropical flavours flow through to the palate, which is of medium weight and balanced by a clean crisp finish."

HOPPER'S HILL CABERNET FRANC 1990: Winemaker Robert Gilmore.

Winemaker's Notes: "My wines show their true worth with age, when the pH goes up and fruit characters emerge."

LITTLE'S SEMILLON 1998: Winemaker Ian Little.

Winemaker's Notes: "As our youngest semillon for release it is showing its single vineyard fresh fruit characters. A guest winemaker at our recent '98's tasting suggested "grapefruit" which is an excellent description of this wine. Many more years of cellaring to reach its full Hunter rich flavours."

MARRIBROOK CABERNET MERLOT 1996: Winemaker Gavin Berry (Plantagenet).

Winemaker's Notes: "This medium bodied blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc displays lifted blackcurrant bouquet. Fruit of the forest berry flavours give a natural sweetness on the palate. Well-integrated oak and fine tannins produce a superbly balanced red for smooth drinking. Cellaring potential 5+ years."

PARACOMBE SHIRAZ 1996: Winemaker Paul Drogemuller.

Winemaker's Notes: "This premium Shiraz was made from grapes hand picked over an extended ripening period to fully maximize fruit quality and flavour intensity. The grapes underwent a slow, cool ferment in small open tanks. They were hand plunged and then basket pressed to gain a gentle extraction of flavour and tannins. The wine was then left to gracefully mature for twenty months in a combination of French and American Oak barriques.

RYMILL CABERNET SAUVIGNON 1996:

Winemaker John Innes.

Winemaker's Notes: "Brilliant, deep crimson with rich, purple, plum hues. Plum, cherry and dried fruits on the nose that transfer onto the palate. Rich, mouth-filling flavours of plum, cassis and cherry. Shows excellent weight persistence of flavour and fine tannin structure supported by fine cigar-box oak. A complex wine that exhibits all the hallmarks of classic Coonawarra Cabernet; powerful yet elegant flavours and a beautiful balance of fruit, alcohol and tannin. Will bring great delight with 8-10 years careful cellaring."

SETTLER'S RIDGE SAUVIGNON BLANC 1998:

Winemaker Wayne Nobbs.(Consultant: Mike Gadd).

Winemaker's Notes: "This elegant dry white wine exhibits aromatic fruit flavours with a crisp finish typical of the Sauvignon Blanc variety. Settlers Ridge wines are made from 100% estate grown fruit which has been hand picked, softly basket pressed and processed on the property to world wide organic standards." As per the label.

STONEY VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON 1995:

Winemaker Peter Althaus.

Winemaker's Notes: "Deep purple in colour with soft and fragrant blackcurrant and blackberry aromas. This is a delightful, elegant and well-balanced wine, which demands an encore. Will reward 5-7 years cellaring."

TATACHILLA SHIRAZ 1997:

Winemakers Michael Fragos & Justin McNamee.

Winemaker's Notes: "Tatachilla's open fermenters and hand plunging were employed to preserve rich fruit flavour while ferment temperature control ensures an elegance of style. The wine exhibits typical McLaren Vale depth of flavour and complexity: blackcurrant and ripe raspberry, spice, mint and nutty oak characters."

TUMBARUMBA SAUVIGNON BLANC 1998:

Winemaker Geoff Carter (Kirsten Munro).

Winemaker's Notes: "The fruit is grown exclusively in the company's vineyard at Tumbarumba. Made as a light, fresh fruit driven style, the wine shows herbaceous, asparagus flavours with a hint of kiwi fruit. Best drunk now as an aperitif. Will cellar for 2 to 3 years."

WESTFIELD CABERNET SAUVIGNON 1997:

Winemakers John & Anthony Kosovich.

Winemaker's Notes: "The bouquet of this wine shows a lovely combination of varietal minty fruit and clean French Oak. The rich fruit on the middle palate is balanced by soft, velvet-like tannins that give a dry finish. Will cellar for 5-10 years."

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BEST'S GREAT WESTERN RIESLING 1998: Winemaker Viv Thomson.

Winemaker's Notes: "Vines in good condition, perfect to pick. Free-run juice, excellent. Delicate crispness and depth and flavour are the hallmarks of our Great Western Rieslings. A classic example of Riesling from Best's Concongella vineyard that promises good cellaring potential for those who enjoy the "mature style."

BLEWITT SPRINGS SHIRAZ 1998: Winemaker Brett Howard.

Winemaker's Notes: (Adelaide Plains and Langhorne Creek Shiraz). "A sound vintage has realised some lower yields but given the winemaker an excellent opportunity to produce a wine with flavour and intensity. Crimson colours and peppery characters are features from the ripe fruit produced with the deep robust colours coming to the forefront. With careful oak treatment the wine is not overwooded in order to capture soft Shiraz flavours and lifted plum aromas of this grape variety. Maturation took place in small American and French casks with the mellow oak finish complementing the fine tannins."

BROKE'S PROMISE CHARDONNAY 1998: Winemaker Andrew Margan.

Winemaker's Notes: "Pale straw in colour with youthful green hues at the edges. A young and fresh nose showing classic warmer climate fruit characters of peaches and bananas, supported by a pleasant oak influence in the background. Up-front fruit on the palate, again showing the tropical fruit style of the Chardonnay spectrum. Some well-integrated oak characters in balance with the fruit intensity. Good clean acid structure and palate weight with a clean dry finish."

CANOBOLAS-SMITH CABERNETS 1996: Winemaker Murray Smith.

Winemaker's Notes: "As grapes were picked they were crushed and fermented separately, with ongoing assessment of quality. The final blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, in equal proportions spent the next eighteen months in new and older wood prior to bottling. The result is a more 'classic claret' from a very good vintage. Long and lean with a good firm finish. Enjoyed now and over the next five years."

FAIRHALL DOWNS SAUVIGNON BLANC 1998: Winemaker John Forrest.

Winemaker's Notes: "In this warm vintage, successive pickings of fruit ensured we were able to capture both the intense flavours and acidity necessary to produce a great Sauvignon Blanc. Separate vinification prior to blending along with the addition of 9% Semillon have added complexity to this single vineyard wine. The warm vintage is expressed in the ripe tropical flavours and mango overlaying the traditional redcurrant and gooseberry characters for which Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc has become internationally acclaimed."

FISHBURN and O'KEEFE PINOT NOIR 1998: Winemaker Greg O'Keefe.

Winemaker's Notes: "A balanced Pinot Noir with ripe cherry fruit flavour and lifted raspberry notes underscored by forest floor and dried fruit characters, supported by subtle tannins, making this wine attractive for immediate drinking to medium term cellaring."

GARDEN GULLY GRENACHE 1997: Winemakers Brian Fletcher & Warren Randall

Winemaker's Notes: "Produced using 100% McLaren Vale Grenache, This un-oaked wine makes the most of rich ripe Grenache characters. The nose displays rich spice and raspberry Grenache characters that follow through on a medium weight palate. Ready to drink now, this is an easy drinking style representing excellent value for money."

KINGS CREEK PINOT NOIR 1998:

Winemakers Brian Cole & Kevin McCarthy

Winemaker's Notes: "A combination of estate grown fruit and first crop MV6 Pinot Noir has produced this fresh and lively wine of depth and flavour. Distinct dark plum and cherry characteristics combine with fresh mixed berry and chocolate aromas. Freshly pepper and spice palate integrated with soft French oak suggests a wine ideal for drinking now or medium cellaring."

PAULETT'S CABERNET MERLOT 1996:

Winemaker Neil Paulett.

Winemaker's Notes: "This blend of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Merlot was harvested in late April. Our traditional open fermentation and basket pressing occurred before 16 months maturation in predominantly French Oak Barrels. An intense and rich and berry and plum nose bursts from the glass. The palate shows great richness and generosity of flavours. Very complex with lovely soft and integrated oak evident and balancing through the middle palate and the length of finish."

PLUNKETT CABERNET MERLOT 1997:

Winemaker Sam Plunkett.

Winemaker's Notes: "A blackcurrant aroma with hints of cool climate 'mintiness'. As the wine ages the primary fruit will fade away and it will smell increasingly earthy. The palate has some mineral characters with good complexity and nutty nougat flavours. The structure is elegant with fine tannins."

T'GALLANT PINOT GRIGIO 1998:

Winemakers Kevin McCarthy & Kathleen Quealy

Winemaker's Notes: "Mild straw, with a hint of green. Fresh intense, ripe exotic fruit. Freshly cut hay. Reminiscent of the sea: rock pools barnacles and ocean breeze. Bone dry, excellent body, finishes warm and generous thanks to complete fermentation of very ripe fruit. Very attractive varietal flavour with great intensity and persistence."

WATER WHEEL BENDIGO SHIRAZ 1997:

Winemaker Peter Cumming.

Winemaker's Notes: "A vibrant, dark red appearance and intense varietal nose indicate a wine that is rich in fruit flavour and has great length on the palate. The palate is dominated by flavoursome Shiraz characters which carry through to the back of the palate and fill the mouth. This is enhanced by the use of American oak, adding complexity and balance to the wine. The wine has an immediate appeal because of the soft finish."

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ALL SAINTS MARSANNE 1997: Winemaker Matt Fawcett Brown Brothers.

Winemaker's Notes: "The fruit was whole bunch pressed to avoid phenolic extraction. Typical extraction rates are about 620 litres/tonne. The juice was allowed to settle for 48 to 72 hours and is racked without filtration. Half the wine is tank fermented while the rest is fermented in two-year-old oak barrels. The wine is matured in two thirds French and one third American oak for a maximum of six months. The wine is then earth filtered after stabilization, and pad and membrane filtered into bottle as a 100% varietal wine".

BAROSSA RIDGE *Old Creek* SHIRAZ 1997: Winemaker Marco Litterini.

Winemaker's Notes: "A wine of deep plummy colour. Amazingly ripe concentrated fruit with layers of earthy rich dark plum flavours that are smooth and supple. The silky texture leads to a long and lingering finish. Drink now to 7 years. Ideal with beef, game and aged cheese."

BETTIO MERLOT 1997: Winemakers Paul and Daniel Bettio.

Winemaker's Notes: "The grapes were harvested at full ripeness off the Bettio King Valley Vineyard. Crushed and de-stemmed into open ferments and hand plunged to retain the fruit flavours. Fermentation took 10 days at a cool temperature. The free-run was drained and the skins were gently pressed in a basket press thus producing a soft, yet full-bodied style. The colour is dark crimson red with a purple edge. The nose displays cool climate perfumed spice with fleshy plum overtones. The palate is up front plums and liquorice with balanced acidity and ample tannin to give good depth and length of finish. A generously flavoured wine that will continue to drink well now and over 4-6 years."

BLACKWOOD CREST SHIRAZ 1997: Winemaker Max Fairbrass.

Winemaker's Notes: "A good depth of colour showing a vibrant red and lingering hue at the rim. The nose has pepper and spice lift with an added oak complexity. The palate is a mix of fine grain tannins; cherry and mixed berry fruit, wood astringency and a cleansing acid finish. It is a remarkably fresh and youthful wine and will develop greater dimension with further bottle age."

CARABOODA ESTATE SHIRAZ 1993:

Winemaker Terry Ord.

Winemaking Notes: "The intention here is to make medium to full-bodied wines from shiraz with plenty of skin contact for the maximum extraction of flavour and colour. The fruit is picked ripe, to achieve alcohol levels of 13 to 13.5 per cent for pleasant palate weight. Open ferments are used."

DELAMERE PINOT NOIR 1997:

Winemaker Richard Richardson.

Winemaker's Notes: "After a cool start, things improved with a beautifully warm and dry autumn. The cool start does however provide moderate yields, giving ripe flavours. The colour of the wine is mid red with some evidence of the beginnings of maturation. Clarified by the lightest filtration the wine may show a slight deposit-this is normal. Spicy black pepper and berry fruit flavours, velvety pinot mouth feel, very good weight or body, rewarding length and complexity. The flavours are shaped by open ferments, the inclusion of stalks and barrel maturation."

JACKSON ESTATE SAUVIGNON BLANC 1998:

Winemakers John Stichbury & Martin Shaw

Winemaking Notes: "1998 saw an exceptionally long warm summer with consequent early ripening conditions. The warm weather that continued through spring produced a good flower set with no threat of late frost. There is no irrigation system in the vineyard so a fortuitous rainfall through ripening period was critical to keep ground water in balance, and the drought conditions that continued through the latter part of the ripening proved beneficial to fruit flavours. 1998 was an excellent vintage with fruit harvested exceptionally early at optimum ripeness levels. The wine has the intense bouquet and flavour of tropical pineapple, with the traditional gooseberry and ripe melon in combination with spicy lychee notes. The wine is balanced by crisp acidity offering excellent drinking now through to 2001."

OLD KENT RIVER CHARDONNAY 1997:

Winemaker Michael Staniford (Alkoomi)

Winemaker's Notes: "Grapes were picked at 13.5 degrees Baume and barrel fermented, aged on lees and matured in either new or one year old French oak for ten months prior to bottling. Partly in Vosges oak, adding tannin and part in Alliers to enhance the sweetness, length and structure of the palate. The bouquet is described as tight, opulent tropical and grapefruit aromas, beautifully integrated with buttery and charred oak characters. On to the palate: very elegant and complex for a young Chardonnay. Beautiful quince like-fruit characters are perfectly complemented by subtle oak and acid."

ROSABROOK SEMILLON SAUVIGNON BLANC 1998:

Winemaker Simon Keall

Winemaker's Notes: "The fruit is all hand picked to prevent degradation of flavours and then crushed and pressed. The juice is left to settle at a cool temperature for five days. The juice is then racked and fermented. The wine is blended post fermentation. The colour is a pale straw gold with brilliant clarity and faint green hues. The aroma shows typical herbaceous and melon characters from the Sauvignon Blanc and citrus characters from the Semillon. The palate is fruity and full flavoured showing herbaceous citrus characters, with a long clean finish and overall is a fresh well-balanced wine."

STANTON AND KILLEEN DURIF 1996:

Winemaker Chris Killeen

Winemaker's Notes: "Durif is a variety that has been grown in the Rutherglen District for over 100 years and usually produces wines of monumental proportions. This is a slightly lighter wine than normal, which has good balance, elegance and a lovely lift of new oak. A wine that drinks unusually well for such a young wine but has the potential to develop into a delightful seven to eight year old wine. Twelve months in American Oak Puncheons, with approximately 60% new oak."

TREETON ESTATE SEMILLON RIESLING 1998:

Winemaker David McGowan.

Winemaker's Notes: "The 1998 Semillon Riesling is a blend of 60% Semillon and 40% Riesling. It is a wine with a delicate floral bouquet and a full palate of soft pear flavours, finishing with a mandarin aftertaste and an extended wine memory. An ideal accompaniment to salads, fowl and fish."

YASS VALLEY RIESLING 1996:

Winemaker Michael Withers.

Winemaker's Notes: "The 1996 Riesling was picked quite late and consequently ended up with a rather high alcohol content – unusual for a Riesling. Initially it was rather a fat, bland wine but with loads of fruit flavour. After three years of ageing it is developing the typical citrusy tang of good Riesling and also the floral nose and flavours of aged Riesling without losing the very full fruit flavours. The acid is showing through without being objectionable. This is a Riesling for people who say they don't like Riesling." Alcohol 13.0%, pH 3.2, Acid 8.5g/L, residual sugar 6.5g/L.