

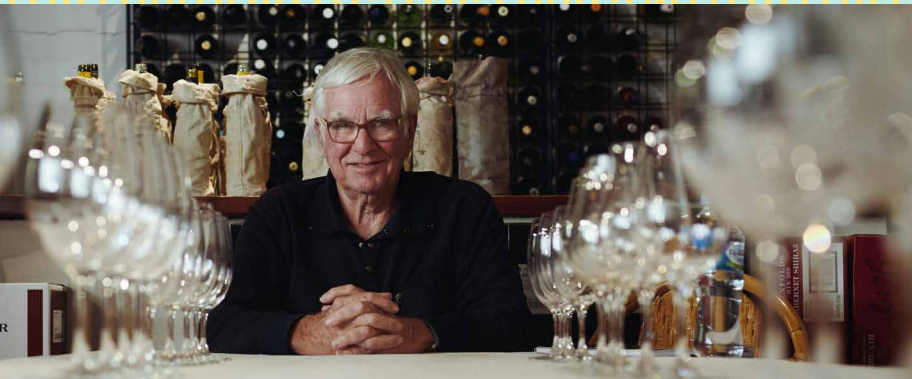
Hello
SPRING

ON THE VINE 2021 LIQUOR BARONS FINE WINE GUIDE.



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Readers may wish to know what our panel looks for in wines when we are selecting them for On the Vine. We use the traditional and straightforward Australian 20-point wine judging system to separate the wheat from the chaff and then select the very best of the grain. The bottles are always masked; we do not see labels or prices. This is the fairest way for an unbiased adjudication. Stemmed quality glasses are fastidiously washed and when the wines are poured we look favourably on those that are bright, clean and show no browning, which is a sign of oxidation in both whites and reds. The nose should offer fresh grape aromas, varietal definition, winemaking complexities in certain styles and no off-odours. The palate can be light-bodied to full-bodied and yet have a balance of ingredients or harmony across the mouth. A long length of palate is fundamental, as a brief sensory perception in the mouth has as much value as a cask of goon with an expired use-by date. During the unmasking ceremony and subsequent discussion we are delighted when we see both quality and value in a bottle. A faulty or poor wine is always too expensive.

We trust you will tuck in and enjoy our selection for this quarter. The panel worked through 200 + wines to find these gems.

Skal, Rod Properjohn

Shop & Save

There is 10% discount on all wines in a straight or mixed six.



**Howard Vineyard 2021
Sauvignon Blanc**
Adelaide Hills

There's little doubt that the Adelaide Hills has the authority over other SA wine regions when it comes to the variety sauvignon blanc. It's the altitude and cool climate there that makes the difference. This wine has citrus, a dollop of tropical fruit, a smidge of herbal characters, a long palate and crisp acidity. Try with seasonal-asparagus risotto.

\$17.99 each



**Wairau River 2020
Sauvignon Blanc**
Marlborough (NZ)

A quality Kiwi savvy with more stone fruit and citrus than the ubiquitous gooseberry and cut grass. It's a riper style, a fuller wine than your typical Marlborough sav blanc and has a creamy texture, from time on lees, which adds to the palate weight and balance. We enjoy the style, it's a wine suited to food, especially light shellfish.

\$25.99 each



**Grace Farm 2020
Sauvignon Blanc Semillon**
Margaret River

Although this wine is part-fermented in barrel, it's a straightforward tank-fermented style. The minor barrel ferment adds some texture and complexity and gives the wine some aging capacity. The remainder, which is stainless steel fermented, offers tropical passion fruit, zesty citrus and the liveliness of freshly cut grass. Acidity is cleansing on the finish. Drink now and over the next few years.

\$22.99 each



**Rieslingfreak 2021
No 3 Reverence of Riesling**
Clare Valley

John Hughes is the bloke who makes only riesling wines in his Clare Valley parish. His label is highly sought after by riesling lovers because of its consistent high quality and acceptable price. No 3, one of his wines, has aromas of lemon, grapefruit and stone fruit, while the palate has a bundle of tropical fruit. It is long and firm with steely acidity which will ensure it won't fall flat on its face soon. It has a substantial life ahead of it.

\$24.99 each



Gala 2020 Riesling
East Coast Tasmania

From Cranbrook on the mostly climatically passive east coast of the island, this wine has a bundle of character and, at the same time, a touch of elegance. Pale in colour, you'll notice citrus blossom and light mealy characters on the nose and the palate is textural and lemony with a little fruit sweetness and is beautifully balanced with great length and finishing acidity. A smashing drink now and over the next six years. Serve with our Rottneest scallops, the perfect accompaniment.

\$26.99 each



Timo 2019 Vermentino
Salento/IGP (It)

A grape variety with many synonyms but is best known as vermentino in Italy. This wine, from the San Marzano stable, is made from grapes grown in the hills around Brindisi in the southeast, near Italy's heel. It's a clear straw colour with citrus and floral aromas and the palate is dry, medium-bodied with lemony notes, wild herb characters and has a fresh mineral crispness. Drink over the warmer months ahead. A snappy contemporary presentation will attract label shoppers. Cork sealed.

\$23.99 each



**The Dagger 2021
Pinot Grigio**
Victoria

Here's a label that sources grapes across Victoria to make its wines and with pinot grigio it was a no-brainer to head to the alpine regions, to the cool climate that the variety enjoys. The varietal Nashi pear teams up here with nectarine in a light palate with a little fruit sweetness and a cleansing mineral acidity to finish. Pleasant quaffer or drink-anytime wine.

\$21.99 each



**Domaine Naturaliste 2020
Floris Chardonnay**
Margaret River

Mid-straw and green in appearance, this has varietal grapefruit and white peach aromas along with wafts of heady fresh bread and nuttiness. The palate has a modern approach to chardonnay with soft creamy textures marrying to the citrus and stone fruit, oak is judiciously imparted and the wine lingers to a great finish. Well made and very competitively priced.

\$28.99 each



**Fraser Gallop Estate 2021
Chardonnay**
*Wilyabrup
Margaret River*

Another lighter restrained chardonnay by Clive Otto for those who enjoy the modern style. The bright stone fruit and citrus varietal characters are still there, the use of French oak is more discreet and the acid is flinty and minerally. A fresh youthful wine that's ideal when served with our local crayfish, especially now the crustacean is more affordable than usual.

\$23.99 each





**Sittella 2021
Avante-Garde Dry Rosé**
Swan Valley

This delightful youngster has come a long way from the rosé wines made from Swan grenache in years gone by. It is the palest of pink colour and has a magical spicy nose mixed with cherry blossom aromatics. Then the palate is a bundle of red berry fruit, has a pleasant texture along the mouth and is as long and persistent as a wet Perth July. The finish is tantalising and cleansing. Try with Cantonese cuisine, light bright and simply prepared.

\$26.99 each



**Aix 2020
Vin De Provence Rosé**
(Fr)

Punches above its weight and each vintage invariably gets a points decision from the panel. This Provence performer is light and savoury, clean and fresh and yet has buckets of flavour. It's a dryish rosé and the pale salmon colour lends itself to a serving of smoked salmon on blinis and a dollop of sour cream, or simply smoked salmon, if you wish. The minimalist bottle presentation is a standout and a magnet to the passing trade.

\$32.99 each





**Coulter Wines 2020
C3 Pinot Noir**
Adelaide Hills

A light/mid red in colour, this is a fresh juicy rounded pinot with oodles of drinkability and value. The oak regime is tempered which enhances the fruit flavours and the tannins are finely woven and not prominent. An inviting hand-made pinot embellished by its pure fresh fruit and silky structure. Definitely a drink-soon style and one you can quaff over the warmer days ahead, after popping it in the fridge for about fifteen minutes.

\$28.99 each



**Dalrymple 2020
Pinot Noir**
Pipers River Tasmania

Here's another label that pops up regularly at our tastings and rarely without showing quality. It's a succulent Tasmanian pinot with juicy red berry fruit, a dollop of spicy French oak, a soft generous mid palate and pleasant lingering flavours tidying up on the finish with fine acidity. Marvellous with a crusty rack of lamb and some seasonal greens.

\$37.99 each



**Langmeil 2019
Three Gardens GSM**
Barossa

Another well-made red under this label from a very warm Barossa vintage. It's the style of GSM the panel enjoys with dark juicy fruit, a savoury earthy background, the restrained use of oak, velvety tannins and impeccable balance across the palate. Very easy to drink, it's a wine to partner slow-cooked tender meat dishes such as casseroles and old-fashioned stews. In short supply, so we suggest you hop in soon and buy a few bottles of this great-value red.

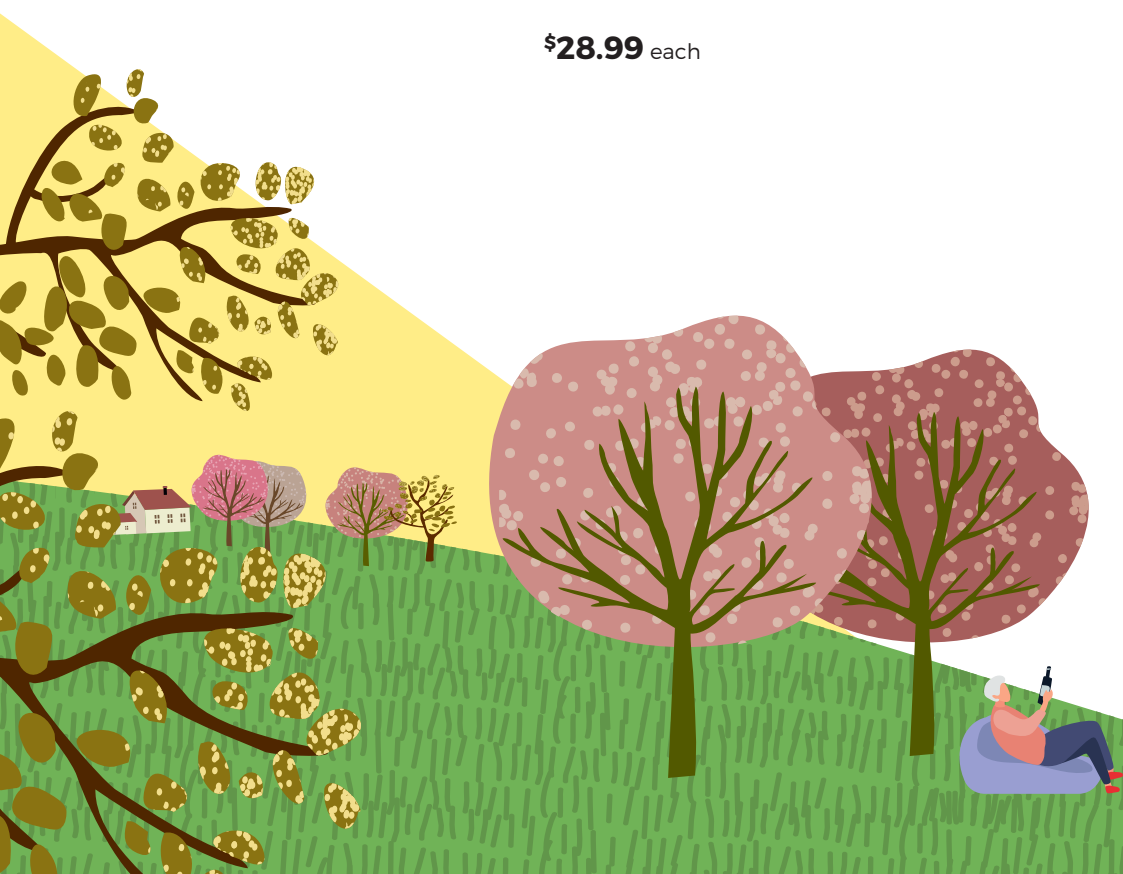
\$21.99 each



**Sons of Eden 2018
Zephyrus Shiraz**
Barossa

This is more a traditional style of Barossa shiraz with a rich dense black red colour and the ripe Christmas cake fruits of red berries, cherries and plums with a mix of cooking spices and chocolate thrown in. Charry oak and gritty tannins add to the fabric. The quality and intensity of this wine is a result of a long dry growing season in SA, an excellent warm vintage across its many regions.

\$31.99 each





**Henschke 2020
Henry's Seven**
Barossa

Has a deepness and richness of colour that is not often seen in this varietal blend of SGM plus some viognier. Add to that a flourish of red berry and plummy fruit and a decent dollop of pepper, cinnamon and nutmeg. Tannins provide texture and structure and acid adds to the balance. The wine has a bundle of flavour and is great drinking now and will be over the next few years. Try with a gutsy steak and mushroom pie.

\$34.99 each



**S C Pannell 2018
Dead End Tempranillo**
McLaren Vale

A Spanish variety that Pannell does well with, although across the board, tempranillo hasn't lived up to its promising beginnings when grown in Australia. This has a lot of spicy fruit, dark cherry and plum, anise and meat stock, cedary oak and earthiness. As expected there is a savoury bent here and the tannins and acidity are an important part of the structure. We would drink this over the next two to five years and a couple of grilled chorizo sausages wouldn't go astray.

\$25.99 each



**Majella 2019 The Composer
Cabernet Sauvignon**
Coonawarra

Although Majella made their red wines with a hefty dose of new oak over the years, it is now following the general move to more subtle wood use and its latest wine in their range follows the trend. The Composer is a deep ruby colour and has a distinctive juiciness, a purity of blackcurrant fruit and a sprinkling of mint that has replaced the strong oak. A more disciplined influence of wood however does add to the structure and balance of the wine. Great value in this newbie.

\$22.99 each



**Yalumba 2018
The Cigar Cabernet Sauvignon**
Coonawarra

Classical is an oft-used term in my wine vernacular but how else can I write about this wine? Perhaps I can describe it as very typical of an outstanding Coonawarra warm cabernet vintage from the deep crimson colour to the chalky tannin and acid finish. And in between there is the middleweight palate of blackberry fruit, dark chocolate, spicy background, well-conceived oak treatment and depth of complexity. It's simply--er--classical. Drink now or over the next ten years.

\$32.99 each



**Forest Hill Vineyard 2018
Cabernet Sauvignon**
Mount Barker

Deeply coloured, this classical medium-weighted cabernet sauvignon is another very smart wine from this great vintage in the Great Southern. There is a wealth of black fruit, herbal bay leaf and eucalypt, extended palate length, furry tannins and cleansing acidity on the finish. As well as drinking well now, it will repay bottle aging. This formal cabernet format is one that suits the myriad Spring lamb available at the moment.

\$28.99 each



**Altus/Rise 2019
Wildlight Shiraz**
Margaret River

A label that sources its grapes from around Yallingup in the warm northern part of the Margaret River wine region. Deep ruby in colour, this young shiraz has blueberry, mulberry and plummy fruit with a generous palate weight of earthy peppery flavours extending to a grippy tannin finish. It has all the attributes to serve with a prime rib eye beefsteak.

\$18.99 each

The logo for Liquor Barons, featuring the word "liquor" in yellow and "barons" in white, with a stylized red and black graphic element behind the text.

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