

Ray Jordan's **TOP 100 REDS 2025**



SUPPORTED BY

liquorbarons

**SPECIALS AVAILABLE 2 AUGUST TO 17 AUGUST.
WHILE STOCKS LAST.**

Ray Jordan's TOP 100 REDS 2025

From the value-for-money cheapies selling for less than \$15 right through to the wines in the top price bracket, the quality of wine in this year's Top 100 Reds was quite exceptional.

It was a slightly different tasting this year because the upper-end price point has shifted from \$40 to \$50, bringing in quite a few more wines that would've missed out previously based on price. On the cheaper end, it was quite staggering to see so many excellent wines in the budget price category. These are wines that you could easily drink and not be ashamed to take to a dinner party against other hefty-priced wines.

Through the various price points, we've got exceptional wines that are showing just how good Australian red wine-making is currently.

These wines also show us that the vintages in recent times have been very kind. In Western Australia, it was the '23 vintage which still stands out as one of the greatest vintages the state has seen. It was so good to see so many of these great '23s still available. On the East Coast we've also got some very smart red wines. Shiraz in particular out of South Australia from the '21 was an exceptional vintage and the '22 also turned out to be a very good vintage in that state. In Victoria, there were also some very, very nice wines, particularly pinot noir, and these came from the '24 vintage, which was quite an exceptional year for the Yarra Valley. While pinot overall wasn't a strong variety in the tasting, the best wines were very worthy.

It was equally encouraging to see so many good pinots being produced in Western Australia from both the '23 vintage and, quite surprisingly, the '24 vintage which was a very hot year.

This was a very big tasting once again. Wines flooded in from across Australia for the two-day taste-off, where more than 550 red wines selling for less than \$50 were tasted. In the end, I could only choose 100 wines, so a lot of really, really exciting and exceptional wines just missed the cut.

The battle for the top wine of the tasting was titanic. It came down to a taste-off between two quite brilliant shiraz and two equally outstanding cabernets.

These four wines were the Cherubino Ovale Block 7 Shiraz 2023, the Nikola Estate Regional Shiraz 2023, the Domaine Naturalist Rebus Cabernet Sauvignon 2023, and the Xanadu Cabernet Sauvignon 2022. Each of these wines scored 96 points, so it came down to splitting hairs, and it was a mighty challenging job.

In the end, I opted for the remarkable Cherubino Ovale Block 7 Shiraz, a quite breathtaking example of what Frankland River does so well.

It was up against another equally impressive shiraz, the Nikola Estate

Regional Shiraz 2023, which comes from the Swan Valley. Both the Domaine Naturalist Rebus Cabernet and the Xanadu Cabernet were exceptional as well. In the end, the runner-up I chose was the Xanadu Cabernet 2022.

As always, the budget tasting was a tightly-fought race. It still staggers me that so much quality wine can be sold for less than \$15 a bottle.

And in fact, a lot of the wines in the \$15 to \$25 bracket in particular also represent tremendous value, albeit at that slightly higher price. The budget end was once again dominated by De Bortoli, they have quite a staggering range of wines under different brands, and all provide simply wonderful drinking. It was hardly surprising that the taste-off for the Best Value Wine came down to two wines from

De Bortoli, both under the same brand, the De Bortoli DB Winemaker Selection Cabernet Sauvignon and the DB Winemaker Selection Shiraz.

I tried and tried to separate the two, but in the end, I sat fairly and squarely on the fence and declared it a tie.

Quite frankly what I'd be doing with these wines is grabbing six of each, and there goes your drinking for the rest of winter. The Houghton Cabernet from 2024 was a worthy runner-up, closely followed by the Oakover Grenache Shiraz 2024.

So, it was a tough tasting, but I'm excited to be able to present so many wonderful wines representing value for money. I hope you enjoy them.

Ray Jordan



BEST VALUE - IT'S A TIE!

CABERNET SAUVIGNON OR SHIRAZ, THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

I tried and tried to separate the two, but in the end, I sat fairly and squarely on the fence and declared it a tie.



RAY JORDAN'S
**BEST
VALUE
2025**

93/100

DE BORTOLI DB WINEMAKER SELECTION CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2024

This is quite a remarkable wine in this price category. It's got true varietal expression of blackcurrant and plummy fruit, with a nice long palate. It's so well balanced, the tannins, the oak; they all sit comfortably together, and it just produces a terrific wine.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 6 years

DE BORTOLI DB WINEMAKER SELECTION SHIRAZ 2023

When you're looking for something in the under \$15 bracket, this style of wine ticks every box. It's beautifully soft and textured but with a bright, peppery, red fruit character lifting off the palate. The tannins are fine and chalky and there's just a smidgen of oak to add some complexity. Everything sits together so snugly and it's ready to drink right now.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 5 years

\$9⁹⁹
EACH



RAY JORDAN'S
**BEST OF
THE BEST
2025**

96/100

\$39⁹⁹

CHERUBINO OVALE BLOCK 7 SHIRAZ 2023

It was a tough task in separating it from the final four in the taste-off, but this is such an exceptional wine, showing just how good Frankland River can be for this variety while demonstrating a very modern expression of Australian shiraz. This has to be high on your shopping list.

Score: 96/100 Cellar: 10 years



RAY JORDAN'S
**BEST
RUNNER UP
2025**

96/100

\$36⁹⁹

XANADU CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2022

It's remarkable that over the years, Xanadu has continued to produce great wines, particularly with its cabernet, which in fact has been judged 'Best of the Best' several times in this Top 100 previously. The '22 vintage was very good in Margaret River, and this structured, poised, and quite powerful cabernet captures the vintage in the Margaret River region so beautifully.

Score: 96/100 Cellar: 15 years



RAY JORDAN'S
**BEST VALUE
RUNNER UP
2025**

91/100

\$9⁹⁹

HOUGHTON CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2024

Let's face it, you don't get bad wine from Houghton and in this lower price category, some of the quality is quite exceptional. This one from the warmer '24 vintage displays the obvious deep black currant characters and ripe plush, plummy fruits that are all about cabernet.

Score: 91/100 Cellar: 5 years



facebook.com/liquorbarons

liquorbarons
A THIRST FOR DISCOVERY

AVAILABLE AT **liquorbarons**



RAY JORDAN'S
BEST OF
THE BEST
2025

96/100

CHERUBINO
OVALE BLOCK 7
SHIRAZ 2023
\$39⁹⁹



RAY JORDAN'S
BEST
RUNNER UP
2025

96/100

XANADU
CABERNET SAUVIGNON
2022
\$36⁹⁹



RAY JORDAN'S
BEST
VALUE
2025

93/100

DE BORTOLI
DB WINEMAKER SELECTION
CAB SAUV 2024
\$9⁹⁹



RAY JORDAN'S
BEST
VALUE
2025

93/100

DE BORTOLI
DB WINEMAKER
SELECTION SHIRAZ 2023
\$9⁹⁹



RAY JORDAN'S
BEST VALUE
RUNNER UP
2025

91/100

HOUGHTON
CABERNET SAUVIGNON
2024
\$9⁹⁹



93/100

DEEP WOODS ESTATE
CAB SAUV MERLOT 2023
\$21⁹⁹



92/100

DEVIL'S CORNER
PINOT NOIR 2024
\$22⁹⁹



92/100

PITCHFORK
CAB MERLOT 2023
\$13⁹⁹



95/100

JIM BARRY
LODGE HILL
SHIRAZ 2022
\$27⁹⁹



93/100

MILLBROOK
TEMPRANILLO 2023
\$21⁹⁹



92/100

NIKOLA ESTATE
SHIRAZ 2023
\$17⁹⁹

LIMITED STOCK AVAILABLE OF THESE VINTAGES. SHOP TODAY TO AVOID MISSING OUT!
Specials end 17 August. Country prices may vary.



96/100

DE BORTOLI
PHI LUSATIA PARK
PINOT NOIR 2024
\$39⁹⁹



90/100

Y SERIES
PINOT NOIR 2024
\$11⁹⁹



94/100

FABER VINEYARD
RICHE SHIRAZ 2023
\$29⁹⁹



90/100

DE BORTOLI
SACRED HILL
CAB MERLOT 2023
\$5⁹⁹



93/100

AMELIA PARK
MARGARET RIVER
CAB MERLOT 2023
\$29⁹⁹



94/100

AMELIA PARK
FRANKLAND RIVER
SHIRAZ 2023
\$29⁹⁹



90/100

OAKOVER
CAB SAUV MERLOT 2022
\$12⁹⁹



91/100

OAKOVER
GRENACHE SHIRAZ 2024
\$12⁹⁹



93/100

TAYLORS
JARAMAN
PINOT NOIR 2024
\$26⁹⁹



95/100

TAYLORS
JARAMAN
CAB SAUV 2022
\$26⁹⁹



93/100

VASSE FELIX
FILIUS
CAB MERLOT 2023
\$24⁹⁹



91/100

FOREST HILL
HIGBURY FIELDS
CAB SAUV 2023
\$22⁹⁹

AVAILABLE AT **liquorbarons**

Wine 6 PACK

Take home Ray Jordan's Top 100 winning wines in this wine pack. Explore the tastes of shiraz, cabernet sauvignon and pinot noir, from the higher-end price brackets right through to the budget-friendly wines. This wine pack has you sorted for winter drinking, no matter the occasion. Grab your 6 pack from your local Liquor Barons today!



T&Cs: Offer available August 2 to August 17, 2025. While stocks last. Country prices may vary. Available at selected stores only, liquor restrictions apply.

DE BORTOLI DOMINATES

De Bortoli dominated the producer scene in this annual red wine tasting. No other producer has shown such consistent dominance. De Bortoli started as a family-owned business in Griffith and then expanded into other areas, notably the Yarra Valley. This region is where some of their best wines are produced.

In this tasting, De Bortoli's dominance was particularly noticeable in the under \$15 price category. They offer an exceptional range of wines under various brands, with prices starting from just over \$7 to around \$13 to \$14 per bottle.

The Phi label is one of their standout brands, featuring 4 or 5 wines that could have easily made the top 100. A notable mention is the Phi Pinot 2024, priced between \$35 and \$50. This wine is a relatively recent addition to their portfolio but highlights the exceptional qualities of this small Yarra Valley vineyard.

Another impressive wine under the Phi label is the Gamay Noir. It perfectly captures the style ideal for current drinking, being lighter-bodied, vibrant, and focused on delicious, appealing fruit. It was one of my favourite wines in the entire tasting.



Under \$15

Once again, the under \$15 price category has showcased exceptional, quality wines at low prices. This segment was dominated by De Bortoli while Oakover and Houghton continue to deliver great quality wines within this price range. In judging this category, I focus on the quality of varietal expression, looking for wines with sweet, supple fruit characters and good balance. The wines selected here perfectly meet these criteria.

DE BORTOLI DB WINEMAKER SELECTION CAB SAUV 2024

This is quite a remarkable wine in this price category. It's got true varietal expression of blackcurrant and plummy fruit, with a nice long palate. It's so well balanced, the tannins, the oak; they all sit comfortably together, and it just produces a terrific wine.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 6 years

HOUGHTON CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2024

Let's face it, you just don't get dodgy wine from Houghton, and in this lower price category the quality is quite extraordinary. This one, from the warmer '24 vintage, displays the obvious deep blackcurrant characters and ripe plush, plummy fruits that are all about cabernet. It's medium-bodied with sweet, juicy fruit characters, balanced with a light touch of oak and a fine savoury finish. A wine that's ideal in the medium to short term.

Score: 91/100 Cellar: 7 years

DE BORTOLI DEEN CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2019

This wine shows excellent varietal character, typical blackcurrant, a little bit of blackberry and even a touch of chocolate. The palate is medium-weight, fine chalky tannins and a subtle but important oak influence. A cracking good wine for current drinking.

Score: 90/100 Cellar: 5 years

OAKOVER CABERNET SAUVIGNON MERLOT 2022

Another excellent wine from this producer that combines these two terrific bedfellows. The cabernet is certainly providing the weight and the structure with its fine tannins, but the merlot adds that little bit of mid-palate fleshiness to complete the wine. It's well balanced, with good length, and ideal for current drinking.

Score: 90/100 Cellar: 4 years

DE BORTOLI WINDY PEAK SHIRAZ 2022

A generous, medium-bodied Shiraz from this superb producer. Lots of bright, plummy fruit characters, good depth, and a very long finish.

Score: 91/100 Cellar: 4 years

DE BORTOLI DB WINEMAKER SELECTION SHIRAZ 2023

When you're looking for something in this under \$15 bracket, this style of wine ticks every box. It's beautifully soft and textured but with a bright, peppery, red fruit character lifting off the palate. The tannins are fine and chalky and there's just a smidgen of oak to add some complexity. Everything sits together so snugly and it's ready to drink right now.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 5 years

DE BORTOLI DEEN SHIRAZ 2019

An excellent shiraz, showing great depth of fruit, richness, ripeness, good tannin structure, and a very long finish. I love the rich, plummy blackberry characters here. A wine that is always guaranteed to deliver in this price range.

Score: 91/100 Cellar: 5 years

OXFORD LANDING SHIRAZ 2024

Here is your quintessential, light to medium-bodied, current drinking shiraz. It's from one of the best value-for-money producers going around and it has been a consistent winner for Yalumba for many years. Light, plummy, blackcurrant fruit, with some nice spicy dark chocolate characters. It's fine, elegant and has a long clean finish.

Score: 89/100 Cellar: 3 years

ZILZIE SELECTION 23 SHIRAZ 2024

A light to medium-bodied shiraz with some nice fruit characters. High florals on the nose, with notes of blackcurrant and light plum. There's a nice cherry, fleshy character in the middle. Light oak treatment, fine, easy-drinking, ready to go now.

Score: 89/100 Cellar: Drink Now

OAKOVER GRENACHE SHIRAZ 2024

Another cracking good wine from this producer. Grenache and shiraz sit so harmoniously together. It's more fruit dominant, which is ideal in this price category. A little bit of oak treatment, the fine tannins working neatly, and the palate is long and complete. There's quite a succulent fleshiness about it, which you'd expect from what was a very warm year. An excellent wine.

Score: 91/100 Cellar: 5 years

DE BORTOLI SACRED HILL CABERNET MERLOT 2023

It's ridiculous that this wine can sell under the \$15 mark. Well balanced, good fruit generosity and it just delivers all the time. With dark, plummy fruit characters, it's fine to medium-bodied and brings together these two excellent varieties to produce a most complete value-for-money wine. Ideal in the short term.

Score: 90/100 Cellar: 3 years

PITCHFORK CABERNET MERLOT 2023

This classic Margaret River blend offers some of the very best value drinking you can imagine. It brings the vibrant black fruits of cabernet together with the red plummy fruits of the shiraz. It's soft and smooth, with a supple, easy mouthfeel. This is what you want in the sub \$25 category.

Score: 92/100 Cellar: 6 years

Y SERIES PINOT NOIR 2024

This is consistently appearing in great value wine ranges from across Australia. It's quite remarkable that you can get a pinot noir of this quality in this price bracket. It's got excellent varietal character, a little bit of truffle, mushroomy character in there, sour cherry and a little bit of pluminess as well. It's medium to light-bodied, good structure and a nice long finish.

Score: 90/100 Cellar: 5 years



\$15 to \$25

The \$15 to \$25 category serves as an excellent transition from budget-friendly wines to those of higher quality, where you can really notice an improvement.

There is a diverse selection of wines in this category from various regions and grape varieties across Australia. This price range often represents some of the best value wines available.

Winemakers seem to consistently exceed expectations, offering wines that could easily command higher prices.

FOREST HILL HIGHBURY FIELDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2023

Hails from an exceptional vintage in Western Australia, possibly the best yet. This medium-bodied wine is elegant and stylish, with dominant red fruits, fine tannins, and nice oak treatment. It showcases the potential of the Great Southern region, offering great value and quality.

Score: 91/100 Cellar: 6 years

JIM BARRY COVER DRIVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021

This is a combination of Coonawarra and Clare Valley, which has been one of the best wines that Jim Barry releases each year. This wine shows the elegance and stylishness of Coonawarra, with the richness and density of the Clare Valley, delivering a limestone chalkiness, and providing tannin structure. The oak has been brilliantly applied. It's a marvellous wine that can be enjoyed now, or aged for many years.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 12 years

GOMERSAL WINES CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021

An excellent representation of this outstanding Barossa Valley vintage. It features medium to full-bodied fruit flavours, abundant tannins, and well-integrated oak. The wine has dark, plummy, blackcurrant qualities that extend to a very long finish. It's an outstanding example of what the Barossa Valley can produce with cabernet.

Score: 92/100 Cellar: 8 years

BATTLE OF BOSWORTH CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021

This was an exceptional year, delivering fruit of impeccable balance and flavour intensity. This wine is loaded with blackcurrant and slightly plummy notes, a hint of dark chocolate and a faint, minerally bay leaf on the finish. It's structured with excellent tannins and neatly applied oak, completing an outstanding wine.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 10 years

DEEP WOODS ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON MERLOT 2023

From one of Western Australia's most prolific producers, this wine delivers masses of red fruits, with a hint of dark chocolate and a fine, lifted African violet nuance. The finish is long and supported by fine-grained tannins. An excellent wine.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 7 years

DRIFTWOOD THE COLLECTION CABERNET SAUVIGNON MERLOT 2023

This wine perfectly captures the essence of these varieties. It features plummy blackberry, a hint of black olive, and touches of sage and bay leaf; all beautifully integrated with well-managed oak treatment. A consistent wine year in and year out.

Score: 92/100 Cellar: 8 years

LENTON BRAE CABERNET MERLOT 2023

This popular combination has been a consistent winner for Lenton Brae. It's medium-bodied and offers plenty of delicious sweet fruit flavours, typical of this vintage. It's been harmoniously merged with the structural support of cabernet and the supple fleshiness of the merlot. Balanced and long on the palate, this is a tidy, well-made wine.

Score: 92/100 Cellar: 6 years

SWINGS & ROUNDABOUTS CABERNET MERLOT 2023

This wine stands out as one of the better wines produced by this winery. It is medium-bodied with generous fruit characters and a slight black olive and blackcurrant profile. Well-crafted and neatly balanced, it is ideal for drinking in the next few years.

Score: 91/100 Cellar: 5 years

HAPPS PRESERVATIVE FREE SHIRAZ 2023

This long-standing, excellent wine showcases the impact of the right approach in the winery and vineyard. It's medium weight with a dry chalky character threading through the middle palate and has a fine, lingering finish.

Score: 90/100 Cellar: 4 years

HESKETH MIDDAY SOMEWHERE SHIRAZ 2023

This is a soft and quite supple shiraz from South Australia's Limestone Coast. It has that light, fine elegance about it, which is typical of this region. Nice fruit flavours, again with light cherry, a little bit of pluminess and a dollop of chocolate, just to fill out the middle palate. Finely balanced, understated oak completes a very good wine. Ideal for drinking in the short term.

Score: 89/100 Cellar: 4 years

THE BLACK CHOOK MCLAREN VALE SHIRAZ 2021

This emerged from a very good vintage and offers spicy and slightly dusty fruit characters on the nose, complemented by deeper, darker plum and blackberry notes. The medium-weight palate has good density and a sustained finish. Best consumed in the early years.

Score: 91/100 Cellar: 5 years



NIKOLA ESTATE SHIRAZ 2023

Shiraz was one of the many varieties to perform well in the marvellous '23 vintage. As you might imagine, it's soft, supple and lush with rich fruit flavours. The nose speaks of generous shiraz with plums, spices and a lavish dollop of dark chocolate. Bright, voluptuous, and such an enjoyable drink, especially in these early years.

Score: 92/100 Cellar: 5 years

JIP JIP ROCKS SHIRAZ 2023

A real crowd pleaser from Padthaway, South Australia, that consistently performs well in tastings. It features perfumed notes with darker plummy fruit characters, a hint of spice, and a savoury touch. The wine is well-crafted with a deep, fleshy middle-palate, extending to a sustained finish.

Score: 92/100 Cellar: 5 years

CHERUBINO AD HOC MIDDLE OF EVERYWHERE SHIRAZ 2023

A delicious wine packed with ripe blackberries, plum, spices, and chocolate. It is well-poised with fine silky tannins and fine-grained oak, offering a lovely long finish. An excellent choice in this price category.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 8 years

WIRRA WIRRA CHURCH BLOCK GRENACHE SHIRAZ 2024

I suspected that this would be a pretty smart wine, given the quality of the season. It's beautifully aromatic and fragrant with long, fine tannins supporting some lovely fruit characters. Juicy red ripe fruit, sitting more in the medium-bodied zone and carrying through effortlessly to a long finish. Everything about it just says 'drink me', and that's what I'm going to do.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 5 years

TORZI MATTHEWS SCHIST ROCK SINGLE VINEYARD SHIRAZ 2023

A thoroughly delightful demonstration of a restrained and perfectly poised Barossa Shiraz. This is not one of your big fruit bombs. It exhibits restraint, elegance, and some lovely lifted perfumed fruits, displaying a redcurrant and lightly floral rose petal character. The palate balances sweet ripe fruit with fine, powdery tannins, supported by lightly weighted oak.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 6 years

CHAIN OF PONDS GRAVE'S GATE SHIRAZ 2022

This one comes from the Adelaide Hills. It has a dry, slightly sappy, plummy character, with lifted notes of plums and a juicy, vibrant, red fruit raspberry dominant character. There's a little of the cool climate pepperiness and it's balanced with a fine velvety finish. A wine probably best in the shorter term.

Score: 90/100 Cellar: 6 years

LANGMEIL ROUGH DIAMOND GRENACHE 2023

One of the famous names in the Barossa, which has produced this classically defined grenache. It ticks all the boxes. It's light-bodied, but with beautiful floral, perfumed notes of raspberries and other redcurrant characters. The palate is light-bodied, but there is excellent fruit concentration within that light body, and it extends effortlessly to a very long finish. This is your quintessential modern style of grenache from the Barossa Valley.

Score: 92/100 Cellar: 5 years

CIRILLO CENTENARY VINE THE VINCENT GRENACHE 2024

I've been impressed with this producer for many years now, consistently making high-class wines especially from grenache. This one is a cracker. Lifted red fruit florals on the nose with a sort of jube pastel character. The palate is light-bodied, but with good fruit intensity and concentration delivered effortlessly, through to a very long finish. This is just such great drinking now.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 5 years

CHAPEL HILL THE VINE DRESSER GRENACHE 2024

Another example of the quality of this vintage in McLaren Vale. This one is a cracking good wine, showing all the beautiful, lifted florals that you want from grenache. It has a wonderful, fine elegance about it. Just delicious drinking for right now, with the potential to cellar if you wish, but I wouldn't bother. This is a wine that I just love drinking in the short term.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 5 years

DE BORTOLI ONE LINE SANGIOVESE 2024

This one comes from the home of muscats and tokays, Rutherglen. De Bortoli have been sourcing fruit from there for quite a while, and the Rutherglen warmth certainly added a little bit more depth and texture into this sangiovese, which complements its natural, dry spiciness. It's a very good wine that has been well pulled together. A lovely burst of cherry, savoury notes and a delicacy that carries right through to the finish.

Score: 92/100 Cellar: 6 years

DEVIL'S CORNER PINOT NOIR 2024

This little corner of Tasmania has been an absolute winner for Brown Brothers since they bought the property many years ago. Lovely bright red fruits, with a combination of cherry and red fruit raspberry, with a decent sprinkling of spices and a slightly savoury finish. It's light to medium-bodied, but well-structured with great length and poise. This is a great example of what Tasmania can do with pinot noir.

Score: 92/100 Cellar: 6 years

PAUL CONTI NERO D'AVOLA 2023

This one works because the alcohol doesn't get too excessive and allows the lovely, light florals to emerge initially on the nose, and then through into the palate. This is all about fruit characters with the cherry dark chocolate glaze-like character, complemented by fine tannins, contributing to a velvety smooth finish.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 5 years

MILLBROOK TEMPRANILLO 2023

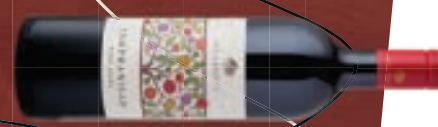
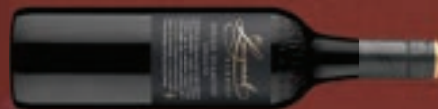
This is part of Millbrook's regional range. The fruit for this excellent wine comes from the Geopraphe region of WA. It has nice, bright, plummy, black cherry characters. After opening, there is a nice floral lift of African violet and slight raspberry notes. It's medium-weight, juicy, fleshy, and thoroughly delicious.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 4 years

TAYLOR MADE MALBEC TOASTED AMERICAN OAK 2022

Distinctively shows lovely, toasty American oak, but it's not excessive and it works well with the vibrant fruit characters. Soft, fleshy and shows the values and virtues of this variety when it's done on its own. Loaded with sweet red fruits, nice fine tannins, and understated oak, although the toastiness is evident to provide the balance. An excellent wine for drinking in the short term.

Score: 91/100 Cellar: 7 years



\$25 to \$35

Cabernet sauvignon and shiraz were standouts in this price bracket. However, there was also a surprisingly high number of quality pinot noirs, which is encouraging given the growing popularity of this variety.

Judging this price bracket was incredibly challenging with well over 200 wines in the category. Making it into the top 100 is a significant achievement for these wines.

HOWARD PARK MIAMUP CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2023

A picture-perfect vintage has produced one of the best cabernets under this label yet. Bold statement of blackcurrant and lifted blackberry on the nose, with a trace of bay leaf and dried herb character. Beautifully seductive and smoothly textured palate, with the structure and definition that is cabernet, giving it purpose.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 10 years

TAYLORS JARAMAN CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2022

You are simply not going to find too many cabernets of this class for this price. It's a cracking wine that blends the richness of the Clare Valley with the linear elegance of Coonawarra. Beautiful aromas of perfumed cassis, with a light lift of tobacco leaf and mint. The palate is so well crafted with fine, chalky tannins threading precisely and working harmoniously with the slightly savoury French oak. A most complete wine.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 15 years

O'LEARY WALKER POLISH HILL RIVER ARMAGH CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2022

This is from one of the best producers in Clare Valley. It's a marvellous example of what the region can offer, with aromas leaning more into the blue fruit spectrum, a lift of spice, and varietal characters of blackcurrant. The palate is generous and full, with dark roasted mocha characters and plush, deep blackcurrant plum flavours. The wine is supported by firm but silky fine tannins, with an impeccably long length.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 15 years

SEVENHILL INIGO CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021

Comes from a vineyard established by the Jesuits in 1851. This modern expression of cabernet has achieved an elegance while retaining the richness of flavour expected from this producer. It's a stylish wine, showing the quality of the dark fruits from this vineyard in a wonderful region.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 10 years

YALUMBA BAROSSA SHIRAZ CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2022

One of the great makers in Australia, Yalumba knows a lot about blending shiraz and cabernet. This one works so well. It's a cracking good wine, loaded with generous ripe fruit flavours, beginning with a lifted floral aroma and typical, cedary, redcurrant on the nose. The palate delivers, with Barossa plush and plumpness, as you might expect, and the cabernet adds that structural core to support the opulence of the shiraz. This is a great example of a modern style Barossa, still with the old style integrity.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 10 years

HAY SHED HILL CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2023

An elegantly crafted and presented cabernet from this excellent season. Lifted, leafy red berry with a little bay leaf and black olive, augmented with more primary red fruits. The concentrated, balanced palate delivers with precision and focus. It's a medium-bodied wine that is ideally suited to drinking in the first few years.

Score: 92/100 Cellar: 6 years

VASSE FELIX FILIUS CABERNET MERLOT 2023

One of the best cabernet merlots released under this label yet. Loaded with plush fruit that flows seamlessly through a smoothly structured palate. Ripe, sweet fruit, delivered with medium intensity and showing just a trace of oyster shell minerality. Bright and bursting with energy.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 6 years

HAMELIN BAY RAMPANT RED CABERNET BLEND 2023

This wine has hardly ever missed out on making the Top 100. It's a combination of varieties, basically shiraz, cabernet, and malbec. It always delivers vibrant, ripe fruit. It's honest, straightforward, and delicious to drink. Over the years, it's won several awards. A beautiful wine from a great year, and this one sings.

Score: 92/100 Cellar: 5 years

JIM BARRY LODGE HILL SHIRAZ 2022

Another of Barry's famous wines, which consistently produces wonderful expressions of the Clare Valley. This comes from one of the highest slopes in Clare, and the result is a wine that combines the elegance of the cooler climes up on those slopes with the natural weight and power that is the Clare Valley. It's lively, vibrant, and there's a real energy that shines through. This is a simply wonderful wine and one of the best in the tasting.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 7 years

FOREST HILL SHIRAZ 2023

What a mighty good wine from a wonderful vintage. It captures the power of the fruit from the vintage, yet delivers it with a degree of elegance. A contributing factor has been the use of larger format oak, so as not to dominate, along with foudres. Rich, dark, plummy liquorice aromas with a dollop of chocolate. The palate is brilliant and bright with deep, dark secrets of ripe fruit gradually starting to release.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 7 years

FABER VINEYARD RICHE SHIRAZ 2023

This has been a wonderful wine from Griffiths, sourced from the Swan Valley. And in a year like this, it's reached a new level in lithe vibrancy and energy, expressing all the virtues of this region when the season is right. Colour radiates with bright crimson red hues, while the aromas reveal an intense raspberry and plummy nuance. The palate is vibrant and medium-bodied, with a jube, delicious red fruit flavour, augmented with some nice oak treatment.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 6 years

HANDPICKED REGIONAL SELECTIONS MCLAREN VALE SHIRAZ 2022

These guys make great wines from across Australia, and let's face it, McLaren Vale is an ideal place to grow and make wine. The wine is generous, plush, and full-bodied, but with just a little bit of restraint on the finish. The restraint keeps the wine in line, focuses, and takes it through with effortlessness to a long finish. Wine for the medium term.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 7 years

BATTLE OF BOSWORTH PURITAN SHIRAZ 2024

From an excellent vintage in McLaren Vale, South Australia. It's organically grown, preservative-free, vegan-friendly and showcases the results of meticulous vineyard and winemaking practices. The wine is vibrant and energetic, with fine elegance and delicate fruit characters.

Score: 92/100 Cellar: 5 years

FERVOR NO ROYALTY SYRAH 2023

Oh, you are going to love getting your gums around this silky-smooth succulent syrah. Beautifully aromatic on the nose, with spices, red and blue fruits, and a light sprinkle of dried herbs. The palate is delicious with generous, plush red fruits supported by gentle tannins. The energy and brightness radiate from the glass. Love it.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 6 years



IRVINE ALTITUDE ESTATE GROWN EDEN VALLEY MERLOT 2021

This vintage was perfectly suited to merlot sourced from the high altitudes of the Eden Valley. Irvine has been focusing on merlot for years now and this one delivers, yet again. Oodles of dark plum, a lifted ripe red berry, redcurrant, and a little raspberry, adding to the complexity. It has a slightly leafy lift on the nose and then delivers with plush freshness in the middle. Vale Jim Irvine, the merlot king.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 10 years

WILLOW BRIDGE GSM GRENACHE SHIRAZ MATARO 2023

Such a beautiful vintage has been captured perfectly with this classic Rhone-inspired blend. It's a medium-bodied, bright-as-a-button red fruit-led wine of captivating brightness and vitality. The palate is a mix of blackberry and cherry with a little spicy, peppery infusion to lift. The soft and supple fruit has plenty of structural support from the chalky tannins and fine acidity.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 9 years

TAYLORS JARAMAN ADELAIDE HILLS TASMANIA PINOT NOIR 2024

This label from Taylors has been a winner for many years. The aim is to combine two regions that ideally suit a particular grape variety. Pinot works well in the Adelaide Hills and Tasmania. This one delivers lots of ripe red berries with a dark cherry character, but there's a hint of spice, and even a little bit of truffle complexity. It's fine, long, elegant, and perfectly poised.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 6 years



MOUNT TRIO VINEYARD HOME BLOCK PINOT NOIR 2023

West Cape Howe's Gavin Berry has been making quality pinot under his own Mount Trio label for many years now, and this is one of the best. It has everything you want with pinot—lovely bright cherry characters emerge on the nose, and it has a beautiful light to medium weight palate with good structure. It's a wine that will cellar quite well, but I think in the next few years you will see it at its best.

Score: 92/100 Cellar: 5 years

HAREWOOD ESTATE FLUX DENMARK PINOT NOIR 2024

This is another wine from James Kellie, who has managed to produce a classy pinot from this very hot year, which wasn't so bad in the Great Southern. This one's got it all. It's got the spices, it has the red fruits, with a little glazed black cherry character in there as well, and the faintest hint of that truffle mushroom influence. A complete, seamless and velvety palate.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 8 years

STRELLEY FARM PINOT NOIR 2023

This one is sourced from Tasmania, so it has the virtues of cool climate pinot, and it comes from the Coal River Valley. On the nose, there's some lovely florals and spices which set the scene, and then into the palate you get sweet, restrained fruit, but with good mid-palate fleshiness, and some nice subtle oak and spicy characters, creating balance. This is certainly one of the best pinots at this price.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 8 years

DE BORTOLI PHI GAMAY NOIR 2024

Light to medium-bodied with brilliant flavours, aromatics, red fruits, and florals. Fine, balanced, and deliciously elegant on the palate. The lively mix of roses, violets and strawberries with sweet red fruits is just so engaging. A great 'drink now' wine.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 4 years

TAR & ROSES TEMPRANILLO 2023

These guys have been producing wonderful tempranillo over the years. The slightly ironstone character of the region suits tempranillo, adding a nice balance with the variety's rustic characters. It has a sweet, juicy middle-palate with a lovely, spicy, rustic edge, fine tannins, and a little oak, focusing on fruit and fleshiness.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 7 years

SINGLEFILE GREAT SOUTHERN TEMPRANILLO 2024

The striking feature of this Great Southern-sourced tempranillo is its brightness and energy, bursting with lively red fruits and a fleshy, slightly opulent, palate with juicy ripe red fruits. There's a slightly spicy, dark, chocolate-glazed cherry character as well.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 6 years

WILLOW BRIDGE SOLANA TEMPRANILLO 2023

Willow Bridge has been making this wine for some years, and it has always impressed. This is the best yet from Willow Bridge, showcasing plushness, generosity, and restraint with a fine chalkiness. A classy wine capturing the essence of tempranillo. A fun drink.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 5 years

SIDEWOOD ADELAIDE HILLS GAMAY 2024

Gamay, which is ideally suited for the Adelaide Hills, is made in an interesting way with wild yeast fermentation and a combination of carbonic maceration and whole berries. This gives the wine structure and a lovely ethereal lift on the nose. The wine offers flavours of raspberries, black cherries, and delightful floral aromatics. It's light-bodied and flavoursome, with a touch of oak.

Score: 92/100 Cellar: 3 years

FAIRBROSSEN MALBEC 2023

This Perth Hills-based producer sources the fruit for this wine from Margaret River. The year was ideally suited to malbec, allowing a nice build-up of juicy red fruits to be well balanced with a chalky fine tannin offset that completes a very tidy wine. It has power, it has structure, and it shows quality winemaking with quality fruit. I think this is one of the best Fairbrosen wines I've tasted.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 6 years

FERNGROVE ESTATE RESERVE MALBEC 2022

This is from the Great Southern and has been evolving well in recent years. This wine is garnished with gold and trophies, showcasing the best from Ferngrove. Malbec, well-suited for the area, offers typical plummy, black cherry characters, some red fruit, and spicy dark mocha with a dollop of chocolate. It's a complete wine.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 8 years



\$35 to \$50

There were some unbelievably good wines in the \$35 to \$50 price range. This was expected, as many of these wines come from WA's fabulous '23 vintage and SA's '21 and '22 vintages. Choosing the best among them was a tough challenge. Shiraz was a particularly strong varietal and there were also very solid cabernets from Margaret River, Coonawarra and Frankland River. The pinots were quite exciting too, including some from the Yarra Valley.

CHERUBINO OVALE BLOCK 7 SHIRAZ 2023

It was a tough task to separate this wine from the final four, but as this is such an exceptional wine it had to be done. The wine shows just how good Frankland River can be for this variety, while demonstrating a very modern expression of Australian shiraz. This has to be high on your shopping list.

Score: 96/100 Cellar: 10 years

XANADU CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2022

An impressive cabernet sauvignon from a season which produced wines of power and volume, with a firm structure. This is all of that. The typical blackcurrant aromas are augmented with sweet plummy nuances. The palate is tightly framed with firm tannins and a decent oak influence from the 40% new French oak contribution. The colour is bright and almost luminous. A wine of energy and vibrancy. If you are looking for great value in cellaring, then this baby is right on the mark.

Score: 96/100 Cellar: 15 years

YALUMBA THE CIGAR COONAWARRA CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2022

Quintessential Coonawarra cabernet. It's stylish and elegant, with underlying power and finesse, that is part of this famous cigar-shaped strip of the great cabernet region in South Australia. This is all about the soils and their impact on the wine. This wine introduces a leafy, slightly chalky, limestone character threading through it. Wrapping around what is the warm, powerful flesh of blackcurrant cabernet. This is a superb wine with excellent long-term cellaring.

Score: 96/100 Cellar: 15 years

DOMAINE NATURALISTE REBUS CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2023

So, you want to know how good '23 was for red wines in Margaret River? Well, check this thoroughly engaging, pure, vibrant, fruit-dominant cabernet. Bursting with punchy red fruits and overtones of violet and cherry. The palate is medium-bodied with a seamless oak and fruit integration. Just a beautiful wine for drinking in the short term, but with the essentials to handle cellaring.

Score: 96/100 Cellar: 8 years

SINGLEFILE SINGLE VINEYARD FRANKLAND RIVER CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2023

Now firmly established as one of the finest producers in WA, this is an elegant example of Frankland cabernet in a truly wonderful year. Comes off the Riversdale Vineyard, which supplies so much fruit to some of the best wines in the state. It's got it all—the power, the finesse, the length, the elegance—and it's got that Frankland richness that's deep within a really beautiful wine.

Score: 96/100 Cellar: 15 years

HAREWOOD ESTATE RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021

Another excellent wine from James Kellie in this year that turned out pretty damn good in the Great Southern. Poised, powerful, and layered. It's had plenty of oak here, but the oak has been well-managed and is perfectly integrated. A seamless wine of great power and integrity. A classic example of this slightly cooler vintage.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 10 years

FERNGROVE MAJESTIC CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2023

First-rate cabernet from this Great Southern producer that continues to impress with its latest wines. Elegant and stylish, with a beautiful textural mouthfeel and structure. Leafy red fruits, fine chalky limestone characters, and a very long finish. An elegant wine and ideal for medium-term cellaring.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 9 years



FERNGROVE QUEEN OF SHEBA CABERNET SHIRAZ 2023

Further evidence of the quality of wines coming from Ferngrove these days. A ripper with a combination of blackcurrant cabernet and plummy spiciness of shiraz. Flesh in the middle palate, structure from the cabernet, and a fine ironstone chalkiness. A wine of great style and polish.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 10 years

AMELIA PARK CABERNET SAUVIGNON MERLOT 2023

This is an outstanding example of the well-established Margaret River blend. From the '23 vintage, it showcases excellent sweet supple fruit, combined with a firm structure that distinguishes it from many other cabernet merlots. It includes a touch of cabernet franc, which adds a fragrant lift to the aroma. The wine features a hint of earthiness, a savoury quality, and beautifully emerging fruit from the mid-palate. Fine tannins and a nice touch of oak complete this excellent wine.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 10 years

NIKOLA ESTATE REGIONAL SHIRAZ 2023

This was one of the finest wines in the tasting, and one of the most surprising. Let's get to the surprising first. It's from the Swan Valley, and I have to say it is unlike any I have seen before, being more akin to wines from further south. Delicious, soft, and supplely bright fruit flavours abound, delivering a highly intense and focused palate.

Score: 96/100 Cellar: 6 years

O'LEARY WALKER POLISH HILL RIVER ARMAGH SHIRAZ 2022

Another wine from this super duo of great winemakers from the Clare Valley. Polish Hill River is a famous sub-region of Clare, and it produces some of the finest wines in the region. This one has it all—the power, the richness, the plummy mocha, and blackberry characters with some spicy dark plum. It's poised, powerful, and has that delicious succulence and richness from the Clare. Many years ahead in the cellar.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 15 years

KERRIGAN + BERRY FRANKLAND RIVER SHIRAZ 2023

I'd have to say this is one of the best shiraz that I've seen from Kerrigan + Berry. There have been some good ones over the years. To start, you've got dark chocolatey red fruits, a lifted note of spices, including cinnamon, and other delightful aromatics. This is soft and plush, coming from Frankland River, and the generosity and richness are evident. It's a great wine to drink now, but a few years in the cellar won't hurt it.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 12 years

HATCH MCLAREN VALE VESSEY SHIRAZ 2022

A super wine from Chris Hatcher. This one is sourced from a vineyard in McLaren Vale and it really does show the Chris Hatcher approach, which is to produce generous, supple, and soft wines of impeccable balance. There's a real polish about this wine as it sustains a powerful, long finish with great poise and vibrancy, right through the palate.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 10 years

VASSE FELIX SYRAH 2023

This is a great syrah yet from Vasse Felix. It is thoroughly delicious and appealing from the first take on the nose, through to the soft and plush palate, delivered with a medium body. Interesting techniques have captured the best from the fruit. It was wild yeast fermented, with a portion of whole bunches and a little carbonic maceration to bring it all to life. Powerful cherry and spicy plum aromas lead to a medium-weight palate that is so exquisitely smooth and seamless, yet with a fine minerality to define and sustain. Outstanding.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 8 years

YERING STATION SHIRAZ VIOGNIER 2022

These days, most producers tend to drop the word viognier off the label, but Yering's always kept it there, and you can see why. It's part of the brand; it's part of the expression of the wine. The density and richness of the shiraz drives it through to its finish. This is such a well-balanced wine, and that little dab of perfumed concentrate of the viognier just gives it that final lift and flourish. A delightful wine.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 10 years

CHERUBINO THE YARD ACACIA SHIRAZ 2023

From Acacia Vineyard in Frankland River. Another classic from Cherubino, showing poise, restraint, and elegance. Fleshy with loads of blue fruit, medium-bodied, and classically elegant. This is phenomenal value for a wine of this class and puts a bright light on the Cherubino winemaking style.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 10 years

HOWARD PARK SCOTSDALE SHIRAZ 2023

Another outstanding shiraz from this southern vineyard. It shows the vibrancy and energy you expect, with the deep richness of plump fruit. Perfumed aromas of stewed plum and blackberry, with traces of dried herbs. It's typically supple with a velvety mouthfeel, lifted with a light touch of oak.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 12 years

AMELIA PARK FRANKLAND RIVER SHIRAZ 2023

The fruit for this excellent wine comes from Frankland River. It exemplifies the generosity, richness, power, and supple palate characteristics typical of Frankland shiraz. This wine includes flavours of dark plums and blackberries, with a lift of cherry, and a subtle hint of ironstone adding depth. This is a beautifully structured wine, demonstrating immense power and class.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 10 years



\$35 to \$50

A standout varietal in the \$35 to \$50 price bracket was shiraz. The quality of the shiraz provided a window into the stylistic differences of Australian shiraz. From the rich opulence of wines from Clare and the Barossa, through the aromatic styles of the Yarra, and to the magnificent, soft and supple perfumed styles of Frankland, the quality was magnificent.

TEUSNER AVATAR GRENACHE MATARO SHIRAZ 2023

This wine is from the Barossa Valley. Medium-weight with deep underlying power. Elegance and lift of aromatics from the grenache, spiciness and steeliness from the mataro, and a plush middle-palate from the shiraz. An excellent wine, ideal in the medium term.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 8 years

DE BORTOLI PHI LUSATIA PARK PINOT NOIR 2024

This is a fabulous wine from a vineyard in the Yarra Valley that produces wonderfully expressive, site-specific fruit. The aromas are a mix of sour cherry and lifted violet. That's a great start, but it gets better with a palate that is both powerful and refined, with a piercingly chalky acidity defining a long, precise and intense finish.

Score: 96/100 Cellar: 10 years

YERING STATION PINOT NOIR 2024

This was a cracking year in the Yarra, resulting in first-rate pinot noir. This one is loaded with bright, ripe red fruits, perfectly poised and controlled with fine acid and tannins. The wine was just given a light touch of oak, which was 10 months in French puncheons. It's lifted, filled with bright berry, and has such a silky, smooth, satiny palate. A classy wine.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 10 years

DEVIL'S CORNER RESOLUTION PINOT NOIR 2023

This comes from the Tassie vineyard established by Brown Brothers a few years ago. It always delivers with real punch, balanced by a fine, delicate elegance that is varietal pinot noir. Vibrant cherry characters, with a spicy red berry influence and a subtle savouriness. A classy wine of quality pinot.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 8 years



CHERUBINO LAISSEZ FAIRE FOUDRE PINOT NOIR 2023

This wine is from Cherubino's Channybearup vineyard in Pemberton. It's been matured in French oak foudres for eight months, resulting in a fine, pure, lifted, and seamless palate structure. Effortless and elegantly refined. First-rate pinot showing how good this region can be, even in hot years like this.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 6 years

CASTLE ROCK PINOT NOIR 2024

Rob Diletti has proved himself one of the state's finest winemakers over the years—something that is manifest in his approach to pinot noir. This wine shows elegance with slightly savoury and truffy characters combined with a vibrant fruit purity. Fleshy, textural, and retaining fine acidity, a testament to good viticulture and winemaking in a challenging year.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 8 years

SINGLEFILE SINGLE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR 2024

This shows what can be achieved in even warmer vintages. This light to medium-bodied wine has a lovely textural feel on the palate, with lifted aromas of cherry and raspberry, along with a subtle spiciness. A warm, truffy character runs deep into the palate, and the finish is impeccably balanced. It's a polished expression of pinot noir from this region.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 8 years

SITTELLA AVANT-GARDE GOLDEN MILE GRENACHE 2023

Oh, I do love this wine. It provides such compelling evidence as to why Swan Valley grenache should rank highly against anything being produced in Australia. It's picked by hand off selected bunches from dry-grown old bush vines, before gravity bottling, unfiltered and unfiltered. So, it's as pure as you get. Wonderful bright raspberry and rose petal fruit aromas combined with a light to medium-bodied palate that puts the spotlight on those vibrant fruit characters. Just beautiful.

Score: 96/100 Cellar: 8 years

SWINNEY GRENACHE 2023

A nearly perfect season in Frankland River has resulted in some of the best grenache released from this region yet. This is certainly a case in point. Yes, it's soft and supple with plush red fruits and florals, but there is a more serious structure and purpose through the middle-palate. Radiates brightness from its deep crimson red hues and bursts from the palate with unbridled enthusiasm. A ripper.

Score: 96/100 Cellar: 10 years

SINGLEFILE SMALL BATCH RELEASE GAMAY 2024

A surprise from this warm vintage, and one of the most enjoyable wines. Elements of Beaujolais with more palate weight and depth. An excellent wine of great poise and class. It has such a beautiful mouthfeel after the exotic perfumed notes get you excited from the get-go.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 8 years

ROCKCLIFFE SINGLE SITE MOURVÈDRE 2021

A wonderful example of this Rhône variety. The cooler vintage seems to have suited it, resulting in a medium-bodied and plush wine, offering softness and richness, with a little restraint. There's a slightly savoury, rustic, cedary character, with a hint of coffee grinds. You could cellar this, also such good drinking now. Get stuck in.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 8 years

CHERUBINO LAISSEZ FAIRE MENCIA 2022

I first tasted this Spanish/Portuguese variety from Cherubino a couple of years ago and was immediately impressed. This latest iteration is right on the money, benefiting from a vintage which delivered plenty of plush fleshy character. It's from the famous Riversdale vineyard. Soft, fine and supple palate, with a natural feel loaded with black cherry and a little wet dirt character. A delicious wine to drink. Best enjoyed early while vibrant and loaded with energy.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 5 years

NIKOLA ESTATE REGIONAL FRANKLAND RIVER TEMPRANILLO 2023

A tempranillo which displays a remarkably similar feel and flavour to the famous temps of the Rioja. A bright start with raspberry and dusty red berry aromas. The palate is a joyous example of the variety, with a combination of soft suppleness and a dusty, dried herb infusion. A super wine for the local Italian restaurant. I have given this a couple of extra points since first tasted, as it has moved into a new zone of beauty and expression.

Score: 95/100 Cellar: 6 years

MCHENRY HOHNEN TEMPRANILLO 2022

This is a highly fragrant and perfumed example of this Spanish variety. It combines the best of both worlds in that its fleshy opulence makes it ideal for drinking in the shorter term, but it certainly has the structure sitting in behind it, with good tannin and oak to ensure it can cellar for a little while longer.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 8 years

MCHENRY HOHNEN IRONSTONE RIDGE GRENACHE TEMPRANILLO 2023

A combination based on the Spanish approach. The grenache adds an aromatic lift, and the tempranillo contributes sweet ripe middle-palate fruit. It's a fruit-driven wine with balanced structure and slightly powdery tannins, leading to a long finish.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 8 years

FRANKLAND ESTATE 'FRANC' 2023

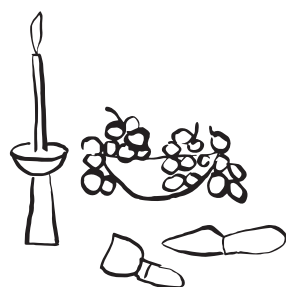
Whenever I see this wine on a list, I'm immediately drawn to it. I know it's going to offer thoroughly delicious drinking. This one, from the '23 vintage, captures the variety, style, and the best of this exceptional vintage. It's medium-weight, bright, and fruity, with a slightly ironstone thread providing balance. This wine is all about fruit, but it still has structure, with a fine core of tannin providing the middle-palate substance that supports a most stylish and polished finish. Just love this style of wine.

Score: 94/100 Cellar: 4 years

TEUSNER DOG STRANGLER MATARO 2022

These guys never fail to disappoint. I've been a fan of the wines from this Barossa producer for some time. The wines are soft, generous, medium to full-bodied, featuring vibrant, spicy, and slightly savoury fruit characters. I like the savoury tannin thread that runs deep and long, supporting and balancing the very approachable ripe fruit. It's a cracking good wine and ready for current drinking.

Score: 93/100 Cellar: 10 years



Ray Jordan's TOP 100 REDS 2025

ALL 6 FOR
\$120

SAVE
OVER \$25

Wine 6 PACK



RAY JORDAN'S
BEST OF
THE BEST
2025

96/100

CHERUBINO
OVALE BLOCK 7
SHIRAZ 2023
\$39⁹⁹



RAY JORDAN'S
BEST
VALUE
2025

93/100

DE BORTOLI
DB WINEMAKER
SELECTION SHIRAZ 2023
\$9⁹⁹



RAY JORDAN'S
BEST
RUNNER UP
2025

96/100

XANADU
CABERNET SAUVIGNON
2022
\$36⁹⁹



RAY JORDAN'S
BEST
VALUE
2025

93/100

DE BORTOLI
DB WINEMAKER SELECTION
CAB SAUV 2024
\$9⁹⁹



96/100

DE BORTOLI
PHI LUSATIA PARK
PINOT NOIR 2024
\$39⁹⁹



90/100

Y SERIES
PINOT NOIR 2024
\$11⁹⁹

SPECIALS START 2 AUGUST, END 17 AUGUST 2025. WHILE STOCKS LAST. COUNTRY PRICES MAY VARY.
WINE 6 PACK IS AVAILABLE AT SELECTED STORES ONLY, LIQUOR RESTRICTIONS APPLY.
NO ADVERTISING, COMPETITIONS OR SPECIALS ARE AVAILABLE AT LIQUOR BARONS PORT HEDLAND.

SUPPORTED BY

liquorbarons