



## The KROW (Key Review of Wines) Issue 26

For those of us that are interested in the subject of wine cost is always a problem. Could we afford it we would drink better wines every day and better invariably leads to more expensive.

Some say 'I wouldn't spend anymore then X on a bottle of wine' and condemn anything above that price point. For me it's a pointless and often boring argument as there are plenty of good wines in all price brackets. Despite the numerous samples I receive I have the same problem there are many wines I simply can't afford to buy tough s\*\*\* end of story.



Despite the multitude of wine marketers that have infiltrated the Australian wine industry over the past two decades Australian wine is struggling to hold its global image and maybe at home as well considering the amount of New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc that is flooding the country. For me the job of wine marketer makes little impression (another story) and their bumbling attempts to reinvent Chardonnay, conquer the Asian market or conduct surveys on why who buys what often make good material for The Key Report

However I am always impressed when wines are released that are thought through from vineyard to consumer and the pathway between hence the two Ara wines lead the review this issue. Created for the on-trade only I hope they are successful as this is good marketing.

Jenny Stonier is guest reviewer for this edition her reviews are in red

Also note we are carrying an advert for Banrock station. We also have an advert booked in the next KROW and if lucky will carry two each edition. Reason? It takes considerable time to compile these reviews and they are free to readers meanwhile shoes on feet, pants on legs and food on the table; nuf said.

If you would like to place an advert to keep KROW going please get in touch [tonykeys@netconnect.com.au](mailto:tonykeys@netconnect.com.au)

Happy drinking

Tony Keys

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### **How I mark**

*Marking wines can be an emotive issue and there is no enforceable rule on what scale should be used. I use the 100 scale for quality rating devised by American critic Robert Parker. The Australian show system uses marks out of 20; several writers use stars or symbols, many out of five. I consider a wine of average quality to be 85 and, believe me, there is nothing wrong with a wine earning 85 points.*

*In truth, the value of a wine is directly related to the wealth of the drinker. Those with untold millions in the bank may think nothing of drinking bottles worth hundreds of dollars/pounds/Euros, while those with an overdraft and more pressing financial matters might find spending over \$10, £5 or €10 an unjustifiable expense.*

*With regard to value for money, wine can be divided into two sections: those up to 100 dollars/pounds/Euros and those over. Once a wine is over this amount, then scarcity, fashion or plain pomposity is what you're paying for.*

*Up to that amount there really is a quality-to-value ratio. The hard part is expressing the value. I've experimented with charts and held long debates about a critic's role in pricing. Many reviewers make no comment; others use symbols. The most honest system I can think of is plain opinion (mine). When I look at the price of a wine, it's the one the winery has sent me. Often they can be found cheaper on special. I judge value for money by comparing wines in the same peer group. When I say "works better with food" it's because I have tasted it on the bench and then with food, as certain wines often taste better in this context.*



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### **In this edition of The KROW:**

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***When a wine hits the right spot words don't always come to mind it's just an inner feeling. Those that affect me in that way have an illustration accompanying them.***

***Your input is always welcome any comment on a review or the wine industry is as valid as mine***

**Ara Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2008:** Sound NZ Savvy now settled as its from the 08 vintage but its still a little full on for me 88 points but I would be happy to pay the recommended \$26-\$30 in a restaurant as I would also not feel cheated paying the recommended \$32 to \$36 for the **Ara Marlborough Pinot Noir 2008:** Again a sound wine plenty of Pinot character but lacking full Pinot Noir finesse 90 points

Perfection or damn close is to be found drinking Australian Rutherglen Muscat. Along with Hunter Valley Semillon it is our greatest and unique contribution to the world of wine. Individual descriptions I find difficult as it's only when I have a few on the bench I can compare one against the other and comment on the slight differences. The two Campbells wines are simply wonderful a true vinous experience and if it's of any interest there use in seduction and sexual play are magic.....or so I am told.



**Campbells Rutherglen Muscat:** 96 points and worth its \$19 half bottle  
**Campbells 'Classic' Rutherglen Muscat:** 98 points and well worth its \$42 half bottle [www.campbellswines.com.au](http://www.campbellswines.com.au)

**Riversands Wines 'Golden Liqueur' Queensland Muscat:** A very different style and it divided those tasting into for/against; I have to admit it wasn't for me 89 points and I think pushing price at \$24 half bottle [www.riversandswines.com](http://www.riversandswines.com)

**McWilliams 'Morning Light' Riverina Botrytis Semillion 2007:** Well made quality sweet wines are again hard to judge singular as they also generally rate highly; no exception is this wine carefully crafted it hits all the right buttons but just not hard enough for me 93 and pricy at \$30 half [www.mcwilliams.com.au](http://www.mcwilliams.com.au)

**Scarborough Hunter Valley Late Harvest Semillon 2008:** Ripe peach nose; sits balanced at the front of the mouth then travels well but not an exciting wine its 'nice' not outstanding 89 points \$20 is about right for this style of wine but I would feel disappointed if I had spent it. [www.scarboroughwine.com.au](http://www.scarboroughwine.com.au)

**Sweet Summary:** Its interesting to note many that consider themselves sophisticated drinkers think dry wine lead the ratings but when reviewed great Muscat's ports and sweet wines often obtain much higher marks. The Campbells wines are simply outstanding and very, very sexy.

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### ***Semi and full sparklers***

**Peter Lehmann Princess Moscato 2009:** A beautiful wine with a lovely delicate colour – pretty as a princess. Too sweet for most wine drinkers, a glass or two on a hot day made a nice distraction. Top marks for the 500mls bottle under crown seal, but \$18? 'You're dreaming' said Darryl. 88 points.  
[www.peterlehmannwines.com](http://www.peterlehmannwines.com)

**Tulloch Verscato NV:** A base of Verdelho and touch of Shiraz boiled sweet nose and an OK drink but it didn't lift my taste senses above dozing in the hammock 84 points and will find favour with some that will pay the \$16. I would spend it on something else. It found favour with **Tony Love** who reviewed it in **The Adelaide Advertiser** 9<sup>th</sup> February 'most desirable' 'this has a lot going for it' he gave it three stars which translates to 'decent drop' [www.tulloch.com.au](http://www.tulloch.com.au)

**De Bortoli 'Rococo' Yarra Valley Rose NV:** Although Chardonnay dominant there is plenty of Pinot grip on the front of the palate and an underlying savouriness; it travels well but doesn't come together in harmony at the end; on that basis I gave it 89 but took it to table and the savoury character worked well with food so bump it up to 91 pushing the edge at \$22 on 89 but within the ball park at 91 [www.debortoli.com.au](http://www.debortoli.com.au)

**Jansz Tasmanian Premium Cuvee Rose NV:** A very sound sparkling wine in all departments and a joy to drink 91 points good value at \$25 but often cheaper then it becomes very good value. [www.jansz.com.au](http://www.jansz.com.au)

**Jansz Tasmanian Rose 2006:** Although made solely from Pinot Noir it didn't come across on the nose and was light on entry but from there the flavour built and by mid palate it all came together wonderfully and held firm long after swallowed 92 points but I think pushing price barriers at \$40 [www.jansz.com.au](http://www.jansz.com.au)

**Jansz Tasmanian Premium Cuvee NV:** A classic 'Champagne' blend of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier, this is almost there a touch more older wine in the blend and it will rival most NV Champagnes on the market it's a great wine all in balance from beginning to end just missing a little depth 91 points and worth its \$25 but so often can be found on offer so then great value [www.jansz.com.au](http://www.jansz.com.au) (Huon Hooke gave it 90 in Sydney Morning Herald 2<sup>nd</sup> March)

**Jansz Tasmanian Late Disgorged 2002:** It surprised me; for a late disgorged it had a remarkable young nose of fresh apples and strangely I also got mint on the front of the palate; LD sparkling/Champagne wines are often more stinky on the nose and feral in taste the flavour did fill out in the middle but for me failed to

hit the high points expected 90 points and I think expensive a lot of competition in the \$50 bracket [www.jansz.com.au](http://www.jansz.com.au)

**Brown Brothers 'Patricia' Pinot Noir & Chardonnay 2005 Brut:** Roughly an 80/20 blend of PN/Chardonnay the fruit is sourced from the Whitlands vineyard 800m above sea level in the King Valley Victoria; clean with plenty of apple character and very well made. For me it lacked depth and interest; enjoyable but far from a great sparkling wine 90 points and at \$45 I want more from a wine [www.brownbrothers.com.au](http://www.brownbrothers.com.au)

**Tulloch Cuvee NV:** A standard sort of sparkling wine that has fiz and flavours but little depth and elegance. 88 points OK cellar door price at \$16 but would struggle in the market place. [www.tulloch.com.au](http://www.tulloch.com.au)

**Fox Creek 'The Vixen' NV:** sparkling red and gorgeous a very sensual wine I just love it 92 points and very good value at \$22.50 [www.foxcreekwines.com](http://www.foxcreekwines.com)

**Semi and full sparklers summary:** The Jansz wines were very interesting to me the two NV wines being very good getting high marks and excellent value the vintage wines got good but not great marks and didn't show the quality that I expected over the NV cousins. The Fox Creek Vixen is a marvellous wine but I accept not all are into sparkling red

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### **Hunter Valley Semillon**

**Scarborough 'Green Label' Hunter Valley Semillon 2009:** Light pleasant nose still youthful therefore not showing at its best it still deserves 89 as it's a well made wine but there are more points awaiting it over the next three years good value at \$18 [www.scarboroughwine.com.au](http://www.scarboroughwine.com.au)

**Scarborough 'White Label' Hunter Valley Semillon 2009:** Always interesting comparing two levels of the same wine, the white is all the 'Green Label' only more and equally suffers the same problems 90 points now and many more down the track is worth \$25 to put away but if drinking tonight perhaps not so. [www.scarboroughwine.com.au](http://www.scarboroughwine.com.au)

**Meerea Park 'Alexander Munro' Hunter Valley Semillon 2004:** Soft and sensual to start and so very seductive all the way, did the job for me and then some, 93 points worth its \$35 [www.meereapark.com.au](http://www.meereapark.com.au)

**Meerea Park 'Terracotta' Hunter Valley Semillon 2004:** Surprising still quite tart as if it were younger. It appears in a state of flux at the moment brilliant green/gold colour wonderful nose yet goes astray on the palate harsh judgment but it's the finer points in this style of wine I look for 91 points tottering on the edge of value at \$30 for drinking but will be worth it if it comes good [www.meereapark.com.au](http://www.meereapark.com.au)

**Brokenwood 'Maxwell Vineyard' Hunter Valley Semillon 2005:** A wine that is all it should be and then a great deal more beautiful lemon edge to a complex assortment of flavours 93 now but a few more points to come and worth its \$36 [www.brokenwood.com.au](http://www.brokenwood.com.au)



**Brokenwood 'ILR Reserve' Hunter Valley Semillion 2004:**

Six years old and just starting to come around great depth to this wine one to sit and think about whilst sipping pure pleasure 95 points and more down the track worth its \$45

[www.brokenwood.com.au](http://www.brokenwood.com.au)

**Tyrrell's 'Lost Block' Hunter Valley Semillon 2009:** 'Zippy' plenty of flavour drink now and enjoy 91 points and good value at \$13 [www.tyrrells.com.au](http://www.tyrrells.com.au)

**Tyrrell's 'HVD' Hunter Valley Semillon 2004:** The perfect Semillon nose the age is starting to show its so sensual real adult flavours and a multitude of them wrapped up in a gorgeous bitterness 96 points great value at \$27

[www.tyrrells.com.au](http://www.tyrrells.com.au)



**Tyrrell's 'Stevens' Hunter Valley Semillon 2004:** Gorgeous nose pure pleasure that enhances the anticipation of what's to come and that doesn't disappoint either all in a touch of heaven on earth 97 points \$32 worth the price [www.tyrrells.com.au](http://www.tyrrells.com.au)

**Tyrrell's 'Belford' Hunter Valley Semillon 2004:** Interesting to taste this next to the Stevens wine. They share the character of great Semillon but I found this a harder wine not as elegant 94 points and worth its \$27

[www.tyrrells.com.au](http://www.tyrrells.com.au)

**Semillion Summary:** Ten wines points ranging from 89 to 97 with those receiving lower points only restricted by youth. It's a great pity that many committed wine drinkers in the world cannot see the wondrous beauty of this style of wine but if they could then the wines would be selling for plus \$100

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**Regal Riesling**

**Jacobs Creek Classic Riesling 2009:** The entry level wine and often found at very reasonable prices both on the domestic market \$7 \$10 and in the UK £5-£7. Defined lime riesling nose, the lime character following through to the palate beautifully balanced fruit slightly subdued due to youth but will develop further; the whole is underscored with clean crisp acid and has a long satisfying finish 90 points and at least one more in six to nine months time. [www.jacobs creek.com](http://www.jacobs creek.com)

**Jacobs Creek Reserve Riesling 2009:** The accompanying notes say it has already picked up a couple of trophies and a gold medal and I can understand why. However the perception of wine show judges and that of the consumer are somewhat different; this beauty is very austere and needs in my estimation at least another year in bottle before it starts to make good drinking therefore judging it on how it showed on tasting I give it 91 points but expect it to go to 95. Around \$15 and very cheap if putting away for a couple of years or more

[www.jacobs creek.com](http://www.jacobs creek.com)



**Jacobs Creek Steingarten Riesling 2009:** Surprisingly I found this less austere than the reserve but even at this young age it has that edge of steel that separates Steingarten and other great Rieslings from the pack. Lots of lime character and more hidden promise than is decent. 93 now and a good few more to come around \$25 good value but again it needs

to be put away for a while.

[www.jacobscreek.com](http://www.jacobscreek.com)

**Pewsey Vale Eden Valley Riesling 2009:** A good time to release this wine its lost the aggressive edge of immature Riesling and is starting to flower and show its beauty. It's drinking very well by itself and transferred easily then shone at the table and will only improve as the year roles on its 92 points and good value at the stated price of \$23 if on sale cheaper buy it in fact buy a case of it.

[www.pewseyvale.com](http://www.pewseyvale.com)



**Pewsey Vale 'Prima' Eden Valley Riesling 2009:** A semi dry style that is showing the blimps of puberty unlike the dry 09 also reviewed this needs more time to come together middle of the year should be fine (tasted January) only 89 now but will pick up more as the year progresses and will be worth its \$25 then so buy and keep

[www.pewseyvale.com](http://www.pewseyvale.com)

**Grant Burge 'Thorn' Eden Valley Riesling 2009:** Light on nose and still in the development stage in the moth but plenty of hints of what is to come 91 now properly more points later, good value at \$22

[www.grantburgewines.com.au](http://www.grantburgewines.com.au)



**Reillys Watervale Riesling 2009:** 'Oh yum' might not be a posh descriptor for a wine but this was an outstanding and enjoyable drink 93 points and well worth its \$19 [www.reillyswines.com.au](http://www.reillyswines.com.au)

**Browns of Padthaway Riesling 2006:** Good fresh citrus nose, despite its age, but low acidity leaves the impression of a slightly unbalanced wine. 89 points and reasonable value for a wine of this age. \$19 [www.browns-of-padthaway.com](http://www.browns-of-padthaway.com) A different view from Huon Hooke who had it as wine of the week in the Sydney Morning Herald 2<sup>nd</sup> February awarding it 93 points

**Riesling Summary:** Look at the points read the words what more needs be said, are you missing out?

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### ***Super Savagnin***

**Chapel Hill McLaren vale Savagnin 2009:** Very tight at the time of tasting due to youth but deep within; plenty of hints of what's to come 89 now but a couple more in store and good value at \$20 [www.chapelhillwine.com.au](http://www.chapelhillwine.com.au)

**Tscharke 'Eva' Barossa Valley Savagnin 2009:** Just 8% alcohol with slight spritz, a cousin to the ever popular Moscato style, I thought it an outstanding wine in its class/style 90 points and very well worth \$15 [www.tscharke.com.au](http://www.tscharke.com.au)

**Crittenden Estate 'Los Hermanos Tributo a Calicia King Valley Savagnin 2009:** Lovely enticing and pleasing nose leads to a balanced start in the mouth then on to a interesting journey across the palate, attractive and restrained flavours are released as it travels the whole concluding very satisfyingly 92 points but pushing the price point at \$29 [www.crittendenwines.com.au](http://www.crittendenwines.com.au) **Ken Gargett** (The Courier Mail 13<sup>th</sup> February) also reviews Savagnin four in total two

the same as KROW this one he gave 88. I think he is a little hard on them



**Tscharke 'Girl Talk' Barossa Valley Savagnin**

**2009:** The notes say 'fresh fruit intensity and richness of flavour,' also 'elegant and opulent.' As I agree there is little need for me to prattle on; 92 points and value at \$21. Tim White writing in the Financial Review 15th January gives it 94

[www.tscharke.com.au](http://www.tscharke.com.au) **Ken Gargett** marks it 89

**Savagnin summary:** I am so very relieved Australian producers have got over the Albarino cock-up and have adapted to using the name Savagnin. I feel it has great potential in Australia and look forward to tasting more and seeing its development

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**Slippy Sauvignon Blanc**

**Mount Riley Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2009:** Very intense green fruit aromas that many will love, although we could not finish the bottle. A classic of the style – simple structure and highly identifiable passionfruit characters. 87 points and not worth its asking price of \$17, although can be found on special. [www.mountriley.co.nz](http://www.mountriley.co.nz)

**The Crossings Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2009:** Like the ocean pounding on the shore the never ending flow of NZ Savvy continues to arrive and not a lot excites me; a well made wine that's it 87 points and about the right price for the breed at \$17 although prices are dropping fast properly much cheaper when this review comes out [www.thecrossings.co.nz](http://www.thecrossings.co.nz)

**Houghton Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc 2009:** Just like words from the Christmas carol Good King Wenceslas 'crisp and even' not deep but good enough 91 points \$20 is about right but I would pick a \$20 Chardonnay over this [www.houghton-wines.com.au](http://www.houghton-wines.com.au)

**Browns of Padthaway Sauvignon Blanc 2008:** Good intense nose with ripe tropical characters, medium body and good finish. Some signs of age, including mellow aromatics, honeysuckle and lychees. 'A far more satisfying drink than any NZ Sav Blancs I've had lately'. 90 points and great value at \$16. [www.browns-of-padthaway.com](http://www.browns-of-padthaway.com)

**Mount Avoca Pyrenees Sauvignon Blanc 2009:** Sauvignon Blanc all the way with a regional twist that (for me) makes in more interesting then most NZ savvy 90 points worth its \$18 [www.mountavoca.com.au](http://www.mountavoca.com.au)

**Yellow Tail Australian Sauvignon Blanc 2009:** Rather dull white wine dry at the front and cloying towards the end; one glass is enough 84 points as its often on offer way below its recommended \$10 people will buy it on price [www.yellowtailwine.com](http://www.yellowtailwine.com)

**Angove 'Vineyard Select' Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc 2009:** Defined Sauvignon Blanc from nose to finish 89 points and good value at \$15 [www.angove.com.au](http://www.angove.com.au)



**Deen De Bortoli Vat 2 Mixed Region Sauvignon Blanc 2009:** Defined Sauvignon nose and shows varietal character across the palate 88 points Listed price is \$13 but it can often be found cheaper and when so is good value [www.debortoli.com.au](http://www.debortoli.com.au)

**Sauvignon Summary:** What can be said? People love savvy, I don't; the NZ offerings are coming down in price and soon NZ will find itself in trouble. Australian Savvy has a part to play so long as it stays a part and doesn't follow the Chardonnay route.


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### **Chardonnay Chamaeleon's**

**Found Stone SE Australian Unoaked Chardonnay 2009:** Its white wine well made and acceptable 87 points and value at \$10 [www.bertonvineyards.com.au](http://www.bertonvineyards.com.au)

**Houghton Margaret River Chardonnay 2009:** 'Softly textual and full flavour' says the back label; and so it is; unmistakable Chardonnay nose plenty of crisp acid and enjoyable throughout 89 now and I think one more as we move into 2010 good value at \$20 [www.houghton-wines.com.au](http://www.houghton-wines.com.au)

**Heggies Eden Valley Chardonnay 2008:** Defined Chardonnay nose with oak in check still a little wayward in the mouth but that will come good plenty of flavours but none dominating lovely wine 92 points and worth \$27

 **Heggies 'Reserve' Eden Valley Chardonnay 2007:** No messing here 96 points and well worth its \$40. The nose expresses all the beauty that Chardonnay really is compared to Sauvignon Blanc; from the wonderful nose onwards this wine is simply gorgeous every step elegant and rewarding; winemaker Peter Gambetta deserves an award for crafting this wine but will have to settle for my thanks. [www.heggiesvineyard.com](http://www.heggiesvineyard.com)

**Mount Eyre Hunter Valley Chardonnay 2008:** An unoaked style and I think should say on the front label on the back it also says its classic and I think of 'classic' Chardonnay to have oak; moot point maybe. As for the wine very good defined Chardonnay nose very clean in the mouth good balance throughout its journey 91 points and well worth its \$15 [www.mounteyre.com](http://www.mounteyre.com)

**Mount Eyre Hunter Valley Chardonnay 2009:** Unoaked as is the 2008 and much the same but not as developed 89 points and still worth the \$15 asked [www.mounteyre.com](http://www.mounteyre.com)

**Meerea Park 'Alexander Munro' Hunter Valley Chardonnay 2009:** Drinking very well now but underneath there is still a hint of oak and the balance needs to come good which I expect it will do so by mid 2010. 90 points now perhaps more later top end or the price spectrum at \$35 [www.meereapark.com.au](http://www.meereapark.com.au)

**Mount Avoca Pyrenees Chardonnay 2008:** Sound enough wine and a lot lighter than it used to be, enjoyable but not exciting 88 points and up against a lot of competition so rather expensive at \$22 [www.mountavoca.com.au](http://www.mountavoca.com.au)

**Chapel Hill 'Unwooded' McLaren Vale-Adelaide Hills Chardonnay 2009:** I found it rather un-Chardonnay like but can't say what I found it; I wasn't over impressed 85 points OK value at \$16 but a lot of others I would pick before this [www.chapelhillwine.com.au](http://www.chapelhillwine.com.au)

**Chardonnay Summary:** A vast array of flavours and textures with the Heggies Reserve outstanding.

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### ***A rose alone***

**Yellow Tail Australian Rose 2009:** Easy wine made for those who like to drink wine but not think about it 86 points and I think pricy at \$10 but its always on offer therefore cheaper so often very good value. [www.yellowtailwine.com](http://www.yellowtailwine.com)

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### ***Pushy Pinot***

**Forty Two Degrees South Tasmanian Pinot Noir 2008:** A slight feral pinot pong on the nose that is earthy and right. Light to start some grip and savoury flavours start in the middle of the palate and gain in intensity from there to the end followed by a pinot perfume on the aftertaste, good wine 92 points and worth its \$36 [www.frogmorecreek.com](http://www.frogmorecreek.com)

**Brokenwood Beechworth Pinot Noir 2008:** Great Pinot fruit nose but lacking the Pinot pong, plenty of flavours on the palate but nothing that leaps out ends well and has the after pinot perfume 92 points worth its \$30  
[www.brokenwood.com.au](http://www.brokenwood.com.au)



**esseNZe Centro Otago Pinot Noir 2008:** Ripe plum with hint of tobacco on the nose sits beautifully balanced at the front of the palate before elegantly journeying to the back hinting of dark pleasures to come, wonderful flavours all in the dark fruit spectrum yet none dominate wonderful wine 95 points and worth its \$45  
[www.mcwilliams.com.au](http://www.mcwilliams.com.au)

**Braided River 'Wairau River' Pinot Noir 2008:** A junior PN it has all the character but is light-on; It needs to grow and gain more depth but I don't think this wine will perhaps future releases it scraps 90 points and \$25 is not a bad price for PN but I would spend the money elsewhere.  
[www.cheviotbridge.com.au](http://www.cheviotbridge.com.au)

**Pinot Noir Summary:** Damn difficult wine is PN but the NZ import has it this month

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### ***Snazzy Shiraz***

**McWilliams 'Balance' Shiraz 2009:** I am sure it will have a following but it didn't do a lot for me 'lacking' is my descriptor but then I have never been that

fond of skinny milk or skinny ladies either, soundly made 84 points and for those on a diet worth its \$17 for others (me) not [www.mcwilliams.com.au](http://www.mcwilliams.com.au)



**Found Stone SE Australian Shiraz 2009:** I kept trying to find fault in this wine but couldn't even when I got to the end of the bottle after tasting. I know it sounds unfair to dig around for faults but when a wine comes in an elegant package and only costs \$10 it can't be that good....can it? Well yes it can 90 points and incredible value. [www.bertonvineyards.com.au](http://www.bertonvineyards.com.au)

**Reillys Watervale Shiraz 2006:** Note they use the subregion Watervale rather than Clare Valley, more wineries are looking for specific sites this is further defined as 'Stolen Block Vineyard.' A big wine not far off 16% alcohol but carries it very well plum and oak on the nose the oak carrying through to the palate, good rich wine but not great rich wine 89 points and I think pricy at \$45 [www.reillyswines.com.au](http://www.reillyswines.com.au)

**Domaine Chandon Yarra Valley Shiraz 2007:** Beautiful nose of fruit and spice sits square at the front of the palate then slowly moves across the tongue with a hint of bitterness (good) not a deep wine but very satisfying 92 points at \$34 its just within the price range I would pay but it makes me think twice [www.domainechandon.com.au](http://www.domainechandon.com.au)

**Tulloch 'JYT Selection' Hunter Valley / McLaren Vale Shiraz:** Good wine but it doesn't work for me the Hunter / McLaren Vale mix results in a loss of character not an enhancement; having said that the quality is there and its well made a reluctant 91 points and I think very expensive at \$50 [www.tulloch.com.au](http://www.tulloch.com.au)

**Tyrrell's 'Brokenback' Hunter Valley Shiraz 2006:** Without looking at notes I think this better than many Brokenback Shiraz tasted before good hunter earthy/savoury character 91 points and good value at \$20. [www.tyrrells.com.au](http://www.tyrrells.com.au)



**Meerea Park 'Terracotta' Hunter Valley Shiraz 2007:** The great Hunter smell of earth a slight (attractive) dankness about it. Fills the mouth with flavours that stretch mingle recede then come back to the fore. Great stuff 93 points maybe a couple more as it ages worth its \$50 for

those into wine [www.meereapark.com.au](http://www.meereapark.com.au)

**Dowie Doole 'California Road' McLaren Vale Shiraz 2008:** Rich dark chocolate on the nose sits firmly at the front of the palate then slowly in fact very slowly unfurls itself dripping the most wonderful flavours as it goes one rolling into the other and all combining to a greater whole 94 now more points to come and worth its \$35 [www.dowiedoole.com](http://www.dowiedoole.com)



**Dowie Doole 'Reserve' McLaren Vale Shiraz 2008:** Just 1851 bottles made from the finest fruit the guys can lay their hands on; it hit deeper notes than Paul Robson and greater heights than Luciano Pavarotti its very young now but rates 94 with I think 3 more to come and \$60 is



fine for this craftsmanship [www.dowiedoole.com](http://www.dowiedoole.com)

**Shiraz summary:** There is a trend to move into wines made from what is known as 'alternative varieties' and some very interesting wines are emerging. However we mustn't lose our way Australian Shiraz is world class and I still enjoy them immensely

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### ***Cabernet straight up***

**Angove 'Vineyard Select' Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2008:** Powerful nose yet tight on the palate making it slightly harsh 89 now but feel it will improve then move up to 91 still good value at \$18 [www.angove.com.au](http://www.angove.com.au)

**Browns 'Myra Family Reserve' Padthaway Cabernet Sauvignon 2004:** Stewed plum nose heavy in the mouth lacks elegance but it will have fans (exclude me) 84 points I would be disappointed paying \$24 [www.browns-of-padthaway.com](http://www.browns-of-padthaway.com)

**Rosabrook Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon 2007:** Cabernet Sauvignon in all departments but also just lacking in excitement 89 points pushing price at \$24 but it is Margaret River and the region gets the dosh [www.rosabrook.com](http://www.rosabrook.com)

**Houghton Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon 2008:** Very soft Margaret River style to start then true to the style grip enters in the middle and all comes to a satisfying conclusion 89 points value at \$20 but a lot of competition around [www.houghton-wines.com.au](http://www.houghton-wines.com.au)

Rymill Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2006: Simply great Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon its really fantastic rich liquid velvet across the tongue hints of fruit and spice and a long, long finish 95 points and incredible value at \$29 or less [www.rymill.com.au](http://www.rymill.com.au)

**Rymill Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2006:** Simply great Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon its really fantastic rich liquid velvet across the tongue hints of fruit and spice and a long, long finish 95 points and incredible value at \$29 or less [www.rymill.com.au](http://www.rymill.com.au)

Tony Love writing in the taste section of several news papers including The Courier Mail (Brisbane / Queensland) The Herald Sun (Melbourne / Victoria) The Daily Telegraph (NSW) The Adelaide Advertiser

Was very positive about the Rymill, marking it 'a cut above' whatever that may mean.

**Cabernet summary:** What ever 'it' is the Rymill had it in bucket loads otherwise not an outstanding line up.

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### ***The Odd Red to end***

**Mr Riggs 'Yacca Paddock' Adelaide Hills Tempranillo 2008:** A

Canberra Times

burst of flavours that tumbled around and all merged together wonderfully 93 points and worth its \$25 [www.mrriggs.com.au](http://www.mrriggs.com.au)

**G&T McLaren Vale Garnacha-Tempranillo 2009:** Light in texture but that takes nothing away from the wine gorgeous sour edge running the length of the journey very enjoyable 92 points and worth \$25 [www.dowiedoole.com.au](http://www.dowiedoole.com.au)

**Odd summary:** Two very interesting and enjoyable wines

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Cheers,  
TK

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