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ALKOOMI FRANKLAND RIVER SHIRAZ VIOGNIER 2002:

Winemakers Michael Staniford and Merv Lange

Winemaker's Notes: "Colour is deep crimson with purple hues. A lifted aromatic nose reflects plums, berries and spice. The palate is concentrated and fleshy. There are complex fruit flavours of dark cherry, blueberry and spice. Maturation in French oak for 18 months has lengthened and softened the finish." **Cellar:** "Drinking well now because of its fruit, but will cellar well for many years to come."

BIDGEEBONG Sou'west Vineyards "THE ALABAMA" SHIRAZ 2002:

Winemaker Andrew Birks.

Winemaker's Notes: "The Sou'west Vineyards are located in the Gundagai Region, and the 2002 Vintage is rated as exceptional. The 'Alabama' spent 18 months in a mixture of both American and French oak prior to bottling in September 2003. It has captured the soft-fruit scent and majesty of the Shiraz grape variety. Its dark, long-lived tannins are maturing to give a wine with great depth of flavour, roundness and warmth. The wine is full-bodied, with good oak maturation characters showing elegance and abundant flavour." **Cellar:** 5 to 8 years

BIDGEEBONG TUMBARUMBA CHARDONNAY 2000: Winemaker Andrew Birks

Winemaker's Notes: "An elegant wine made from Chardonnay grapes grown in the cool, crisp climate of Tumbarumba high in the foothills of the Snowy Mountains. Its length of flavour and soft finish make this an excellent and very drinkable wine which is compatible with most foods. Twelve months in French oak, this is a lighter medium bodied dry white from an outstanding year." **Cellar:** Four to five years.

BRINDABELLA HILLS CABERNETS 2001: Winemaker Dr. Roger Harris

Winemaker's Notes: "This wine is produced from a classic blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot grapes, fermented and hand plunged in open fermenters, basket pressed, and matured in French and American oak barriques for two years. A fragrant and spicy bouquet followed by intense ripe fruit on the palate, it is balanced by rich flavours of oak and tannins." **Cellar:** Five to eight years.

BURKE & HILLS SAUVIGNON BLANC 2003: Winemaker Chris Derrez

Winemaker's Notes: "Grapes were hand-picked and gently whole bunch pressed. (Baume 12.8, pH 3.66 and Titratable Acidity 6.8). The juice was cold settled and racked then 'yeasted' with VL3. Fermentation was long and cool to retain delicacy. Partial fermentation was carried out in 'smoky' French oak. The wine was racked, stabilized, filtered and bottled fresh." **Cellar:** Enjoy now and over the next couple of years.

CANOBOLOS-SMITH WILD YEAST CHARDONAY 2001: Winemaker Murray Smith

Winemaker's Notes: "A greeny-gold colour this wine almost hangs in the glass. One of the impacts of wild yeast fermentation is a silky texture and terrific round mouth feel. A barrel fermented wine it has a nice lingering palate and is less overtly fruity than the premium Canobolas-Smith Chardonnay. It has had twelve months in older barrels so whilst the wine has many barrel fermentation characters it doesn't have any evident new oak. There has been experimenting with wild yeast ferments over the years but it is only with the 2001 vintage that a batch rather than one or two barrels has been made." **Cellar:** It is very good drinking now, and over the next couple of years.

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY Limited Release CABERNET SAUVIGNON 20001:

Winemaker Greg Gallagher

Winemaker's Notes: "The wine is a deep garnet colour with purple hues. The bouquet has intense aromas of blackberry and blackcurrant. The palate has layers of rich berry flavours with hints of chocolate and mint. The wine has excellent balance with a long, firm, fine tannin finish. This is a rich complex wine with the flavours well integrated from 18 months maturation in new and one year old French oak barrels." **Cellar:** "Best with 6 to 10 years bottle maturation."

CHATEAU PATO SHIRAZ 2002: Winemaker Nicholas Paterson

Winemaker's Notes: " Again this year, the vines' natural yeast was used, maturation was done in both French and Portuguese barriques over a period of 18 months and blending occurred in September. The colour is brilliant deep red verging on black. The depth of the nose is very seductive, showing dark spices integrated with ripe Shiraz fruit. The palate is very generous showing great depth and layer upon layer of the inherent qualities derived from the vineyard and soils. This is a wine that when poured, fills the air with lifted sweet fruit aromas, which follow through onto the palate." **Cellar:** "In my opinion this is one of Chateau Pato's best and although it is extremely drinkable now, you should try to hide some in your cellar for a while."

IBIS HABITAT SAUVIGNON BLANC 2003: Winemaker Chris Derrez

Winemaker's Notes: "Picked 19.3.03, cooled to 1 deg C, destemmed & airbag pressed 20.3.03 with protective handling. Analysis at pressing pH 3.43 TA 7.1 Baume 12.15. Cold settled and inoculated with VL3. Controlled cool ferment in stainless steel post ferment fining and filtration prior to bottling."... "This wine has a most fragrant nose with elements of sweet tropical fruit nashi pear and ripe grapefruit. These follow through with great clarity to the palate and ultimately to the long clean finish. The acidity is refreshing and nicely balanced. The intensity and elegance of this wine make it an ideal foil for seafood, vegetarian and asparagus dishes." **Cellar:** Excellent current drinking, but will develop more complexity over the next 2 to 3 years.

LAKE BREEZE LANGHORNE CREEK GRENACHE 2002: Winemaker Greg Follett

Winemaker's Notes: "The grapes used to make this classic wine were selectively harvested from our family's 6 rows of 70 year old Grenache vines. They were handpicked when very ripe to enhance the flavour and body of the wine, which shows an intense aroma of ripe berries with pepper and earthy overtones. The palate is rich and spicy, with a long soft finish." **Cellar:** "With correct cellaring this wine will age gracefully over the next 5 years. Only 400 dozen produced." (as per back label)

STANTON AND KILLEEN SHIRAZ DURIF 2001: Winemaker Chris Killeen

Winemaker's Notes: "70% Shiraz and 30% Durif. Shiraz has for many years been the backbone of the Australian red wine industry while Durif is a rare variety that has been grown in Rutherglen for over 100 years. It is renowned for making big full-bodied styles wine that bottle ages well. The combination of these two varieties has produced an intriguing blend of fullness and flavour. The Shiraz exhibits plums and blackberry characteristics while the blockbuster Durif adds backbone and flavour length to the palate. Oak maturation was a selection of new, one and two year old American and German Hogsheads." **Cellar:** "The wine will mature well for 6 - 8 years."

ULEYBURY BASKET PRESS SANGIOVESE 2001: Winemaker Tony Pipicella

Winemaker's Notes: "100% Sangiovese, it is mid-red in colour, and has a floral nose with hints of vanillin and coconut oak aromas. On the palate there are flavours of liquorice and spice which compliment the light natural tannins. 'Good lift and intensity. A lively wine that is diverse when matched with several kinds of meals.' Suggestions: Antipasto, pasta, lamb and seafood." **Cellar:** "Drink now or cellar for 3-5 years."