



CELLARHAND NEWSLETTER November 2017

Welcome to the CellarHand newsletter for November 2017. Here's a little taste of what's going on this month...

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SIGN UP

RIESLING DOWNUNDER

It's time to lock in your plans for next Feb. The program for Riesling Downunder is irresistible, with a raft of ways to celebrate the great grape between **Friday, 2nd February** and **Wednesday, 7th February 2018**. Great Southern great *Frankland Estate* is once again spearheading proceedings, while European producers coming out to take part include *Dönnhoff, Heymann-Löwenstein, Georg Breuer, A Christmann, Wittmann, Dr Loosen, Gunderloch* and

Bründlmayer:

Riesling Riot is the major tasting taking place in Melbourne and Sydney, while a tantalising masterclass program in Melbourne features sessions on site & style, trials & traditions and the global relevance of Riesling – as well as the big international dry tasting showcasing the finest vineyards of the world's best estates.

Click [here](#) to view the full program, and to book your tickets to the dazzling diversity and thrill of Riesling Downunder.

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COMPILATION

MAGNUM MAYHEM

Nothing conveys the conviviality of wine quite like a big bottle for sharing. And there's not much to get the juices flowing among the convivially inclined than a long list of large-format beauties. CellarHand's annual celebration-season compendium of magnums has been compiled and is ready for your consumption. It's a bit of tome, running to 27 pages at last count, but contains full details on pricing and reviews of every wine.

Please contact us for the full offer (or read it on our [website](#)) but for now, here's a little taster.

2017 CHALMERS ROSATO MAGNUM RRP \$58

In 2017 the Chalmers family once again sourced the grapes for their rosato from the highest altitude, most prized block at their Heathcote site. For the first time, though, all three of the varieties planted there made it into this unique blend. Aglianico (63%), Sagrantino (33%) and Nero d'Avola (4%) were hand-picked, whole bunch-pressed, and vinified separately. The Nero and Sagrantino parcels were fermented in stainless steel tank, and the Aglianico parcel was fermented in old French barriques. All parcels were wild fermented with no acid additions, and blended together once dry.



NV JACQUESSON CUVÉE 740 MAGNUM RRP \$297

It's a marriage of toasty-richness and bristling freshness here. Compact in the palate with undertones of brioche, marzipan, ginger biscuit, with a coursing vein of green apple, tangy fruit character and lively oyster-shell-like minerality. The bouquet is attractive, a mesh of patisserie, honey and apple/citrus character. It pulses through the mouth with refreshment factor and light, palate sticking fruit-yeast sweetness. It's gulpable and yet fine. It's stunning stuff. 94 points. *Mike Bennie, The Wine Front* July 2017

2014 BONHOMME VIRÉ-CLESSÉ VIEILLES VIGNES MAGNUM RRP \$119

(bottled in June; the vines here are 75 to 95 years old; made entirely in barriques, 20% new, then moved into stainless steel for its second year of aging): Pale straw-yellow. Riper, yellower and more exotic on the nose than the cuvée Spéciale, with aromas of apricot, honey and fresh porcini. Rich and firm on the palate, with enticing fruit flavors of peach, apricot and quince complemented by lightly saline minerality.

Not a sweet or fleshy style, and nicely dry at 1.8 grams per liter of residual sugar. Finishes firm and persistent, with a strong impression of extract and brisk citrusy grip. "This wine is our ID card," noted Palthey, adding that his grandfather was best known for this cuvée. 91 points. *Stephen Tanzer, Vinous Media* October 2016

2013 DR LOOSEN WEHLENER SONNENUHR RIESLING KABINETT MAGNUM RRP \$106

Whereas the '13 Bernkasteler Lay is effortlessly total seduction, this calmly asserts the primacy of its great site, its flavours etched in finest detail on a headstone of titanium. The Bernkasteler Lay flaunts its charms, this wine plays the opposite game, making you work and realise there is so much more to come down the track, great though it is now. Drink to 2033; 8% alc. 97 points. *James Halliday, The Weekend Australian* August 2015

2014 DÖNNHOFF HERMANNSHÖHLE RIESLING GROSSES GEWÄCHS MAGNUM RRP \$328

Dönnhoff's iconic 2014 Riesling Hermannshöhle GG opens with a beautifully clear, coolish and smoky/fumy bouquet of great purity, precision and aromatic complexity. Think of intermingling lemon and slate aromas. The attack on the palate is racy and clear, and the wine starts straightly dancing over the palate. This is concentrated, perfectly ripe Riesling on the knife's edge; it's nicely piquant, highly mineral and endlessly salty. There are notes of melting stones and mineral, with great tension. "The vines are older in the Hermannshöhle, one plot is as old as I am," says Dönnhoff, who was born in 1949. 96 points. *Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate* March 2016

2012 HUBER MALTERDINGER PINOT NOIR MAGNUM RRP \$124

Good colour; Huber grows and makes pinot of world class; the bouquet is fragrant and very expressive, hinting at the cherry and plum fruit that has a juicy succulence as it rolls over the back-palate and into the finish and aftertaste. 95 points. *James Halliday* September 2015

2015 MORIC BURGENLAND BLAUFRÄNKISCH MAGNUM RRP \$91

Wet earth and smoke, blueberry and ripe cherry, Dutch liquorice, plenty of spice too. Medium bodied, mineral water feel to the acidity (perhaps makes sense when/if you taste it, but work with me...), purple fruit like mulberry and boysenberry, a pleasing burr of fleshy tannin lending grip, dry and savoury to close, with that pippy kind of just-ripe berry acidity to kick it along. It's a wine with a pulse, and heaps of character. 93 points. *Gary Walsh, The Wine Front* June 2017

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DOMESTIC



GAMAY GAME ON

The vintage rolls are coming thick and fast at Punt Road. Winemaker Tim Shand told us 2017 would be great - and we've only had to wait about five minutes to discover this wasn't merely Cabernet Franc-fuelled bravado. First the Chardonnay popped up when the buds had barely burst on the next crop. And now it's game on with Gamay. The first incarnation of this wine from the Napoleone vineyard went off last year, and no surprise. Bright, frisky, juicy and spicy, it slipped down a treat and

ticked all the boxes of a bangin' Beaujolais.

Joining them is the 2014 Punt Road Sparkling, a traditional-method blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir that sat on lees for more than three years. It's bursting with fruit, energy and a hint of funk. Punt Road's sparkler is always something of a joker in the pack - it gets overlooked 'cos there's so much else in this range that hits the spot - but this is serious-quality fizz.

2014 Punt Road Sparkling Chardonnay Pinot Noir RRP \$37

90% Chardonnay and 10% Pinot Noir. Picked early, pressed a bit harder than was the norm, and a warm, solidsy ferment. The wine was given plenty of MLF and saw a bit of oak. The nose shows apple pie, touch of lemon, poached strawberry, bit of funk over brown toast and salted cracker. Immediately rich in mouthfeel and flavour, with vigorous fizz and salty, yeasty depth. Citrus and apple turnover fruit, with the pastry notes. Flavour and texture is rich through the finish too, but there's energy and persistence with it. Bold, funky and enlivening. - Ed Merrison, CellarHand

2017 Punt Road Chardonnay RRP \$23

This year, I've concentrated more on building flavour. We were just lucky that the vintage ensured freshness and acid line anyway. The wine is purely off the old blocks of the Napoleone vineyard, planted between 1987 and 2001. 110V1 clone. A lot of work has been done in the vineyard to improve canopy structure and density, and getting crop levels back. This gives longer ripening, fresher fruit flavour and more intensity. We picked a touch riper, and did natural ferment in puncheons with full solids (15% new). I messed around with a portion of crushing to the press this year, mostly to build flavour. We pressed harder as well. Then we did the most malo we've done, at least 60%, though it could be more. Very clean malo though - building texture without popcorn. The 110V1 clone of Chardonnay needs that extra element to show savouriness. We also stirred lees more than normal. The resulting wine seems to have all the right elements. Freshness, but with weight. Flint and citrus, but stonefruit on the back palate. Long! - Tim Shand, Punt Road

2017 Punt Road Block 18 Gamay RRP \$29

Second time round for us with Gamay, and we've learnt a lot in 12 months. First, Gamay will set a big crop, with big bunches and big berries. It needs to be thinned hard; 30% went on the ground. In the winery, bunches and bags were key. With those big berries, and in a benevolent year like '17, Gamay would have a tendency to be one-dimensional. It seems our house style will be a 50:50 blend of 100% whole bunch ferments, and 100% cab mac, berry ferments in our goon bags. This lifted funk and spice. And then, oak. The time in (old) oak is crucial. The wine fills out and sweetens. So we added two months in oak this year. Still left it on lees, unsulphured for this time. It's clear that this will be a variety that suits the warmer slopes of our Napoleone vineyard. The vineyard manager loves it, so do we, and the wine makes itself. No finings, minimal filtration on bottling. Got a small SO2 addition a week ago just before bottling. - Tim Shand, Punt Road

OFF THE CHARTERIS

If you've never had a drink with PJ Charteris, you really must. He loves his wine and knows his onions. He's worked with some of the true greats throughout a long career, and has lost none of that youthful, exuberant passion for the culture and enjoyment of the good juice.

It was great for the CellarHand team to taste through the full line-up with PJ and his wife Chrissi (who likewise can't conceal her excitement about good vino). This contains two new releases - the 2014 rendition of the Astral Chardonnay and 2013 edition of Winter Pinot Noir - as well as

the sublime Riesling and a Central Otago Pinot with great poise and finesse, not at the expense of charm and generosity.



2015 Charteris Hunt Vineyard Riesling RRP \$37

I like the quote from a previous release that this riesling is meant to be "thirst quenching and thirst creating at the same time". This 2015 release is made slightly drier than previous versions.

*It boasts an incredibly long finish and bracing acidity – and yet it remains highly delicious, even smashable. It's a great wine to drink. It tastes of grapefruit and lime, slate and spice, and the flavour it conjures and the length it parades send it straight into 'exciting' territory. A smidgen of sweetness helps counterbalance the acidity but there's a whole lot more to this wine besides. 94 points. **Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front***

October 2017

2014 Charteris Astral Vineyard Chardonnay RRP \$53

It's from the Bannockburn sub-region of Central Otago and it jumps straight into the wild side.

*It's concentrated. It's a blaze of struck match funk. It has grapefruit and sweet lime, peach nectar and barley sugar. It explodes, it sizzles, it burns and it blooms. It can't be pigeon-holed other than under the heading An Experience. It's not-so-much sulphides soaked in water, as sulphides nestled in a spread of flavour. It all feels harmonious but it also feels a bit much, the latter likely a personal response only. 93 points. **Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front** October 2017*

2014 Charteris Pinot Noir RRP \$44

Central Otago pinot noir from various blocks of the Winter Vineyard. This wine is not to be confused with the specific Charteris The Winter Vineyard release.

*It feels just a little more serious, a little more structured than previous releases. It's still a ripper wine to drink. Neat, fresh, composed, varietal; all those good things. Forest berries, spice, cloves and a snapped-twig element. Juicy. It's in a really good place. The wine's smoky, foresty heart is most appealing. 92 points. **Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front** October 2017*

2013 Charteris Winter Vineyard Pinot Noir RRP \$74

Charteris' Winter Vineyard Pinot Noir has had an incredibly consistent run of high quality releases. Here's another.

*Bankable quality. It's a long, stringy pinot with the flesh to match; always a fantastic combination. Nuts, herbs, forest berries, woodsmoke and a cocoa-like hit. Three years old but lively and fresh; you'd pick it as a much younger wine. There's a subtle meatiness here too, florals even. I wouldn't drink this now, I'd cellar it, and I'd expect big things. 95 points. **Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front** October 2017*

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PIP, PIP HOORAY!

Philippa Farr had no wines to show at CellarHand's trade day at August – but that didn't stop her being mobbed by fans intent on ridding her of every last drop of her as-yet-unreleased 2016s.

Well, those wines are here – and won't be for long. This is the fifth release of Pip's wines under her eponymous label. They established a following in no time, and have become a cult hit in our portfolio. The 2016s shine with the class that has engendered this deep affection.

2016 Philippa Farr Gippsland Pinot Noir RRP \$53

The 2016 Gippsland Pinot Noir was hand harvested from a 20-year-old vineyard of MV6, which is grown in a red soil over limestone soil structure. Gippsland's 2016 growing season began with very cold winter, dry spring and then summer rain, finishing with a very compact harvest due to



a stint of warm weather. The fruit was reasonably clean, but it always pays to do a little fruit sorting on the back of the tractor. The final product in the fermenter looked great, which allowed me to continue using wild ferment techniques and 30% whole bunch to produce structure and complexity. The ferment took off faster than normal due to the outside temperature and was over and done in just over two weeks. Clean, nutrient-rich fruit - and happy yeast - meant no need to intervene, with the ferment reaching a perfect 32 degrees. I plunged the cap down just enough to maintain a wet cap. It then went into 30% new French oak. The wine was racked twice over 17 months before going to bottle, with no filtration. – Pip Farr

Light garnet in the glass, with scents of strawberry and raspberry, with a high toned orange blossom-like note above base notes of damp earth, rhubarb compote and cream. There's lively red fruit and that blood orange hint up front, but earthy savouriness too and that background creaminess. Silky and light in the mouth. The tannins are very fine here with some really good spice coming through with it, plus raspberry sorbet acidity. Pretty, sweet fruit trickles through a fine finish. – Ed Merrison, CellarHand

2016 Philippa Farr Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir RRP \$53

The 2016 Mornington Pinot Noir was hand harvested from a vineyard coming up to 20 years old, with predominately clone 115, plus some MV6 and 114. These vines are grown on a southeast-facing slope, on rich red loam over coarse gravel. I have had my eye on this particular site for the past 18 months, so when vintage 2016 from the Mornington was on the cards, I was very excited. The vineyard seems to take just a few extra days to ripen than the vineyards close by. The growing season started off quite dry, but summer rain worked in our favour, producing clean, full bunches at two tonnes to the acre. Picking occurred in early March.

The blend of clones for this wine resulted in 50% 115 and 40% MV6, with 114 making up the balance. These were two separate ferments, allowing room to find that sweet spot at blending. Wild ferments were allowed to take hold and 25% whole bunches were used to build structure and complexity. The ferments took well over a week to take off, with the cold soak being slightly too effective; however, patience saw both ferments finish in just under three weeks. It then went into 30% new French oak. The wine was racked twice over 17 months before going to bottle, with no filtration. – Pip Farr

Deeper colour and richer, more pronounced nose than the Gippsland. Still in the red-fruit spectrum but more cherry. There are pretty floral notes but, though we have fewer whole clusters in the ferment here, there's a greater sense of "bunchiness" and the oak shows more of a vanilla character. Rich and generous on the attack, with pulpy red fruits, spicy depth and a smooth oak background. The tannin is a little "heavier" but it's in keeping with greater depth and weight of fruit. Spice builds beautifully through the

finish and this has that peacock's tail sensation which is a delightful feature of Pip's wines. – *Ed Merrison, CellarHand*

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NEW BISHOP ORDAINED

Ben Glaetzer called it early. The fruit had barely come of the vine when he raved about one of the best harvests he'd ever seen – and this Baron of the Barossa has seen a few. When we went to visit Ben earlier this year, he couldn't wait to tell us how well those 2016s had turned out.

Enter Bishop, the first of the Glaetzer wines to roll onto sweet '16. This is one to convert the non-believers. No need to genuflect, no need to worship – but for goodness' sake get it in your class and give the Shiraz-loving congregation something worthy of everlasting praise.

2016 Glaetzer Bishop Shiraz RRP \$36

Exceptional old-vine fruit was sourced from the famed Ebenezer sub-district at the northern tip of the Barossa Valley. Vine age 35–120 years old. Yield 3 tonnes per hectare. Despite well below average rainfall and warm conditions during the growing season, the vines remained in healthy balance with increased bunch numbers. Heavy rainfall in late January followed by ongoing mild days, and cool nights allowed ideal ripening conditions. The fruit then matured with an early harvest. The resultant 2016 wines are outstanding and feature lifted pure red fruit characteristics, savoury tannins, great depth of flavour and sheer colour intensity.

Fermented in 1- and 2-tonne open fermenters. Extended maceration was employed to enable good tannin development so the wine is soft and approachable early. Matured for 16 months in a mix of 40% new oak and 60% 2- and 3-year-old oak hogshead barrels (90% French / 10% American). – *Ben Glaetzer*

Deep purple. Really fresh on the nose with blueberry, red and black cherry, sweet spice, pepper berry and sawdusty oak. Soft and seductive on entry; cuddles the palate. Ripe, for sure, but the fruit is fresh and immediate in flavour and feel. The texture is lovely and deep with blue and black fruits rolling through. The very fine tannins have a soft, enveloping grip to them, and it finishes fresh and moreish, too. Seamless in terms of nose to tail delivery; doesn't put a foot wrong. – *Ed Merrison, CellarHand*

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PANNELL IN THE PINK

Stephen Pannell, one of Australia's true greats of Grenache, has returned to home turf for this rosé. Lovely McLaren Vale fruit goes into a pink wine with universal appeal. The 2017 vintage was a very cool, mild and stress-free



occasion for Steve's vines. Good winter and spring rains were followed by a very mild, long summer. The results are wines with ample fruit complexity and great natural acidity. Most importantly, however, is the delicious fruit freshness.

2017 S.C. Pannell Arido Rosé RRP \$27

Highly-perfumed with aromas of rose, strawberry, blood orange and Campari. A pink white-wine rather than a light red. The palate is immediate, with balanced acidity and a driving finish beckoning the second sip. – Stephen Pannell

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V. GOOD VIOGNIER

It's not often that Viognier scores a headline out there in wine medialand. You can see why, too – so often it's a bit of a caricature: a plodding, palate-wearying gloop that feels like it just oozed out of a giant apricot. But as with all things wine, there are great exceptions, and the grape can have spicy zing, nutty savouriness and a sense of vitality.

Hats off to **Gourmet Traveller WINE**, which flashed a spotlight on it in a recent panel tasting of Rhône white varieties. Two of those that came out gleaming were from Yeringberg and By Farr. Sandra de Pury's wine was "very fragrant, showing orange blossom and apricot on the nose".

Huon Hooke described it as having "A classic Viognier bouquet that's clean, fresh and up-front. The varietal character is textbook," he went on. "It's quite opulent on the tongue with a big, generous mouthful of fruit. Impressive stuff." **Nick Bulleid MW** wrote: "Lovers of the rich, soft style of Viognier will lap this up."

As for the By Farr rendition, Bulleid declared it a "subtle, relatively lean and early-picked interpretation with citrus fruits and just a hint of stone fruit. The wine finishes crisply with good length." **Peter Bourne** found "honeysuckle, apricot and yellow fruit with lots of spicy complexity. Oak frames the fruit and gives drive to the finish. Time will bring harmony."

2014 Yeringberg Viognier RRP \$35

Crushed and destemmed, wild-fermented in barrel, no mlf, matured for 10 months, 213 dozen made. One of the best viogniers around. It is very complex and rich, with both barrel ferment and varietal fruit (apricot and fresh ginger) to the fore, the force of the finish and aftertaste unique to Yeringberg, seeming to be alcohol warmth, but it can't be. 94 points. James Halliday, Halliday Wine Companion August 2016

2016 Viognier by Farr RRP \$69

Very pure feeling, lean, shows an essence of apricot but it's flintier, ginger licked, cool and fresh. Barely there in a way, but so pleasing in its restraint. Crisp finish, touch of lingering nutty sweetness. Lovely drinking here. 94 points. Mike Bennie, The Wine Front August, 2017

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WAIRAU WINNERS

The Roses of Wairau River well and truly blossomed at this year's **Air New Zealand Wine Awards**, bagging four golds. The family estate, which was founded in 1978 by Marlborough pioneers Phil and Chris Rose, offers such good value that the sharpness of both quality and varietal expressiveness sometimes gets missed. Not by drinkers or judges, mind – these are repeat buys



and repeat winners.

The Roses' bling bounty included golds for the excellent 2017 Wairau River Sauvignon Blanc and 2016 Wairau River Pinot Noir. Bravo!

2017 Wairau River Sauvignon Blanc RRP \$23

Bright, very pale straw colour with slight green hues, near colourless on the rim. The nose is elegantly proportioned with softly packed and concentrated aromas of pungent passionfruit, tropical fruits and fresh herbs. The nose has softness in

presentation with intensity. Dry to taste and medium-bodied, the palate possesses softly concentrated and moderately full, mouthwatering flavours of pungent passionfruit and tropical fruits with fresh herb detail. The fruit sweetness is balanced by light, dry, phenolic textures and structure, with integrated, fresh, lacy acidity. As the wine flows the flavours gently recede to a light, lingering, passionfruity finish. This is a balanced Sauvignon Blanc with passionfruit, tropical fruit and herb flavours on a dry-textured, mouthwatering palate and an elegant finish. Serve with Pacific Rim fare over the next 2 years. Fruit predominantly from the 'Home' vineyard, fermented in stainless-steel to 13.0% alc. and 3.5 g/L RS.

17/20 *Raymond Chan, Raymond Chan Wine Reviews* July 2017

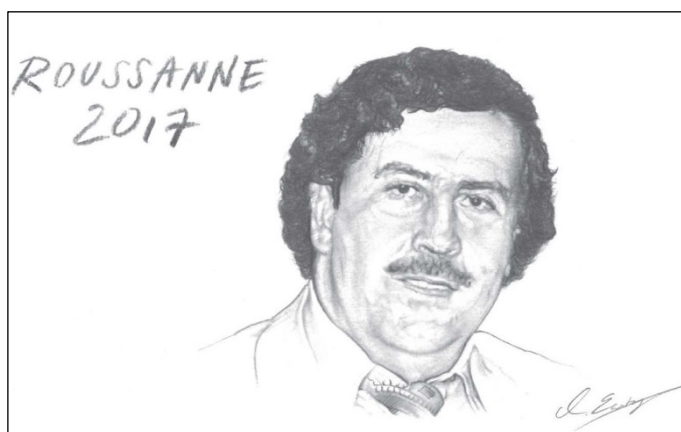
2016 Wairau River Pinot Noir RRP \$31

Concentrated raspberry and red cherry notes are supported by rich savoury complexity. The palate is soft and generous, with notes of wild berries and bramble framed by subtle elegant tannins providing structure and depth. – *Sam Rose, Wairau River*

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PABLO WUNDERBAR

It's a charismatic outlaw, this brand-new skin-contact Roussanne from Shadowfax. Following on from the Biggie Smalls-fronted varietal Mondeuse, here we have an orange wine from Alister Timms and the team. Shadowfax has been playing with southern French varieties on its Werribee vineyard since its foundation in the late 90s, and this little bandit is the latest in a cast of inimitable characters.



2017 Shadowfax Roussanne RRP \$27

Hand harvested fruit was further sorted prior to destemming. The grapes then went through natural fermentation on skins, giving the wine its lovely texture and slightly golden colour. After primary ferment it was gently pressed into older French barrels and left on light lees to develop further complexity for five months and soften the grape tannins. The wine was bottled without filtration in late October 2017. In the glass it's slightly golden with a bronze edge and brilliant clarity. The nose shows orange blossom and mandarin fruits complexed with hints of lees-derived custard aromas and hints of macadamia nut. The

palate shows great texture from skin contact. Its slippery mouthfeel has hints of alcohol warmth and fine white wine tannin giving length and structure. Pear and orange fruits explode on the palate, which are complemented with a touch of ginger spice. *Al Timms, Shadowfax*

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VIVA FLORITA!

Warm congratulations to those young kings of Clare, Tom and Sam Barry. The brothers took out a host of awards at last month's **Clare Valley Regional Wine Show**. Clos Clare was named Best



Small Producer and also took out the trophy for **Best Dry Riesling 2015 and Older** for their museum-release 2010 clos Clare Riesling.

We're already moved onto the 2011 vintage of the museum wine, but this is a sound reminder how good the Barry brothers are with Riesling - young and aged - from Watervale's fabled Florita site.

2011 clos Clare Riesling RRP \$39

Bath salt, blossom and lemon candy aromatics with cool lemon juice and mandarin fruit, freshness and flinty mineral edges, along with zesty acidity and touches of spice. It's a lighter, more delicate style that you might call dilute, though I prefer to call it 'transparent'. Clean tight lemony finish, and while it's not unapproachable as young wine, it should improve and flesh out with some bottle age. 94 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front August 2011

2016 clos Clare Riesling RRP \$32

Almost cumin spiced top note over lemon barley, lime and lilies. Intense acidity and burst of lemon/lime flavour, firm chalky texture, a sort of lavender perfume wafting in the finish, but it's mouth-watering in the main, and quite powerful. Good wine this vintage, though I'd say it needs a couple of years to soften. 94 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front November 2016

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SIX NATION ARMY

What a year it's been for Anna & Jason Flowerday of TWR! The biodynamic warriors of Marlborough conquered the **Six Nations Wine Challenge** with a pair of gold medals for their 2016 Riesling 'D' and Gewürztraminer, as the NZ contingent celebrated overall victory over the USA, Australia, Chile, South Africa and Canada.

2017 began with Anna's star turn at **Pinot Noir NZ**, and will end with her appearance on the bill at the **Terroir Conference** in Shanghai in mid-December. Sharing the bill with Anna will be luminaries such as Aubert de Villaine of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, legendary



consultant Stéphane Derenoncourt, Château Ausone owner Pauline Vauthier, and Rhône royalty Philippe Guigal. And with that, of course, Toru is flying high as a fixture in the **Air NZ Fine Wines of New Zealand** classification, and the whole range is firing on all cylinders.

2016 TWR SV 5182 Riesling 'D' RRP \$32

Brilliant pale straw colour with slight green hues, very pale edged. The nose is very elegant and refined with very good depth and intensity of pure lime fruit entwined with white florals a subtle layering of thirst-quenching savoury minerals. Dry to taste and medium-bodied, the palate is taut and tightly concentrated with flavours of lime fruit, white florals and savoury minerals. The mouthfeel is thirst-quenchingly dry with crisp, racy acidity, and the wine has fine fruit extract providing a refined line. Flavours of apples emerge and carry with the limes and minerals to a long, elegantly proportioned finish. This is a refined, taut, mouthwatering dry Riesling with lime, floral, apple and savoury mineral flavours and fine fruit extraction. Serve as an aperitif and with shellfish over the next 4-5 years. Fruit from the TWR 'Home Block', vines planted in 1979, hand-picked and hand-sorted, a portion WBP, and fermented in stainless-steel to 12.4% alc., 3.3 g/L RS, TA 6.8 g/L and pH 3.01. Certified BioGro organic. 781 cases made. 18.5+/20 *Raymond Chan, Raymond Chan Wine Reviews* June 2017

2016 TWR SV 5182 Gewürztraminer RRP \$43

This vineyard is claimed to have some of the oldest vines in Marlborough. Intense, moderately sweet gewürz with concentrated Turkish delight and anise flavours. Discreetly luscious with seductive purity, an ethereal texture and an incredibly lengthy finish. 95 points. *Bob Campbell MW, Gourmet Traveller WINE* June 2016

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DIVIDED HEARTLAND

The popularity of Heartland's Shiraz Cabernet blend has prompted winemaker Ben Glaetzer to do a spin-off bottling of two varietal wines under the Spice Trader label. The new Cabernet and Shiraz wines are available now alongside the much-loved original blend.



Exceptional value, all of these, as balanced, flavourful reds from a master.

2014 Heartland Spice Trader Shiraz Cabernet RRP \$18

You'd have to say that this hits the mark pretty well. It's not too heavy, not too light, not too simple and not too complex. It offers berried flavours with licks of toast and malt, sweet spice notes humming in the background. It's ripe and easy-to-drink; in other words, all is as it should be. 89 points. *Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front* June 2017

2014 Heartland Spice Trader Shiraz RRP \$18

Plum, chocolate and mint on the nose. Fresh-fruited, though; not overly confectioned. The palate follows on with red cherry/plum fruit, a bit of minty chocolate again but intensity nicely balanced with fairly spicy, soft, fresh tannins. The finish is clean and pleasing. – *Ed Merrison, CellarHand*

2014 Heartland Spice Trader Shiraz Cabernet RRP \$18

Definite Cabernet nose; blackberry and blackcurrant, black pastilles, sweet brown spice and a touch of

leaf. Quite a smooth feel behind firmish blackberry fruit; not too sweet and good fruit intensity through to a slightly chewy finish with black fruit, chocolate and tobacco. – *Ed Merrison, CellarHand*

2014 Heartland Shiraz RRP \$23

This release is particularly hearty. It's definitely and defiantly full-bodied. Chocolatey, clovey, toasty oak sits slightly separate from the fruit, but still manages to aid the cause – and then some. Tar, saltbush and blackberries. Loaded up. Mouthfilling. Dense to look at and to taste. Slippery-smooth. I'm pretty sure you've got the idea. Lovers of a Big Red, ready for drinking now, should be right onto this. 90 points.

Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front February 2017

2013 Heartland Cabernet Sauvignon RRP \$23

Vivid ruby. Oak-accented dark berries, cherry pit, licorice and vanilla on the nose and in the mouth. Broad and fleshy in style, with a peppery note adding back-end cut. Dusty tannins lend grip on the persistent finish, which features a repeating vanilla note. 89 points. *Josh Reynolds, Vinous Media March 2016*

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BRIGHT & AIRLIE

Rise and shine! The new Pinot Noir from Tim Shand is up and at 'em, and a lovely, vibrant number it is, too. Yet more evidence here, at this early stage, that 2017 will be pretty wonderful among the best producers. This one is unstoppable...

2017 Airlie Bank Pinot Noir RRP \$21

The wine has always tended to be 777 and 115 clones from the Napoleone vineyard, and so it is this year. We're starting to get some age into these blocks (now 11 years), and the structure of the vine canopy is regulating yields and providing a denser leaf area. The fruit flavours become more assured each year (definite red spectrum). Some 115 even made it into the Punt Road wine which is a first. There's plenty of bunch as always – 25%, and none of the wine went to oak. We pushed lees contact, and no SO2 was added until two days before bottling. This has accentuated graphite and smoky characters in the wine, overlaying some complexity on the pretty fruit. No finings, and minimal filtration. At 12.5% alcohol, and with all that bunch, the wine is particularly restrained and light this year; real Yarra pinosity. – *Tim Shand, Punt Road*

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NOCTURNE No.1

Julian Langworthy picks up silverware for fun, winning the Jimmy Watson Trophy last year and making it four best Cabernets on the trot at none other than the Royal Melbourne Wine Awards with another trophy in 2017.

Nocturne, his small-batch, single-vineyard venture with wife Alana, is getting in on the act in a big way. The 2016 Nocturne Chardonnay took out best Chardonnay at the Wine Show of Western Australia (at the same show last year, the rosé took out top prize in its class.). Then, just days later it cleaned up at the Margaret River Wine Show, bagging Best Single-Vineyard wine, Best White Wine of Show and Best Wine of Show. You get the picture – it's bloody good. The Cabernet was

released in the same month, so now we have all three wines out and about, all glorious. **2016 Nocturne Chardonnay RRP \$43**

Marzipan, struck match, quince and lavender-like florals with an edge of funk. Cashew, white peach, cinnamon, pear and lime flavours with a divine texture, powerful yet effortless, salivating seaspray-like finish. Super wine. - Gabriel Soltys, CellarHand

2017 Nocturne Nebbiolo Rosé RRP \$35
MAGNUM RRP \$71

The fruit comes from a single site, the Lentondelle Vineyard in the Carbanup sub-region of Margaret River. We're extremely happy with the resulting wine. The texture and phenolic structure are highlights in what is a very fine and subtle rosé that continues to push the boundary of high-end rosé production. That said, drink it on a boat wearing white - it's a pale salmon dream. - Julian Langworthy, Nocturne



2016 Nocturne Cabernet Sauvignon RRP \$43

Cigar box, red- and blackcurrants, bayleaf, coffee grounds and a lick of creamy oak. All there; fruit certainly very present on the nose. Medium bodied, with good tension in the mouth - has some flesh to it, but grainy, unobtrusive tannins woven through, plus acid bounce. Fruit clings well to those tannins on the finish, which has a bit of bayleafiness to it and distinct whisper of cigar. Another very fresh and drinkable expression; approachability and class. - EdMerrison, CellarHand

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IMPORTS



GERMANE JACQUESSON

It was everyone's favourite first time round; no doubt it'll be a rapid sellout on its comeback tour. If you like Champagne that offers "an irresistibly mouthwatering wealth of scents of flavours," as David Schildknecht put it back in the day, then come this way.

This DT rendition of Jacquesson's famed 736 spent 88 months on lees, with a late disgorgement in November 2016. The 2008 season was preceded by a winter that alternated between periods of extreme

cold and mild weather. Then spring was cool and rainy, with some frosts, before a cool, dry and windy summer. September was superb, allowing the Chiquet brothers of Jacquesson to bring in a harvest of healthy, ripe grapes in perfect condition.

Jacquesson Cuvée No. 736 Dégorgement Tardif RRP \$234
MAGNUM RRP \$478

The NV Cuvée No. 736 Dégorgement Tardif stands in stark contrast to the 735 tasted alongside it. Here the pedigree of the 2008 base vintage comes through loud and clear in the wine's expansive breadth and

overall dimension. Dried flowers, mint, herbs, chamomile, dried pear and smoke build to the deep, beautifully resonant finish. Today, the 736 offers a striking balance between the natural vibrancy of the year and the more burnished notes that have developed with extended time on the lees. All the elements are beautifully balanced in this rewarding, enticing Champagne from Jacquesson. All the elements are in the right place. Disgorged November, 2016. Dosage 1.5 gr/l. 93 points. *Antonio Galloni, Vinous Media* July 2017

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PRAISE FOR PIRON

Yes, 2015 was a very fine year in Beaujolais but fret not – so was 2016. We announced the arrival of the first few '16s from Dominique Piron a month or so back. Many have already dived in – 'tis the season, after all – but for those who didn't hear or were waiting for a second opinion, here it is.

2016 Dominique Piron Beaujolais-Villages RRP \$25

This is textbook, crunchy fresh, but amply fruited Beaujolais. Cherry and iron, a little spice, fine grained tannin, juicy cherry/raspberry flavour with a seasoning of dried herb and flowers, and a ferrous finish of satisfying length. Beauty. 90 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front October 2017

2016 Dominique Piron Fleurie RRP \$37

Cherry pip, flowers, a spicy and mineral feel. Medium bodied, bright and pippy fruit with a spread of fine grained tannin, cool acidity, and a very good finish, fresh and long. Tasty. 92 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front October 2017

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CASANOVA SUPERNOVA

One for the romantics, this. La Spinetta's Sangiovese is an amorous devil, embracing the senses with its funky, fleshy and slurpable incarnation of Tuscany's signature red grape. The 2012 had many lovers – just you try to resist the advances of this one...

2013 La Spinetta 'Nero di Casanova' Sangiovese RRP \$32

Sangiovese grapes come predominantly from the Casanova vineyard in Terricciola, with the balance (20%) from the Sezzana site in Casciana Terme. Casanova's 19-year-old vines sit on calcareous soils with ocean sediments at an altitude of 250m. It has a southern exposure, and takes in La Spinetta's Casanova winery. The vineyard is sustainably farmed, with no use of pesticides or herbicides. Alcoholic fermentation goes for 9-10 days in temperature-controlled rotofermentors before malolactic fermentation takes place in medium-toast French oak, where the wine spends nine months. It's transferred to stainless steel vats for two months before bottling, and is then aged for a minimum of six months in bottle.

The wine is ruby red in the glass and gives off aromas of wild cherry, blackcurrant and sweet plum. It's completely delicious with silky tannins and a fruity, chewy finish. Funky and intense, there's lots of cherry with elegant richness to enjoy. - La Spinetta



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SPATE OF SPÄTBURGUNDER

“There is no doubt that the future of Weingut Bernhard Huber has already begun and it has already achieved a very high level,” wrote **Stephan Reinhardt** of **Wine Advocate** after tasting the 2014s with the family in Malterdingen. It was the first harvest Julian Huber processed after the passing of his father. Things are indeed shaping up beautifully, with Julian’s own sure-footedness aligned with respect to the lessons of the late, great Bernhard. We now have the first of the 2014s arriving in Australia, to be enjoyed alongside the excellent GG wines of '13. “The qualities of both vintages, 2014 and 2013, are great when it comes to Pinot Noir,” Stephan Reinhardt wrote of Huber. “These wines are pure, fresh and aromatic, and really vivacious and transparent on the palate. They are less rich and powerful than in former years and need at least three years to develop their talents.” So, then, it's time.

2014 Huber Pinot Noir RRP \$53

Mainly based on French clones cultivated on mighty loess layers over Muschelkalk subsoils, Julian Huber's 2014 Spätburgunder trocken is the first vintage the young man had to process after the early death of his father Bernhard, one of the doyen of German Spätburgunder. Fermented in large oak vats and aged for more than a year in used barriques, this is a beautifully pure and fresh-flavored Pinot with well-articulated berry aromas and some spicy forest aromas. Silky textured, finessed and very elegant, the 2014 is a well-structured, vital and medium-bodied Pinot with precise fruit, fine tannins and a lot of character. It can compete with the best red Burgognes and is a what I'd call a Best Buy. 88 points. *Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate* February 2017

2014 Huber Malterdinger Pinot Noir RRP \$64

From 22-year-old vines on loess and shell limestone soils, the cherry colored 2014 Malterdinger Spätburgunder trocken opens with a very clear, bright and spicy bouquet of wild red berries, cherries and beautiful earthy flavors. Medium to full-bodied, fruit-intense and vital on the palate, this is a very elegant, aromatic and silky textured Pinot in perfect balance. The acidity is remarkably fine and the finish, though still a very little bit reductive, is pure, dry, fresh and beautifully aromatic. This is an impressive village wine from Baden's Breisgau subregion. There is just a hint of toast and mocha flavors in the aftertaste. 89 points. *Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate* February 2017

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