



## RIESLING

*A classic variety of German origin. Rieslings display great floral characteristics along with lemon, lime and honeyed flavours. It is very expressive of its origin and can display flinty and smoky touches along with primary fruit. It has the capacity to be extremely long lived, thanks to perfectly balanced acidity. Traditionally works well in Germany, France, Austria, Australia, NZ & The USA.*

- 2016 Harcourt valley** (Bendigo, Victoria) **46**  
 Harcourt Valley is (i've been told) the oldest vineyard in the local Shire. Producing some of the region's best wines and currently rated as a 5 star winery by James Halliday. Medium lemon straw in colour, this Riesling is showing delicate lime fruit and floral aromas with racing acidity to a dry finish.
- 2016 Jamsheed Harem Le Blanc Plonk** Gewurtz/Riesling (Beechworth, Victoria) ~ **55**  
 blend of Great Western Riesling and King Valley Gewurztraminer, Jamsheed Harem Le Blanc Plonk is a wonderfully dry and sharp white wine with a bold citrus and a heap of passionfruit. Fermented wild, with no filtering or fining, Le Blanc Plonk is a fantastically uninterrupted taste of the intense tartness of some of Australia's finest grapes. Wonderfully unusual.
- 2014 Bress** Riesling (Harcourt, Victoria) ~ **68**  
 Bress wines are produced from grapes grown using biodynamic farming practices with this Riesling grown on their vineyard situated in the Harcourt Valley. Made from 30-year-old estate-grown, biodynamically tended vines, this Riesling presents juicy lime and lemon purity with fine hints of sea salt and mineral notes. Strong lime flavours and a touch of tropical guava-like perfume running to a juicy yet soft finish.
- 2016 Dog Rock** Riesling (Pyrenees, Victoria) **48**  
 The 2017 Dog Rock Degraeves Road Riesling is made exclusively from their estate grown fruit situated in the Victorian Pyrenees. Aromas of lime and tropical fruits with a full bodied palate with a dry and textural finish.
- 2015 Von Buhl Trocken** (Pfalz, Germany) **64**  
 Von Buhl's entry level dry Riesling is drawn, in the main, from estate's sandstone-rich vineyards around the villages of Deidesheim, Forst and Ruppertsberg. All the estate vineyards are farmed organically and the wine is naturally fermented in stainless steel, with some parcels fermented in Von Buhl's oval dopplestück casks. Citrus-colored, dry with a clear and refreshing nose with reduced fruit and crisp finish. One of my new Favourites.
- 2015 Jasper Hill** (Heathcote, Victoria) **79**  
 Rounded in the mouth and very impressive - these guys are in a purple patch! As always, this is dry grown and from organically farmed, deep ancient soil. Terrific intensity on the nose, ripe yellow fruit, electric acidity and phenomenal power. So what if it's cold, this is like a Tesla bolt straight to your heart. This wine shows the other side to Riesling. That wonderfully ripe fruit and generous flavor expression, yet at no time is it broad or flabby.
- 2015 Best's Foudre Ferment** (Great Western, Victoria) **75**  
 Despite only being relatively new to the Best's stable, the release of the 2015 **Foudre Ferment** has become one of the highlights of the year, as the Riesling lovers swoon over this beguiling small batch wine. Now in its fourth year the resultant wine exhibits both the complexities of a barrel ferment and spontaneous fermentation without the overt oak flavour. Look out for honeyed aromatics of lychee, lemon curd and lime blossoms with a hint of toasted malt and ginger spice. On the palate, citrus and honey flavours dominate with a fine lingering texture of lemon curd, lime pith, dry biscuits and creamy acidity.
- 2013 Gunderloch** Jean-Baptiste Kabinett (Rheinhessen, Germany) ~ **61**  
**2013 Gunderloch** Als War ein Stuck von mir (Rheinhessen, Germany) **98**  
**2013 Gunderloch** Nierstein (Rheinhessen, Germany) **85**  
 The **Jean-Baptiste** has a fair lick of residual sugar, red-slate spice edges and nectarines. The palate is nice and precise, with a grey-slate minerality. The **Als War** has some skins and lees contact, is complex and harmonious. The **Nierstein 2013** is precise, lifted & direct with limey citrus aromas as well as a smoky rather than spicy minerality. Just a hint of florals above all of that. Linear, savoury & direct in the mouth.

# INTERESTING WHITE GRAPE VARIETIES

*This section is devoted to some of the lesser known varieties & blends from Victoria & around the world.*

*Often the best value wines on our list can be found in this section of our wine list.*

- 2015 Bress** Vermentino (Heathcote, Victoria) **48**  
A relatively rare grape variety which is planted on the island of Corsica. Its ability to produce quite compelling complex, dry and savoury wines is what tickled our fancy. Phenolic, grassy, mineral & clean. Rippin fizz
- 2015 Tellurian** Marsanne (Heathcote, Victoria) ~ **58**  
**2015 Tellurian** Fiano (Heathcote, Victoria) **58**  
The **Fiano** melds delicate stone fruits and almond blossom with savoury lees contact characters and minerality, displaying texture and power in the mouth whilst retaining a fine, fresh finish. The **Marsanne** displays honeysuckle, peach, pear, a little nuttiness and the rattle of ginger spice pushing through on a layer of creaminess thanks to six months in oak.
- 2016 The Other Wine Co.** Pinot Gris (Adelaide Hills, South Australia) **61**  
It's not reinventing the wheel, it's just putting a bit of a spit shine on one. It's Adelaide Hills Pinot Gris produced in a fresh, crisp, vibrant and appealing-to-many style that says 'refreshing' in a clear way. It smells like pears apple and faint spice, drinkably juicy and crisp acidity. A two bottle wine if ever there was one.
- 2016 Simao & Co** Ugni Blanc (Rutherglen) **61**  
Made from fruit planted in 1919. A quirky verietal, usually used to make eau de vie for brandy. Notes of nuts and green apples, with a touch of spice. Lovely, almost rich texture and great acid to give snap and length. The vines, planted in 1919 giving this wine surprising concentration and depth.
- 2016 Express Winemakers** Chenin Blanc (Great Southern, Western Australia) **59**  
The only Chenin Blanc grown in the Great Southern is planted in this vineyard. The grapes were harvested while the natural acidity was optimum and pressed straight to barrel where they underwent wild fermentation on full solids. Racy acidity in combination with generous mouthfeel create a complex yet playful wine. Characters of Grapefruit and other citrus. Cracker.
- 2014 M.Chapoutier** Billa-Haut Grenache Blanc / Grenache gris (Cotes du Roussillon , France) **44**  
The Roussillon history is complex and compelling, and has at times been quite violent. Terraces on stony soil, with a rich geological background and a climate that man has adopted for his crops. The Roussillon was bound to attract Michel Chapoutier's attention. An aromatic blend of Grenache Blanc, Grenache Gris and Macabeu Billa-Haut has a pleasing round palate with great acidity finished with mild minerality.
- 2016 Lorca Fantasia** Torrontes (Lorca Valley , Argentina) **56**  
Torrontés is Argentina's white grape of choice. This fresh, clean example is a greenish yellow colour. Maximum expression of fruit. Strong presence of floral notes, jasmine, and citrus notes. Good freshness and a long finish. Perfect paired with some seafood or quaffed as is!
- 2016 Mcivor Estate** Vermentino (Tooborac, Victoria) **51**  
Vermentino is far too often overlooked in my opinion, it's a wonderfully flexible varietal and should see more game time. Citrus and lemon curd aromas balanced with fresh fruit on the palate with a light spicy finish. Produced roughly an hour south east of here it's certainly a local favourite. well worth a day trip if you get the opportunity.
- 2015 M.Chapoutier** Belleruche Grenache Blanc / Clairette (Cotes du Rhone , France) **45**  
M.Chapoutier's Côtes du Rhône vineyard is one of the oldest in France. Planted mainly in stony-marl soils and on clay-limestone slopes, these soils are porous with a steady and regular water supply. Harvest is carried out at night to prevent and limit oxidation of the juices and preserve the wonderful aromatic components of this blend of Grenache blanc, Roussanne, Viognier, Clairette and Bourboulenc. Wonderfully perfumed with florals and fresh apple as well as citrus and has a well-rounded palate that's fresh but in complete balance.
- 2015 All Saints** Marsanne (Wahgunyah, Victoria) **51**  
Brilliant very pale straw colour with a watery hue. Nosing reveals scents of ripe pear and honeysuckle followed by some Jonathan apple with very faint spice end notes. Medium bodied and texturally well rounded the palate features flavours of ripe pears, honeysuckle, a trace of citrus and light spice. Clean dry finish. Aftertaste of ripe pears, honeysuckle and a touch of spice.
- 2015 Pagos de Galir Via Nova** Godello (Entoma, Spain) **62**  
Yellow, straw-colored. Intense fruit bouquet, apple, white flowers. Balanced in the mouth silky, elegant, full and fresh on the palate. With a perfect acidity-alcohol balance and a long mineral finish. A really fun and seldom seen varietal.

## INTERESTING WHITE GRAPE VARIETIES CONTINUED.....

- 2015 Pazo de San Mauro** Albarino (Condado de Tea, Spain) ~ **73**  
100% Albariño from a meticulous selection of the best grapes from Condado de Tea, harvested manually and collected from estate-owned, pesticide and herbicide-free vineyards with a vine age of between 12 and 40 years. After de-stalking and a light pressing, fermentation takes place for 15 days in stainless steel tanks at a controlled temperature. Palate wise, it's bone dry. Fruity, full and silky, fresh citrus, peach, dried pineapple, and minerals dominate. A well balanced white with good body and acidity with a lingering finish.
- 2015 Ingram Road "Single Vineyard"** Pinot Grigio (Yarra Valley, Victoria) **45**  
This stunning Pinot Grigio balances fruit flavours with a clean crisp finish. Flavours of pear, hints of stone fruit, nuances of honey and nutty characters are perfectly balanced with firm acidity and a mineral edge on the finish.
- 2010 Domaine Huet** Le Haut Lieu Sec Chenin Blanc (Loire Valley, France) **130**  
The Le Haut Lieu Sec has aromas of white flowers & ripe summer fruits. Melon & green apples on the palate with a hint of honey. Dry & light bodied with fresh acidity and a long citrusy finish.

## SAUVIGNON BLANC, SEMILLON AND BLENDS

*These grape varieties make extremely expressive wines.*

*Sauvignon Blanc has been the trendiest white wine in Australia for the past two decades and its popularity shows no signs of slowing down. They create aromas & flavours ranging from citrus, gooseberry, pineapple and passion fruit to hay, cut grass & asparagus.*

*Semillon on the other hand is going through a trough of unpopularity sadly. It is a fabulous grape and deserves much more recognition in this country. It tends to favour more waxy lemon, soapy and lanolin type flavours along with an incredible ability to age.*

- 2016 Craggy Range** Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Martinborough, New Zealand) **54**  
Located at the southern end of the North Island, the Te Muna Road Vineyard's Sauvignon Blanc is an excellent expression of Sauvignon Blanc from the region. Fresh and crisp, showing racy citrus, and notes of peach with lovely texture and balance. Polished, long and lovely
- 2016 Spring Vale** Sauvignon Blanc (Cranbrook, Tasmania) **59**  
Spring Vale is zesty and packed full of flavour. The nose has vibrant aromas of tropical fruit with subtle citrus and floral characters. The palate is layered with intense fruit, mineral texture and tingy acid, all beautifully balanced and showing incredible persistence on the finish. A great Sav from our friends down south.
- 2014 Costanzo & Sons** Sauvignon Blanc (Strathbogie Ranges, Victoria) **64**  
The fruit was handpicked from unirrigated vines growing in Joe and Cindy's organically managed vineyard high up in the Strathbogie Ranges presenting itself in a full-bodied textural Sauvignon Blanc style. Aromas of lime, savoury almonds and some flinty notes reveal themselves on the nose. A tightly woven palate offers lemon and grapefruit, followed by fresh natural acidity and a complex savoury finish.
- 2014 Telera** Pernella Sauvignon Blanc / Fume Blanc (Mornington Peninsula, Victoria) **57**  
Pernella is an expression of Mornington Peninsula Sauvignon Blanc. Richly textured, it's made from estate-grown handpicked grapes, barrel fermented in selected French oak. Heaps of peach and passionfruit on the nose, pleasing acidity, balanced with tropical fruits, citrus and a lingering finish.

# CHARDONNAY

*Chardonnay is the most widely planted white wine grape in the world  
The classic white grape variety that has no equal is at home in the old world and the new.  
Its traditional home is in Burgundy, France where it is capable of making some of the world's greatest and longest lived  
wines.*

*Both the Cote de Beaune and Chablis produce Chardonnays that are rarely if ever matched. Australia produces  
Chardonnays of intense fruit driven power and weight.*

- 2016 Garagiste Le Stagiaire** (Mornington Peninsula, Victoria) **54**  
This attractive Mornington Chardonnay is all P58 clone from Garagiste's Balnarring and Red Hill vineyards. The fruit was hand sorted in the vineyard and winery then whole bunch pressed, and the cloudy juice was transferred to a mixture of new and old puncheons to ferment using indigenous yeasts. The wine was matured on its lees in barrel for 9 months. It's a Chardonnay brimming with grapefruit pith, citrus and floral aromas. On the palate you get a brisk, refreshing shot of bright citrus and stone fruit, vibrant acidity, and a long, textured savoury finish.
- 2015 Flametree** (Margret River, Western Australia) **51**  
Chardonnay has rightfully made a significant come-back over the past few years and continues to be a product in high demand. Flametree has a wonderful combination of fine fruit flavours and tight structure, very much in line with the new wave of modern Australian Chardonnays. Dried pear, grapefruit, honeydew melon and fig flavours are beautifully supported by subtle French oak.
- 2010 Villa Mt. Eden "Bien Nacido"** (California, USA) **55**  
The 2010 Chardonnay from Villa Mt. Eden is a classic, featuring lemon meringue aromas intertwined with musky peach, brioche, crushed stone and hints of toast. Medium bodied on the palate, it is rich in texture but stays beautifully focused. It is quite opulent on the palate with rich, round and creamy flavours, but then finishes surprisingly crisp and elegant with loads of sprightly acidity and lemon crunch.
- 2015 Denton Shed** (Yarra Valley, Victoria) **57**  
John and Simon Denton's Vineyard is located in the Yarra Valley, is on a fabulous site with great aspect for grapes and with wonderful views of the whole valley. The granite base is most unusual in the Yarra Valley, and together with the natural amphitheatre that the plug created, has consistently produced exceptional grapes. The 2015 Chardonnay exhibits lemony notes with crisp acidity, stone fruits and elegance. A touch of meakness adds complexity with excellent texture and length.
- 2013 Craiglee** (Sunbury, Victoria) **60**  
From what I consider to be one of the most under-rated vineyards in Victoria, this sublime Chardonnay is rich and vibrant, unctuous and luscious, all in equal measures. Superbly integrated fine oak, with notes of vanilla and cashews brimming to the fore. Juicy fruit flavours of ripe melon & grapefruit linger for quite some time.
- 2013 Ten Minutes By Tractor Judd Single Vineyard** (Mornington Peninsula, Victoria) **135**  
I worked for Ten Minutes By Tractor for over 5 years. The devotion to detail in every way, from the vineyard management, the wine making process to bottling, labelling and marketing of the wines was exemplary in every way. This winery remains one of the absolute stars of the Victorian wine scene. The Judd SV Chardonnay is made from vines planted in 1994. It lays it on up front but then there's a serious amount of sizzle through the finish. On sip and strike, it's on, hold on for your life. Figs, smoke, grapefruit, flint and toasted, roasted spices. Totally worthy of the word sensational.
- 2013 Bindi Kostas Rind** (Macedon, Victoria) ~ **98**
- 2013 Bindi Quartz** (Macedon, Victoria) **165**  
The Bindi Composition is now known as **Kostas Rind** Chardonnay; the **2013** has bright citrus aromas sit alongside spicy & creamy elements. Whilst the perfumes are laid back there is excellent depth and complexity. The palate is fresh and supple and very harmonious. Elegant, creamy & a long, fine finish. The **Quartz** is another level above - intense minerality, pristine fruit and subtle oak interplay. Stellar Australian wines.
- 2015 Sorrenberg** (Beechworth, Victoria) **129**  
The 2014 Sorrenberg Chardonnay is 100% barrel fermented in French oak with 25-30% of this being new oak. To add complexity to the wine all of it goes through natural yeast fermentation as well as full malolactic fermentation. This wine received extended lees contact for ten months with weekly stirring, then a further eight months barrel maturation. Minimal handling & filtration ensures maximum flavour is retained. The bouquet of the 2014 Chardonnay shows melon and peach with grapefruit undertones. The fruit is vibrant on the palate and combined with the rounded barrel notes create a textural experience. The acid is refined creating a luscious long lingering palate. It is a brilliant example of Victorian Chardonnay.