

## Volume 5 Round 2 May 2002

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### **ALLANDALE SEMILLON 2000:**

Winemaker Bill Snedden

Winemaker's Notes: As per label: "This is a classic Hunter style made from low cropping old vines growing in the Lower Hunter vineyard area. The 2000 vintage was a terrific year for the Hunter having started with good spring rains followed by a warm dry summer. The fruit was picked early with great natural acidity and lovely flavours. The palate of this Semillon is long and tight with herbal citrus flavours. As with all great Hunter Semillons it will age gracefully over the next ten years into a toasty, full bodied style." **Cellar:** Up to 10 years

### **DELATITE CHARDONNAY 1998:**

Winemaker Rosalind Ritchie

Winemaker's Notes: "Harvested from 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March, the characters of melon with a touch of grapefruit predominate over the complexity of barrel ferment characters, with a background of vanillin oak. The wine has finesse and delicacy, with a soft round palate. Matured in new and one year old French barriques, this wine should be served only slightly chilled." **Cellar:** "This wine will cellar well for up to eight years."

### **BREMERTON SELKIRK SHIRAZ 2000:**

Winemaker Rebecca Willson

Winemaker's Notes: "The grapes for the Selkirk Shiraz are mostly estate grown and of course 100% Langhorne Creek. After fermentation, the wine spent 15 months in carefully selected new (30%) to four old American oak barriques to enhance its palate weight without masking the varietal fruit characters. The wine has excellent colour and offers concentrated varietal characters, a lifted pepper aroma and a hint of front palate sweetness. A complex, well balanced palate structure and a persistent finish enhance the rich flavours of ripe berry fruit with touches of spice." **Cellar:** "Although drinking well now, it will develop with bottle age 4+ years."

### **CANOBOLAS-SMITH PINOT NOIR 1999:**

Winemaker Murray Smith

Winemaker's Notes: "Distinctive varietal nose of strawberry fruit with some earthy, leathery notes. Palate is quite long, with fresh acid, supple mid-palate and slightly sappy skin and oak tannins to finish. Nice mix of the fruity and savoury components and the acid makes it a great food wine." **Cellar:** "Probably best in the medium term 2 to 4 years, but we'd expect it to live beyond this, by a few years."

**CANOBOLAS-SMITH SHINE BOTRYTIS CHARDONNAY 1999:**

Winemaker Murray Smith

Winemaker's Notes: "Clean Botrytis marmalade aromatics on the nose along with honey nougat and vanilla. Palate shows great harmony of sweetness, alcohol and acidity. Not too sweet or too acid. Well rounded but fresh. Will soften and mellow with age. Great now with Toni's chocolate cake and preserved fig filling." **Cellar:** "Good now in the short term 2 to 4 years. It's the first of this style and really should live longer."

**CORIOLE SANGIOVESE SHIRAZ 2000:**

Winemakers Grant Harrison and Mark Lloyd

Winemaker's Notes: "Style: medium bodied dry red with a lifted savoury and spicy flavours and a firm acid backbone. This 2000 wine is the 13<sup>th</sup> vintage from Coriole, and is a blend of 60% Sangiovese and 40% Shiraz. Medium brick red in colour, this wine shows lifted aromas of dark cherry and dried herbs typical of the sangiovese variety, complimented by spiciness of the Shiraz. The palate is medium bodied with firm acid, displaying savoury, dark cherry flavours. The shiraz component contributes appealing texture and softness." **Cellar:** "This wine will also develop extra complexity with 3 to 5 years aging."

**FRANKLAND ESTATE RIVERMIST CABERNETS 2001:**

Winemakers Barrie Smith and Judi Cullam

Winemaker's Notes: "A rich complex blend of three different varieties dominated by the characteristic blackcurrant and tobacco-leather flavours of Cabernet Sauvignon. This is fleshed out by the soft, warm merlot fruit and given further complexity by the distinctive floral aromas and firm structure of Cabernet Franc." **Cellar:** Medium term, 3 to 5 years.

**KAYS SHIRAZ-MOURVEDRE-GRENACHE 2000:** Winemaker Colin Kay

Winemaker's Notes: "The grapes were harvested in March 2000 and fermented on skins for 5 days before the wine was run off and the skins basket pressed to extract the deeply coloured pressings wine. Both the free run and the pressings were combined and allowed to evolve in American oak barriques for 18 months prior to bottling." **Cellar:** "Although it is very approachable now 2 to 4 years is recommended."

**SADDLERS CREEK RESERVE MERLOT 2000:** Winemaker John Johnstone

Winemaker's Notes: "Merlot, an adaptable grape variety with typical soft, plummy, jammy flavours. Made from fruit hand picked at optimum ripeness from a single vineyard in the Lower Hunter Valley. A rich full flavoured wine with a subtle bouquet of blackberries and cedary oak. On the palate, this wine is round and wonderfully plummy. This is a Merlot complex in character in fashion that befits the best of this variety, harvested in one of the best vintage years." **Cellar:** 2 to 8 years.

**WALLINGTON CHARDONNAY 2000:** Winemaker Blair Duncan (Arrowfield)

Winemaker's Notes: "January was an average hot month but with cool nights which is typical to this area. Irrigation was not commenced until 12<sup>th</sup> January, and total water use for the season was 0.5mgl/ha. The grapes ripened evenly from early January to mid February when they were harvested during the night by machine on 20<sup>th</sup> February, at 13.5 baume and pH 3.8. The fruit was then crushed and pressed into stainless steel with an addition of 2g/l tartaric acid. The juice was cold stabilized and sent to Arrowfield where 1/3 was placed into new French oak with the other 2/3 into two and three year old oak. Malolactic fermentation occurred and the wine was bottled in November 2000. The resulting wine has a delicate light yellow hue. The nose is a complex mix of melon and vanilla. The mouth filling palate has hints of tropical fruit and butterscotch with a creamy mid palate and spicy oak aftertaste." **Cellar:** 3 to 5 years.

**WATER WHEEL BENDIGO CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2000:**

Winemaker Peter Cumming

Winemaker's Notes: "The Water Wheel 2000 Bendigo Cabernet Sauvignon exhibits a deep / purple red colour. On the nose you can sense hints of mint, blackcurrant and red cedar. The palate is full and rich with considerable sweet berry fruit. The wine is balanced, with smooth integrated tannins. There is a persistent clean and dry finish." **Cellar:** Although ready to drink and enjoy now, the wine will benefit from medium term cellaring: 3 to 5 years."

**WEST CAPE HOWE CABERNET MERLOT 2001:**

Winemaker Brenden Smith

Winemaker's Notes: "65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot from Denmark and Mt. Barker was harvested and crushed with minimal sulphur. Acid and pH adjustments were made prior to fermentation, and then inoculation with a clean fermenting yeast. The juice was pumped over onto skins for 6-7 days and fermented to dryness. It was then pressed out and returned to the free run; settled for 48 hours in tank and then racked into oak barriques. Malolactic fermentation was induced. Maturation for ten months in new and used 50% / 50% French and American oak. The wine shows a complete blend of forest fruits, combined with spicy oak. Hints of earthy cassis Merlot characters. Silky mid to fine grain tannin integrated with succulent blackberry fruit. Beautiful integration of sweet fruit and distinctive oak." **Cellar:** "Designed for immediate consumption, however will reward 3 to 5 years aging."