



Welcome to the CellarHand newsletter for May 2016. Here's a little taste of what's going on this month...

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AUSTRALIA & NZ

CULLEN'S QUEST

Vanya Cullen is not one to coast along. It's now 16 years since she was named **Qantas Winemaker of the Year**, and eight since she won the **Woman of the Year** title from **Drinks Business**. She's since garnered a towering heap of laurels on which she'd be entitled to a hard-earned rest – but rest she will not. Instead she continues to ride a tide of favourable vintages in Margaret River to make the most of the extraordinarily rare quality of her vineyards. For Vanya, even the notion of making the most of it would seem like coasting. What she's in fact doing, with unflagging zeal, is making it even better. Now it's the turn of the 2014 flagships wines, and it's clear that she's refining the etching of these works of art continues to be refined.

2014 Cullen Kevin John Chardonnay RRP \$105

Dried pear, honeysuckle, spicy vanilla oak, ginger biscuits. Medium to full bodied, flavoursome, creamy and glossy, spicy oak showing as a young wine, smooth glycerol texture with dry flinty acidity and a long dried banana and pear aftertaste. Citrus too, but richer flavours this vintage. Really glides along, goes long, and leaves you feeling satisfied and aglow with Margaret River Chardonnay love. 95 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front

2014 Cullen Diana Madeline RRP \$135

Ripe red cherry, blackcurrant and redcurrant, baking spices, violet and mint perfume, perfect mocha oak in support. Medium bodied, fresh and vibrant, bursting with small berried fruit, a fine spread of pitch perfect graphite tannin, clean acid line, beautiful mouth-perfume, and a savoury



*tobacco laced finish of soaring length. Pulsating with life and Cabernet purity. A worthy sibling to the monumental 2012 vintage. 97 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front***

I was absolutely blown away by the quality of this new release from Vanya Cullen (actually it was a sneak peek and the wine will be released next month). It is probably the best young Australian red wine I have ever tasted - an instant classic. It is still youthful but everything is beautifully balanced. With fruit intensity (think dark currants and berries), quality French oak (69% new barriques), hints of tobacco leaf and superb structure,

*this is on the same level as first and second growth Bordeaux from the best years. A tribute to Cullen's mother, Margaret River wine industry pioneer Diana Cullen, this is a blend of 89% cabernet sauvignon with small batches of petit verdot, merlot, malbec and cabernet franc. The bees knees and I'm happy to give it 99/100 (not something I do very often). You won't be disappointed. 99 points. **Winsor Dobbin***

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PUREBRED BAROSSA

It's hard to think of a set of wines with such a strong family likeness and so reliably turned out as those of Glaetzer. The reason is all down to their roots. They are progeny of a man who knows his Barossa motherland and métier inside out. And they are so firmly – and anciently – embedded in the Ebenezer subregion as to be the very essence of it.

The 2014 Anaperenna Shiraz Cabernet picked up the trophy for best Shiraz-dominant blend at the 2015 Great Australian Red competition.

Amon-Ra, the flagship Shiraz classified as “Outstanding” by Langton's, once again shows why it's a perennial feature – and mover – on all manner of quality wine lists the world over. This wine has averaged more than 96 points out of 100 in **Wine Advocate** over the past six vintages. The 2013 wine – the most recent to be reviewed by the influential magazine – maintained that record, with critic **Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW** praising the bold equilibrium that is the hallmark of this wine. “The palate has wonderful balance and elegance for its commendable concentration and fullness.”

Those words sum up these distinctive, immaculately presented siblings from Glaetzer.

2014 Glaetzer Anaperenna RRP \$55

Winner 2015 Great Australian Red trophy for Best Shiraz-Dominant Blend

*Dark purple. Pungent black and blue fruits, oak spices, potpourri and woodsmoke on the highly perfumed nose. The palate displays very good clarity and energy, with tangy acidity adding lift and cut to the sweet boysenberry, violet pastille and vanilla flavours. This smooth, sappy, gently tannic blend finishes with harmonious tannins and lingering smokiness. 93 points. **Josh Raynolds, Vinous Media***

2014 Glaetzer Shiraz Amon-Ra RRP \$100

Inky purple. An explosively perfumed bouquet evokes ripe blueberry, cherry-cola, incense and

*vanilla, with a suave floral overtone building in the glass. Stains the palate with sweet, deeply concentrated black and blue fruit and violet pastille flavours, with juicy acidity providing shape and lift. Vanilla, mocha and dark fruit liqueur notes cling on a strikingly long, expansive finish framed by supple tannins. This big boy is wearing its 15.5% alcohol gracefully and while it won't win any prizes for delicacy, fans of the type - which includes this writer when the wine is done right - will adore it. 94 points. **Josh Raynolds, Vinous Media***

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YES TO YERINGBERG

“Things tend to accumulate when a family has lived at the same property for over 150 years,” mused Guill de Pury after donating the complete Yeringberg Archives - a set of vineyard and diary records spanning 1874 to 1956 - to the Yarra Ranges Museum.

Things do indeed pile up in these circumstances. Things like wisdom, knowledge, intuition – those qualities that

the de Purys exude to those who visit their vineyard or drink their wines.

Just like all those documents detailing a domain painstakingly nurtured through the years, these wines are testament to the focus, sensitivity and staying power of these pioneers.



2013 Yeringberg Marsanne/Roussanne RRP \$66

*58% Marsanne, 42% Roussanne. 50 dozen made. Soft, textural style with honeysuckle, peach and citrus flavours aplenty. No shortage of flavour but it finishes with daring acidity. Continues an outstanding run. 94 points. **James Halliday***

2013 Yeringberg Viognier RRP \$36

*Heady, but well balanced. High quality. Textural. It tastes of apricot, ginger, hay and yeast and, most deliciously, kicks brilliantly through the finish. 92 points. **Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front***

2013 Yeringberg Chardonnay RRP \$66

*Full-bodied attack, but it becomes more elegant as it drives through the palate. Complexity it certainly does not lack. Peach, bacon, spice and nectarine at first but increasingly wheaty and dry pear-like from the mid-palate onwards. Wonderful length. Stunning wine. 96 points. **Halliday Wine Companion***

2013 Yeringberg Pinot Noir RRP \$98

*It was entirely destemmed but it's riddled with spice and earth-like characters. Not quite autumnal but nearly. It's broody with cherry and plum, almost surly with fruit, though there's a silkiness to the texture and a (as much as I dislike the word) certain minerality to the finish. It will drink far better given a few years in a cold, dark place than it does now; it's a little irascible at present. 92+ points. **Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front***

2013 Yeringberg Shiraz RRP \$85

2013 Yeringberg Cabernet RRP \$98

*The colour is relatively light: full red with a tinge of purple. Superb freshness and elegance, medium-bodied and delicious, complex and multi-layered. A great wine, with a magical array of flavours. All manner of berries and spices, dried flowers, dried herbs and dried fruits. Silky soft tannins. Refreshing on the finish. Not such a big fruit style, but deliciously drinkable and moreish. 98 points. **Huon Hooke, Top 25 wines of 2015***

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PUNT ROAD ROCKSTARS

Tim Shand of Punt Road has been showered with praise from all sides recently. “Punt Road is a winery that’s in very good form at the moment, **The Wine Front’s Gary Walsh** notes, while colleague **Campbell Mattinson** says: “Punt Road has grown an extra leg in the last few years.” **Max Allen** in **The Australian** wrote a great piece on the “bizarre, intriguing and lovely” small-batch projects coming through the Airlie Bank range. “One of the Yarra’s leading wineries,” he said of Punt Road in general.

Following on from these plaudits – and with the excellence of 2015 starting to announce itself – come reviews of the new Pinots. They’re exhibit A and B in proving the case that Tim and the team have got things humming.

2015 Airlie Bank Pinot Noir RRP \$22

*This is an absolute belter. Hello sailor. It’s rich and deep and powerful; it’s spicy and fragrant and alive. The red cherries come drenched in plums; the tannin comes splashed with herbs. Gunmetal and smoke notes play such key roles it feels like an ensemble. \$22. Buy. Drink. Rejoice. 93+ points. **Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front***



2015 Punt Road Napoleone Vineyard Pinot Noir RRP \$28

*Value here is about as good as it gets. We’re very lucky that the world appreciates our pinot noir but isn’t yet scrambling for it. This is meaty, peppery, laced with graphite and woodsmoke and yet it shows a power of dark, brooding, cherried fruit too. Fresh herb notes, almost into fennel root, help to highlight the wine’s layers of texture and flavour. The finish is then screwed tight-ish. At \$29, it’s a rockstar. 95 points. **Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front***

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TERRA ROSSA ROLLING

“The Balnaves family, Coonawarra and Cabernet Sauvignon are concentric circles, indivisible from one another,” says **James Halliday**. And you fill in those circles with a great year, as 2012

undoubtedly was in Coonawarra, the picture that emerges is pretty spectacular. We've just rolled onto this vintage for both the Balnaves Cabernet Merlot and the Balnaves Cabernet Sauvignon, to join the already released flagship '12 Balnaves Tally.

2012 Balnaves Cabernet Merlot RRP \$31

*A 91/9% blend, destemmed and berry-sorted prior to fermentation, matured for 17 months in new and used French oak from the best coopers. This wine over-delivers at every point along the way, starting with its opulent bouquet, with its mix of red and black fruits, then a velvety, rich cassis-driven palate before moving into cedary, lingering finish, there supported by persistent, fine-grained tannins. 14.5% alc. Drink to 2027. 95 points. **James Halliday***

2012 Balnaves Cabernet Sauvignon RRP \$45

*Estate-grown, coming from the Dead Morris, Walker and Quarry Vineyards; it spent 20 months in French oak from top coopers. Full crimson-purple, it is a luscious, full-bodied cabernet, crammed with cassis fruit, quality oak and substantial tannins. Time is on its side, and it really needs 3-5 years before it is first approached. 95 points. **James Halliday***



2012 Balnaves 'The Tally' Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon RRP \$105

Hand-picked grapes from the Dead Morris Vineyard were given extended maceration post-fermentation, then taken to the best French barrels money can buy (50% new) for 20 months maturation. Very well balanced and structured, the oak better integrated than in some years; cassis, blackberry, earth, licorice and cedar all swirl around the bouquet and palate, the tannins

*almost silky. 96 points. **James Halliday***

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BELOVED BLENDS BACK

Stephen Pannell, the reigning **Gourmet Traveller WINE Winemaker of the Year**, is back with the 2015 edition of his beguiling blends, Tempranillo Touriga and Grenache Shiraz Touriga. The last vintages of both these wines wowed fans and judges alike, confirming Pannell's knack for putting modern Australia in a bottle and making you want to drink it over and over. Last year's Tempranillo Touriga made the taste-off for the Jimmy Watson, landing the trophy for **Best Red Blend** at the **Royal Melbourne Wine Awards**. It went on to snag the **Chair of Judges' Award** at the **National Wine Show** of Australia.

The GST, meanwhile, also made the Jimmy Watson taste-off, landing the trophy for best Rhône (!) blend at the **Royal Melbourne Wine Awards**. It won Steve the **2015 McLaren Vale Bushing King** crown and was also a double trophy winner for best red blend and best red wine at the **National Wine Show of Australia**.

2015 S.C. Pannell Tempranillo Touriga RRP \$30

48% Tempranillo 47% Touriga 5% Tinta Cão. Hand-harvested, crushed, and traditionally vinified in small open-top fermenters. 7 months in 500-litre mature 5-6 year old French oak puncheons with 20% in new oak. It shows abundant black fruits, plums, cocoa and wet earth overlaid with Touriga National's pungent combination of currants, violet-scented florals and nutmeg/cinnamon

spices. The flavours are primarily of fresh blackberries with plum pudding and panforte. Juicy, luscious and silky.

2015 S.C. Pannell Grenache Shiraz Touriga RRP \$30

*Grenache 46% Shiraz 37% Touriga 17%. Hand-harvested, crushed, and traditionally vinified in small open-top fermenters. Malolactic fermentation in stainless steel, then transferred to old 500L French puncheons for 8 months. This youthful, vibrant and fruit driven style presents lifted fruits of cherry and raspberry, musk, violets, with a hint of anise and nutmeg. Silky and juicy, light- to medium-bodied with sandy, gritty, grapey Grenache tannins. – **Stephen Pannell***

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IMPORTED WINES

WIZARD'S APPRENTICE

What a joy to meet Julian Huber in Europe in March. He's a fine gentleman in the mould of his father and it's clear his wines would make the late, great Bernhard Huber proud. Julian started working alongside Bernhard in 2008. Four years later, during his final year of study at Geisenheim, his father found out he was seriously ill. That's when the reins effectively passed from Germany's "wizard of Pinot Noir" to his apprentice. These 2013 wines are an excellent reflection of Julian's foundations and intent. There's greater subtlety and the oak has retreated further into the background. The wines still have the same vitality and raw fruit power, but they're a touch more restrained and – if you will – Burgundian. The true stamp of these wines, though, is Huber. They're recognisable to us as they've become a cherished part of our portfolio and our drinking regimen. It's tremendous to see that they've been embraced by so many others here, too, echoed by the effusive affection of James Halliday. The great Australian wine oracle was even moved last year to pen an article based on them, bearing the title: "German Pinot Noir – why you need it in your life". It's no secret that we too are enormously proud to be associated with Huber. It is with great pleasure that we present Malterdingen's new generation.



2013 Huber Weissburgunder RRP \$48

2013 Huber Malterdinger Pinot Noir RRP \$62

MAGNUM RRP \$136

2013 Huber Alte Reben Pinot Noir RRP \$93

MAGNUM RRP \$200

2013 Huber Sommerhalde Pinot Noir Grosses Gewächs RRP \$128

MAGNUM RRP \$288

The Sommerhalde charms with a seductive perfume of exotic spices, orchard blossom and fine cigar smoke. On the palate things get a little more intense with lashings of fleshy plums and juicy morello cherries making the early running, only to be reined in by flavours of dark chocolate, dust

*from the grindstone, roasted hazelnuts and a subtle mix of herbs and spices. Still youthful, but already very elegant. 18/20 **Michael Schmidt** jancisrobinson.com*

2013 Huber Bienenberg Pinot Noir Grosses Gewächs RRP \$128

MAGNUM RRP \$288

*Quite reserved in its fragrance, the Bienenberg nevertheless grants delightful glimpses of bramble, blackberries and bonfire smoke. The palate is far more generous and reflects the Bienenberg's proximity to the Black Forest by a gâteau-like richness of sweet cherries, but although the fruit is juicy and the texture creamy, assertive tannins and healthy acidity make sure that the wine is not lacking in structure. 17.5/20 **Michael Schmidt**, jancisrobinson.com*

2013 Huber Schlossberg Pinot Noir Grosses Gewächs RRP \$160

MAGNUM RRP \$336

*None of Huber's Grosse Gewächse are short of fruit, but although the Schlossberg exhibits its fair fragrance of plums and blackberries, they merely act in support of a darker and deeper minerally expression. Shaved pencil, graphite and forest undergrowth represent a most intriguing and almost mysterious composition of aromas. On the palate the fruit of dark berries insists on its juicy ways, supported by fine spices, but then a cool stony notion takes command. Compact structure, full body and firm grip demand to be given time to agree on harmony. 18/20 **Michael Schmidt**, jancisrobinson.com*

2013 Huber Wildenstein Pinot Noir RRP \$310

*Elegant nose with the purity of Schwarzwälder Kirschwasser (German equivalent of the finest of eau-de-vie-de-cerises), sweet cherries and a dusting of dark chocolate. Fragrant nuances of cedar spice, cloves and the smoke of exquisite cigars drift above the glass. On the palate plums and cherries in cognac bring great generosity of fruit to the flavour, but a subtle contribution of barrique prevents blurring of the edges. Spicy and smoky notes add further intrigue. The complex taste profile is well supported by a harmonious alliance of healthy acidity and unobtrusive tannins. 18.5/20 **Michael Schmidt**, jancisrobinson.com*

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2014s FROM TOP THERESA

Full of warmth and humility, Theresa Breuer left a great many people charmed after her last visit to Australia. How nice it was to see her land the title of **German Winemaker of the Year** upon her return to the Rheingau. With a tight and faithful team at Georg Breuer, she's gradually moved to organic grape-growing and steadily refined what were already some of Germany's most elegant dry Rieslings. Along with the eagerly awaited 2014 wines, including her celebrated grand cru wines from Nonnenberg Schlossberg, we have the new vintage of her hugely popular Auslese.

And, for those quickest off the mark, there's a tiny parcel of the 2013 Schlossberg, too...

2014 Georg Breuer Rüdesheim Estate Riesling RRP \$38

*Subtle but deep and with ripe fruit aromas on the nose, the 2014 Riesling Rüdesheim Estate is a medium-bodied, firmly structured and mineral wine with a very good tannin structure. 10% was fermented and aged in a large oak vat. The wine was bottled in July and is still closed, but has a good potential. 89+ points. **Stephan Reinhardt**, *Wine Advocate**

2014 Georg Breuer Terra Montosa Rheingau Riesling RRP \$52

*Lovely, pure and delicate on the stony nose, the 2014 Riesling Terra Montosa is a lean, salty, very mineral, and firmly structured wine full of tension and finesse on the palate with a long, focused finish. 90 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate***

2013 Georg Breuer Nonnenberg Rauenthal Riesling RRP \$124

*The 2014 Rauenthaler Nonnenberg Riesling offers a very pure and deep, yet rather closed bouquet of crushed stones and some lemon flavours. Full-bodied and with firm tannins, this is a very mineral and well-structured Riesling with good concentration, piquant and crystalline acidity, and lingering salinity. Very pure and with a great aging potential. 93 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate***

2013 Georg Breuer Berg Schlossberg Riesling RRP \$144

*Theresa Breuer's 9th vintage of the Rudesheimer Berg Schlossberg Riesling trocken since the early death of her father Bernhard appears straw yellow and offers an amazingly clear, fresh, deep and dusty-mineral aroma of lime chutney along with pure rocky flavours. The impressive precision and density on the nose leads to a pure, full-bodied, penetrating mineral though elegant and piquant wine that is as clear as a bell and shaped by a searing acidity and an extremely long and citric finish. Clearly a long-distance runner, I would not start drinking it before 2019 but I'd be happy to have enough to enjoy this wine for a decade then. 95 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate***

2014 Georg Breuer Berg Schlossberg Riesling RRP \$144

MAGNUM RRP \$336

*Super stony and pure on the very deep and intense nose, which displays ripe fruit and refreshing lemon aromas, the 2014 Rudesheimer Berg Schlossberg Riesling Trocken is a full-bodied, powerful wine with melting stones as well as an enormous salinity and structure. It is very grippy, firmly structured, and very long and complex. A great and persistent wine. Lots of finesse and elegance. 94 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate***



2015 Georg Breuer Rheingau Riesling Auslese (375ml) RRP \$38

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MORE MOREISH MORIC

“Moric is a cult name in the fast-ascending world of premium Austrian reds,” wrote **Tyson Stelzer** in **Gourmet Traveller WINE** earlier this year. “Roland Velich’s focus is astutely and exclusively on Blaufränkisch from a 20-hectare estate half owned by Moric and half by local farmers.”

Velich is indeed astute, for one thing because Blaufränkisch is a great grape, capable of delivering the earth and ethereality, as well as the fruit and spice depth, of great Barolo, Burgundy or northern Rhône. Not only that, but Velich has given himself the best chance of reaching those incredible heights through spending years studying those great reds and their regions to trace the true origin of their greatness. He then tracked down and restored tremendous old-vine sites of Mittelburgenland where the Blaufränkisch grape reaches its

pinnacle. Hence **Jancis Robinson** Purple Pages contributor **Alder Yarrow** describes Moric as “the apogee of Blaufränkisch”.

We've just received a shipment of Roland's 2013 Moric Blaufränkisch Reserve, as well as the



smaller production 2014 Hausmarke Grüner Veltliner/Chardonnay.

2014 Moric Hausmarke RRP \$45

*Funky, smoky with something of the barnyard about it, melon, tobacco and ripe lemon flavours. It's medium bodied, but thick in texture with a nutty savoury aspect, spice and a lightly grippy texture. Acidity is firm, lends a flinty feel, and corsets the wine beautifully. Finish is smoky, saline, infused with green herb and pretty long. Fascinating. Kind of hard to rate. 90 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front***

2013 Moric Blaufränkisch Burgenland RRP \$43

MAGNUM RRP \$93

*Spicy, peppery, twist of juniper berry twang, aniseed, boysenberry and blueberry and the like. Medium bodied, gently smoky, earthy and herbal, with a core of cool blue and purple fruits, juicy acidity and playful powdery tannin. The length is good, kiss of raspberry sweetness, cinched in by that tang of juniper on the finish. So much character. 92 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front***

2013 Moric Blaufränkisch Reserve RRP \$77

*Bramble fruit, juniper berry, liquorice and pepper, with maybe a slight sniff of caramel. Medium bodied, racy cranberry acidity and gravelly, silty tannin, with a good amount of depth and fleshiness, yet still carries the nerviness of this juicy and fascinating grape. Finish is precise and pretty long. Vibrant and charged with energy. 93 or 94 points, but who's counting? 94 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front***

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ROTHENBERG RETURNS

The 2013 Rothenberg GG of Johannes Hasselbach was one of the great wines of Riesling Downunder last year – so much so that it quickly disappeared. Thankfully, we can now offer you its successor. In truth, Johannes proved with those 2013s that he's nailed the dry wines across the board. He knows what the vineyards are capable of, he understands his role in that, and he's relentlessly pushing that potential.

Now, it's the turn of the sweet wines – we had to get some more of the 2014 Jean-Baptiste because so many jumped on it the first time round. The 2014 Auslese from the Rothenberg vineyard – “one of the most animating and seductive Auslesen on the Rheinhessen circuit” - shows that Johannes has got these right where he wants them.

2014 Gunderloch Jean Baptiste Riesling Kabinett RRP \$34

2014 Gunderloch Nackenheim Rothenberg Riesling Grosses Gewächs RRP \$93

Terra rossa is not unique to the Coonawarra but alive and well in the Rothenberg of Rheinhessen too. I have never found the same fascinating composition of pink grapefruit and spice in any Riesling from anywhere else, a powerful argument for terroir. Gunderloch's Grosses Gewächs

*makes full use of this special attribute and throws in a subtle note of zesty lemon peel for good measure. 18/20 **Michael Schmidt, jancisrobinson.com***

2013 Gunderloch Rothenberg Riesling Auslese (375ml) RRP \$47

*Loads of botrytis finds expression on the nose in what I cautiously associate with traditional shoemaker's glue. The more conventional aromas of a noble sweet wine such as honey and butterscotch make a fragrant appearance too. Very sweet grapefruit on the palate gets an invigorating hand from juicy acidity to make this one of the most animating and seductive Auslesen on the Rheinhessen circuit. Drink 2015-2025. 18/20 **Michael Schmidt, jancisrobinson.com***

2009 Gunderloch Rothenberg Riesling Auslese Goldkapsel (375ml) RRP \$72

100% botrytis grapes from 30+ year-old vines from the steepest red sandstone slope of the Roter Hang, Rheinhessen. RS 140 g/l, TA 10 g/l.

*Gorgeous aroma of orange and apricot – fresh and intense. The texture is gentle and caressing even though it has lovely freshness. This is what sweet German Riesling from botrytised grapes is all about and yet there's so much more to come. Like mandarin sorbet but with a much longer finish. Worth every penny. 17.5/20 **Julia Harding MW, jancisrobinson.com***

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LÖWENSTEIN LOVE-IN

"It's a miracle how brilliant and tension-filled the 2014s are," writes **The Wine Advocate's Stephan Reinhardt** of Heymann-Löwenstein. There are some – many – Riesling fans out there for whom there's no match for this estate. The composition and feel of these wines, heady with slate and flowers and never less than exhilarating, moved up a level some years back. And they keep getting better.

Stephan Reinhardt feels the same way. "His 2013s were already great, but Reinhardt Lowenstein's 2014 Rieslings from Winningen and Hatzenport in the Terrassenmosel are simply outstanding, and belong doubtlessly to the very best in the whole Mosel valley. They are all dry and much more precise and stimulating than in former years when botrytis was more tolerated than it is today."

They get off to a flying start with a cracking rendition of the Schieferterrassen, and just keep going higher...

2014 Heymann-Löwenstein Riesling Schieferterrassen RRP \$52

*Löwenstein's 2014 Riesling Schieferterrassen comes entirely from steep top sites in Winningen and opens with a super precise and spicy, fresh and flinty slate bouquet of ripe Riesling berries. Very elegant and round on the palate, this is an intense and minerally structured, very well balanced Riesling with a remarkable, complex expression of the quartzite/slate soils. The finish is long, pure and salty. Probably the best Schieferterrassen I have ever tasted. 90 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate***

2014 Von Blauem Schiefer RRP \$62

Sourced in Kobern and the top site Brauneberg in Klotten, the 2014 Riesling Von Blauem Schiefer opens a bit more reductive than the Schieferterrassen, and displays a pure and flinty bouquet with herbal and lovely, clear, ripe Riesling flavours. Pure, delicate and silky textured on the palate, this is a fine and elegant, rather light-footed dry Riesling with great expression of the predominant

*blue slate soils; it has a long and pure, stimulatingly salty finish. This wine is still young and should be cellared for another year or two, but can age for 12 or more years. 91 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate***

2014 Heymann-Löwenstein Riesling Kirchberg RRP \$71

*From sandier red slate soils compared to the Winningen terroirs, less warm but more vigorous and picked at the beginning of October, the 2014 Riesling Kirchberg 'VDP Grosse Lage' needs a bit of time to show its talents. The wine starts with a pure and smoky nose with stony and herbal flavours, as well as ripe Riesling berries. Full-bodied, round and silky, with a lot of finesse and a lovey purity on the palate, this perfectly balanced Riesling reveals a very, very long and salty finish; it has ripe and intense Riesling fruit in the endless aftertaste. 93 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate** March 2016*

2014 Heymann-Löwenstein Riesling Röttgen RRP \$80

*Once a "cornucopia of tropical fruit flavours and coffee aromas," (Reinhard Löwenstein) the earlier ripening 2014 Riesling Röttgen 'VDP Grosse Lage' opens pure, stony and deep, almost ethereal on the nose - revealing its ripe and concentrated Riesling flavours only with air contact, but also showing some refreshing green apple and ripe pip aromas. Full-bodied, rich and round on the palate, with a powerful structure and an intense and juicy texture, this Röttgen combines its fruity opulence with a delicately silkiness and purity; it has a long and salty finish with a lovely grip. This is another milestone of the estate. 94 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate***

2014 Heymann-Löwenstein Riesling Uhlen Laubach RRP \$99

*From slate soils with calcareous parts, the 2014 Riesling Uhlen L 'VDP Grosse Lage' (picked in the lieu-dit Laubach) opens with a deep and cool, fascinating, yet still somewhat discreet and dusty/stony, herbal bouquet. This wine is rich and intense on the palate, with concentrated and juicy fruit, as well as an impressive structure and silkiness. It has perfectly integrated acidity and is a highly complex and expressive Riesling, with an enormously long and complex finish. Still some yeasty flavours in the aftertaste. This is another milestone in the Mosel in general and of this avant-garde estate. Highly recommended, also for Burgundy lovers. 95 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate***



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RHÔNE IN THE ZONE

"I think pretty much everybody enjoys a nice affordable Côtes du Rhône, even if they don't know it yet," opines **Gary Walsh** of **The Wine Front**. He's probably right. So how's about a nice red and white Côtes du Rhône option for you?

Pierre Amadieu's white is a "Versatile wine. Easy to enjoy," says Walsh. And when tackling the red, you might find it "hard not to get straight back to the glass", he warns.

2014 Pierre Amadieu Domaine Grand Romane Côtes du Rhône Blanc RRP \$31

Light, spicy, crisp, white fleshed fruit, honey and citrus. Clean lines, good length. Carries some spicy oak, but it works well enough. I liked it best quite chilled, but it showed a different side when served

*cool-ish, not least a more fleshy and viscous texture. Versatile wine. Easy to enjoy. 91 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front***

*Expressive – leaps out of the glass: tangy, fresh pineapple, nectarine and citrus aromas framed by subtle oak and a burst of dried fruit flavour. Full, fat and fresh. 90 points. **Decanter Magazine***

2012 Pierre Amadieu Côtes du Rhône Roulepierrre Rouge RRP \$24

*This pretty much delivers everything I want from an affordable Côtes du Rhône. Fruits of the forest, a clutch of perfumed dried herbs, and maybe some liquorice and spice. Medium bodied, fresh and clean, fresh berry flavours with grainy lightly sandy tannin giving it shape, and some dried herb and crushed rock (or some such wine writer nonsense) add a little complexity and interest. Tastes dry, rather than fruity. Finishes clean and fresh, with a pleasant peanut aftertastes (please don't take a bottle to school). Hard not to get straight back to the glass. 91 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front***

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