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### *CLASS IN A GLASS*

#### **JANCIS ROBINSON COLLECTION**

We're delighted to tell you that Jancis Robinson has tasked CellarHand with bringing her much sought-after glassware collection to the Australian wine trade. Here is the world's most eloquent and authoritative wine lover - owner of arguably its most astute and experienced palate - offering something beautiful that elevates the art of sharing wine to its rightful place: Somewhere close to perfection.

The Jancis Robinson Collection is in fact a cross-disciplinary collaboration with celebrated London-based product designer Richard Brendon, who pairs a love of heritage crafts with an eye for modern design. Before teaming up with Jancis he'd



made a name for himself creating collections for the likes of Four Seasons, Gleneagles, Corinthia Hotel London, Fortnum & Mason, Lane Crawford and Harrods.

At the heart of the collection is the aptly named Wine Glass, which has been specifically designed to offer the best tasting experience for every wine, whatever its style or strength - from Kabinett to TBA, Champagne to sherry, Pinot, port and beyond. This is complemented by a stemless sibling ideal for water, wine or whatever takes your fancy. There are also two decanters, one for loosening up a tight young wine (and, handily, with a bowl big enough to fit a magnum) and the other for breathing an aged bottle without losing its delicate perfume.

All of these are mouth-blown by master craftspeople in Europe using beautifully bright, lead-free glass. As well as being functionally perfect, the Jancis Robinson Collection has been meticulously designed to look and feel refined, elegant and timeless. The curves from the wine glass run throughout the collection to ensure all the pieces fit perfectly together, while the ultra-fine - but remarkably strong - mouth-blown crystal puts you in intimate contact with the wine, maximising the joy in every sip.



Jancis says Richard's design flair and perfectionism has made the glasses a work of art, while she provided what she modestly calls "practical input". Almost gossamer-thin glass was called for, along with a stem long enough for any hand to swirl plus an opening wide enough for the biggest of noses - yet considerably smaller than the maximum

circumference of the bowl, to allow precious aromas to gather and linger. And a "harmonious curvature" that would maximise the wine's surface area when the glass is filled with a typical 125ml pour, while leaving room above in which the all-important aroma would collect.

So here it is, the definitive glassware ensemble from the ultimate wine professional. It's as user-friendly as it is easy on the eye, and will take your enjoyment of wonderful wine to a whole new level.

## THE JANCIS ROBINSON COLLECTION

### The Wine Glass

Gift Twin-Pack RRP \$130

Gift Six-Pack RRP \$366

12-pack RRP \$677

Precision-engineered to be the only stemmed glass you need to enjoy every wine at its best. Dimensions: 9cm diameter; height 22.4cm.



### The Stemless Glass

Gift Twin-Pack RRP \$99

Gift Six-Pack RRP \$297

Water glass, stemless wine glass, whisky tumbler, G& T glass – you name it. Dimensions: 9cm diameter; height 11.5cm.

### The Young Wine/Magnum Decanter RRP \$185

This is a generous and bold decanter for young wines needing aeration and maximum surface area for the wine. Long handle for swishing and bowl large enough to accommodate a magnum. Dimensions: 17cm diameter; height 23cm.

### The Old Wine Decanter RRP \$230

This bottle-shaped decanter allows you to decant a mature wine off its sediment whilst ensuring that it is not exposed to too much harmful oxygen. Dimensions: 9cm diameter; height 27.2cm.

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## DOMESTIC

### VINOUS HEROIN

Nebbiolo may be very “now” in Australia but this variety Stephen Pannell calls “vinous heroin” has been in his – err, veins – for years. He’s worked vintages with his great friends at G.D. Vajra and is now releasing his eighth Nebbiolo under the S.C. Pannell label. The style he goes for takes a solid cue from traditional Barolo, with extended maceration on skins before the decision to press is taken purely on taste. This gives a very different tannin profile, winding them to the back palate so the pure and naturally complex fruit is allowed to unfurl seductively through the mouth.

The 2016 S.C. Pannell Nebbiolo release coincides with another perennial Piedmont-inspired fave: Barbera. “My obsession with Piedmont continues with the much underrated and underappreciated Barbera,” says Steve. “Naturally less tannic than its regal cousin Nebbiolo, but high acidity and deep colour makes it a similarly cellar-worthy wine.” Once again, it’s good old Gumeracha providing the grapes, and it’s another mouthwatering proposition, bursting with fruit and supporting structure.

The Italianate triumvirate is rounded out by Steve’s cheekily named Nero Diavola. Made from en vogue Sicilian variety Nero d’Avola, and poking fun at the stoush over Australia’s use of the native name, this one comes from S.C. Pannell’s home on Olivers Road in McLaren Vale. It’s devilishly drinkable with suede tannins woven through trademark black cherry, dried herbs, earthy spices and chocolate.



### 2018 S.C Pannell Nero Diavola RRP \$28

This Nero d'Avola is a modern evolution of Sicily's most famous vinous export. It's an early-flowering, late-ripening variety that tolerates heat without dropping acidity, making it a perfect match for our dry region near the sea. This is 100% Nero d'Avola from Olivers Road in McLaren Vale. The grapes were hand-picked in mid-March and traditionally vinified in a small open-top fermenter for 10 days. The wine was gently pressed and sent immediately to a 4300-litre French oak vat for malolactic fermentation, racked and returned to vat for a further seven months before bottling in February 2019.

The nose shows aromas of black cherry, dried herbs, incense and terracotta tile leading onto a palate of dark chocolate, plum, beetroot and signature cherry. Structurally it's a bit of a devil:



Deceptive yet charming with seductive tannins that are suede-like and complement the Italian herb-garden finish. – **Stephen Pannell**

### 2017 S.C. Pannell Barbera RRP \$39

This is 100% Barbera from a single vineyard in Gumeracha, at the northern end of the Adelaide Hills. The fruit was hand-harvested, crushed and traditionally vinified in small open-top fermenters. It was left on skins for 13 days before being pressed and sent to French oak puncheons, of which 30% were new. It spent 14 months in oak before bottling.

The wine is full of life and goodness with dark cherries in kirsch, boysenberry, mulberry,

hazelnut, walnut bread, vanilla and smoky paprika. There's a delightful zeal to the berry-freshness on the finish. From a structural point of view, it's medium bodied with typical varietal acidity that drives the flavour and expands the finish. The tannins are there but provide a frame for the acid and flavour, rather than standing out as the main event. – **Stephen Pannell**

### 2016 S.C. Pannell Nebbiolo RRP \$62

*96 points, Adelaide Hills Wine Show 2018*

*Trophy, 'Best Other Red Wine of Show'*

The eighth release of our S.C. Pannell Nebbiolo – a blend of five different clones from a certified-biodynamic Gumeracha vineyard in the Adelaide Hills. The grapes were hand-harvested in late March and traditionally vinified in small open-top fermenters. The wine was gently pressed off skins after 23 days, followed by the completion of malolactic fermentation in stainless steel. It was then transferred to old Hungarian oak puncheons and large vats for 14 months. – **Stephen Pannell**

*Bright young thing. Raspberry cordial, blackcurrant, cut fennel, spice and earth, a rose petal perfume emerging. Medium bodied, good volume of flavour, though light in footprint, with a translucent quality, fine cocoa/graphite tannin, cool acidity, and a well-defined finish of excellent length. It has verity and interest. It will age surely, and well. You can enjoy it now, but its best years are ahead of it. Really like this wine. 93+ points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front*

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## MANN'S MARGS MARVEL

"It's the realisation of a dream seeded by Rob's grandfather, Jack Mann," says Genevieve Mann, one half of Corymbia's dynamic duo. "A departure from the orthodox, to achieve a unique expression of Margaret River Cabernet. Variety, place and experience are woven together to redefine what's possible."

When she talks about experience, she means it. Her husband Rob achieved god-like status in the sphere of Margaret River Cabernet during his near 10-year reign as chief at Cape Mentelle, from where he was plucked to breathe fresh elegance into the wines of Napa estate Newton Vineyard. Gen herself brings serious Cabernet chops to the table, having worked in South Africa, France, California and South Australia before taking the reins at Howard Park in Margaret River.

Now, of course, it's their own dream that's centre stage for Gen and Rob. At the heart of Corymbia are the wines grown in the Swan Valley, that place synonymous with Rob's grandad Jack, who worked those 51 straight vintages at Houghton. Dry grown on the organically farmed vineyard planted by father Tony Mann, the range comprises a beautifully vital, textured Chenin Blanc and a fleshy, layered and neatly structured red blend of Tempranillo, Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon. And now comes the icing on the cake: The inaugural release from their vineyard and a striking new landmark in the WA Cabernet realm. It's a



dazzlingly pure expression of the great grape and of their Calgardup Vineyard. Raised only in seasoned oak, its immaculate fruit ripples with energy.

This is another clear signal of the immense class, talent and vision of Gen and Rob. Corymbia is an unmissable act, and now's the time to get in on it.

### **2018 Corymbia Cabernet Sauvignon Margaret River RRP \$64**

*100% Cabernet Sauvignon from the organically farmed, dry-grown Calgardup vineyard. Located just 2km inland from the famous Redgate Beach in Margaret River, we have revitalised this vineyard with acute attention to detail. The fruit was harvested on two picking dates in April. Individually berry sorted prior to natural, whole-berry fermentation in a single French oak vat. Maturation followed in a seasoned 600-litre French oak demi-muid and two seasoned barriques for 10 months.*

*We have made a wine that tastes as fresh and vibrant as the pristine coastal location of its origin. It tastes of the grape, the dirt and the sea without pretention and exudes all the characters of Margaret River Cabernet that the world admires. Dark cassis, juniper, oyster shells and coastal herbs complement a palate that is intense and energetic with squid ink and mulberries carried by the fruit's graphite-like structure. – Rob & Gen Mann*

### 2018 Corymbia Chenin Blanc Swan Valley RRP \$32

*This is bloody marvellous Chenin Blanc. It was made by Rob and Genevieve Mann from fruit grown on Tony Mann's property. Sure, it was a very good year, but it has been handled deftly to capture all those essential goodies from a variety that sings from the Swan. Controlled tropical fruits, with minerally citrus character and a lively fine acidity, are in perfect balance. Just love the palate. 95 points. Ray Jordan, The West Australian February 2019*

### 2017 Corymbia Tempranillo / Malbec / Cabernet Sauvignon Swan Valley RRP \$43

*69% Tempranillo, 19% Malbec and 12% Cabernet Sauvignon. Swan Valley vs Spain here, and a damned tasty thing it is too. I'm thinking plum and dark cherries, spice, subtle vanilla perfume, coffee beans and earth. Medium-bodied, wide-grained ripe but sandy skinsy tannin, fleshy mid-palate action, even acidity, cola nut, more to red fruits to taste, grip and savoury appeal on a solid finish. I seem to be stuck on 93 points (a good score!) for this wine, yet I'm tempted to push it up a little this year. Anyway, it's well worth seeking out. 93 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front September 2018*

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## FRANCLY DELICIOUS

Cabernet Franc has been having a bit of a moment for a while, and do you know what? Good on it, we say. It's been going along nicely for centuries in places like the Loire and the Right Bank of Bordeaux, but Australia's love affair with the leafy, graphitey, raspberried one has been a more recent phenomenon.

Here are four renditions for you to tuck into, from Punt Road's modern-classic quaffer to the altogether more intricate Olmo's Reward from Frankland Estate, via its spiritual home in the Loire.



### 2018 Airlie Bank Franc RRP \$23

*Blackcurrant, ripe raspberry, ash and lots of spice, sweet capsicum. Light bodied, but good intensity of small berried fruits, sappy green and spicy things are punctuation marks here, rather than text, acidity is fresh and slaty, tannin forms a fine dust, and the finish is cool and fresh. Great thing to drink. 92 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front*

### 2016 Frankland Estate Franc from the Fridge RRP \$32

A wet spring provided good early vine growth followed by a dry and warmer than average January and February. The summer cooled considerably in early March slowing ripening with the Cabernet Franc harvest starting late March. These vines were spur pruned and then machine harvested. The fermentation was shallow and then aged on lees for 18 months in 500-litre French oak puncheons. The wine is unfiltered and unfinned. Lifted fresh berries, cherries and spicy savoury characteristics with textural tannin shine through and

celebrate the finesse and elegance of this medium bodied Cabernet Franc. - **Hunter Smith, Frankland Estate**

**2016 Frédéric Mabileau 'Les Rouillères' Cabernet Franc RRP \$46**

*Vivid bright purple colour. Cherry, raspberry, subtle leaf and herb perfume, clay, pencils, but almost a liquorice richness. It's light to medium-bodied, impressive depth of flavour, tight graphite tannin, crisp cranberry acidity, satisfying length. Wonderful energy and high drinking appeal. I was tasting, but then decided to drink a glass of this. 93 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front***

**2017 Mount Mary Réflexion Cabernet Franc RRP \$50**

*Black jellybean, menthol, hedgerow, blackcurrant and raspberry. Medium-bodied, juicy burst but with black olive and pencil/earth savouries, buoyant, fresh, complex, dusty emery tannin, and a long and briary finish. Such a great drink. 94 or 95 points. 95 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front***

**2015 Frankland Estate Olmo's Reward RRP \$87**

*A blend of Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec. Deep smelling wine of earth, tobacco, dried flowers, red and black fruits, with a little gum leaf, aniseed, and cedar oak. Medium-bodied, savoury and thick with gravelly tannin, blackcurrant, raspberry, boysenberry and sweet herbs, oak in support, and a long dry sticky tannin finish. Love the freshness mixed with sweet loam and spice. Big personality. A rolling, regional wine that this estate does so well. 94+ points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front***

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## KIM VERSUS CLIMATE

It's a hot topic in a warming world: How to grow grapes that love the heat, cope with drought and make wines with character, freshness and vitality. In thought and in action, the Chalmers family is leading the way in promoting vine varieties that suit the Australian landscape and culture – both now and for the future. That is why they starred in a double-page spread in the **Sydney Morning Herald** recently, with several wines written up in a piece entitled **10 climate change-proof Australian wines we need to try**.

The Chalmers family's bold vision to import 70-odd new selections in the '90s has proved a game changer; there are now more than 2 million vines from these original importations planted in the nation's vineyards. Over the years the Chalmers family has released Australia's first Vermentino, Greco, Aglianico, Nero d'Avola and Sagrantino. The way the family's organically farmed, dry-grown Heathcote vineyard has turned these into excellent, naturally fermented, addition-free (bar sulphur) wines is, in itself, a measure of their success.



**2017 Chalmers Vermentino RRP \$27**

*Vermentino does well across Italy, and has a future here, too. This very pale version has savoury*

*mineral, green peach and juicy citrus aromas. It's softly fruity yet crunchy in the mouth with good carry to a long, dry finish. Yes, we know calling a wine "crunchy" is absurd, but somehow this really is. 90 points. **Ralph Kyte-Powell, Sydney Morning Herald***

#### **2017 Chalmers Greco RRP \$31**

Handpicked from the Chalmers vineyard in Heathcote, at an altitude of 150-170m. The grapes are whole bunch pressed and wild fermented, finally being aged in chestnut botte. Unfined with no acid added. Vegan friendly.

#### **2017 Chalmers Fiano RRP \$35**

*Chalmers Fiano from Heathcote is quite concentrated with a nose reminiscent of lemon tart, almond, yeastiness, and subtle hints of herbs like aniseed. It has rich intensity, with tangy balance of lingering ripe flavours that hint slightly at sweetness, counterpointed by lip-smacking acidity. Delicious. 92 points. **Ralph Kyte-Powell, Sydney Morning Herald***

#### **2018 Chalmers Rosato RRP \$27**

*A blend of new-wave warm climate grapes Aglianico, Nero d'Avola and Sagrantino, this charming rosé is very pale coppery pink, with a fragrant, delicate nose of florals and red berries that are pretty and inviting. It tastes fresh, light and clean with good intensity and a long tangy finish. 91 points. **Ralph Kyte-Powell, Sydney Morning Herald***

#### **2018 Chalmers Nero d'Avola RRP \$27**

*Fleshy, jovial, gently sweet but fresh feeling wine of vim and vigour. Cherry-cranberry scents and flavours, more cranberry tang to taste, right through to tart-crunchy finish. Summery kind of wine with huge drinkability. Joyous stuff. 90 points. **Mike Bennie, The Wine Front***

#### **2016 Chalmers Aglianico RRP \$43**

*Lean, sour and firm expression here, really dialling in the racier expressions of Aglianico. Scents of just ripe cherry, amaro, green herb, white pepper, the palate sour-edged, like just ripe cranberry, tart and chalky to close with licks of clove-y oak overlaid. That being said, it drinks quite interestingly, and refreshing. 91 points." **Mike Bennie, The Wine Front***



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#### **MOONLIGHT SONATA**

If there's one thing for certain out there in review land, it's that Burn Cottage continues to be a pacesetter for Central Otago, with biodynamic-grown wines that are calmly, intricately composed while exhibiting an energy and excitement not traditionally associated with this region.

It makes the news this week with Moonlight Race catching the eye of **Wine Spectator** scribe **MaryAnn Worobiec**. As an indication of the universal appreciation of the trio of Pinots,

here's an American, an Aussie and a Kiwi admiring their class and character.



**2016 Burn Cottage Moonlight Race Pinot Noir RRP \$68**

*Generous, stylish, spicy and expressive, with plump blackberry, clove and plum flavours wrapped around a thread of black liquorice. The texture is smooth and lush, while the tannins provide appealing traction on the finish, where a fresh green sage note comes in. Drink now through 2033. 94 points. **MaryAnn Worobiec, Wine Spectator***

**2016 Burn Cottage Valli Vineyard Pinot Noir RRP \$93**

*Ripe, fuller figured pinot noir, chewy and juicy, fleshy and plump. Red cherry, sour cherry, pomegranate, plums. Lovely fruit character, great energy and freshness, vitality and this come-hither kind of feel. It's a real charmer here. 94 points. **Mike Bennie, The Wine Front***

**2016 Burn Cottage Vineyard Pinot Noir RRP \$93**

*This is a terrific Pinot Noir - great to drink now despite the sneaking feeling it's going to get even better with bottle age. Totally seductive ripe cherry, berry and plum flavours with added complexity from subliminal floral, spice, savoury and herb. The texture is to die for, and the wine has impressive power as evidenced by a lingering finish that won't quit. 98 points. **Bob Campbell MW, The Real Review***

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**CHARTERIS CHARMERS**

PJ Charteris paid us a visit recently to unveil his new Central Otago Pinot and the latest release from Winter Vineyard in Bannockburn. As always from a man whose vinous enthusiasm overfloweth, we went down a labyrinth of anthropological avenues, touching upon nomads and the history of thirst.

He's a great man to taste with because his passion runs as deep, wide and sprawling as his experience – a native Kiwi whose career has been intertwined with pretty much every Australian wine legend he's shared time on earth with. The current range looks the goods, with another Central Pinot that's sure to please deeply, widely and sprawlingly. The Winter Vineyard wine from 2014 again evokes a complex, engrossing, shape-shifting Pinot site - and the Riesling is as strikingly vibrant as ever.

**2016 Charteris Hunt Vineyard Riesling RRP \$39**

*Delightful approach with honeyed apple notes, faint pastry characters, lemon blossom, lemon barley water notes. Palate has freshness, more precise citrus and green apple flavours, zingy acidity, clean lines and a good, long, mouth-watering finish. Pristine kinda deal. Delicious. 92 points. **Mike Bennie, The Wine Front***

**2017 Charteris Pinot Noir RRP \$46**

Davies Vineyard, Bannockburn, picked on the 18th April at 22.5 Brix. 100% 115 Clone; 36% Whole Bunch inclusion with the balance whole berry. 25% New French oak barriques with the



balance 1- and 2-year-old barrels. Single site, single clone, single batch, it's one of a kind. Bright red berry fruit leads the aroma of this wine with spicy graphite lift. A bass note of ripe Black Doris plum providing an intensity and depth that can only come from a low yielding harvest. While the fruit is to the fore, it is the aromatic complexity of this wine that draws you in and makes you sit to attention. The layers of fruit and spicy carry over to the palate with plum fruit at its heart. There's a hint of dark rose petal floral drawing the tannin and acid spine through the wine. It's all crushed velvet curtains and smoking jackets at the finish with plushness and a sumptuous length, Alluring and slightly indulgent. This wine is still a pup and I let it open over a few hours to write these notes, but it will unfurl gently over the next 6 months revealing its powerful fruit core. Be sure to leave 6 in the cellar as it's got a good few years ahead to keep evolving. Enjoy! - **PJ Charteris**

### 2014 Charteris Winter Vineyard Pinot Noir RRP \$74

*Punchy, oak-laden, chewy pinot of vin de garde, long cellaring feel. Restrained, tight, quietly powerful. Charming in tannins, ripples of understated dark cherry fruit, ferrous character and earthiness on the quiet. Some savouriness and malt creeping in. Feels like it needs some more time. 93+ points. Mike Bennie, The Wine Front*

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## BALNAVES BLITZ

Balnaves is a victim of its own breathtaking consistency in some ways – it's hard to make the



headlines when you don't put a foot wrong, and this family doesn't. The fact that Pete Bissell, a former **Australian Winemaker of the Year** and unarguably one of the most consistently faultless operators in the business, has been honing his craft here for 24 years gives what discerning drinkers would count as healthy reassurance and what fad chasers would call same old story.

Let's face it, though, we're in the business of estate-grown, lovingly tended vines and thoughtful, skilful, adaptive craft in the cellar. And for that, Pete Bissell should be held up as a hero.

The family's in the news this month because of a couple of simultaneous vintage rolls, onto the

2016 Shiraz and 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon. More on these below, along with a couple of other gems you may've missed.

### 2015 Balnaves Chardonnay RRP \$32

*Pete Bissell gets Chardonnay to a level unequalled by any other winemaker in the region. Hand-picked, whole-bunch pressed direct to Louis Latour barriques (20% new) for 45% cultured yeast fermentation, matured for 11 months on lees. Bissell nailed the harvest date of 20 Feb, posing the fruit between citrus and stone fruit, nougat, honey and creamy notes to come in the future. To 2025. 96 points. James Halliday, Halliday Wine Companion*

### 2016 Balnaves Shiraz RRP \$32

*As ever, a sure hand, but one with a twist hitherto seldom used in Coonawarra; 30% whole bunch inclusion in the ferment. This has added spice and a singular tannin structure supporting the rich fruit and supple oak. So easy to enjoy. 14.5% alc; drink to 2031. 95 points. James Halliday, Weekend Australian*

### 2017 Balnaves Entav Cabernet Petit Verdot RRP \$32

*A stunning purple-crimson; aromas working overtime with florals, a touch of pepper and spice with bright red and purple fruits all following through on the medium-bodied and buoyant palate. The wine spends 5 months in new French oak puncheons resulting in decisive tannins, which need to soften, and they will, but a fab drink now. 93 points. Jane Faulkner, Halliday Wine Companion*

### 2014 Balnaves Cabernet Sauvignon RRP \$43

Vintage 2014 was cool with very slow ripening after Christmas and cool night-time temperatures. Cabernet Sauvignon from our Walker, Quarry and Dead Morris Cabernet vineyards (97.5%), was blended with (2.5%) Petit Verdot, from Dunstan. This wine spent 18 months in tight-grain French oak from Sylvain, Taransaud, and Berger cooperages, before bottling in December 2015. Deep rich red in colour, the nose is very perfumed with aromas of pure cassis, violets, blackberry and graphite combined with fine mocha-coffee French oak. The palate is structured and elegant with ripe cassis fruit and a fine tannin finish. This wine will reward careful cellaring, and we recommend decanting before drinking. - Pete Bissell, Balnaves

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## HEARTLAND GRABS HEADLINES

Not long ago a few of us, as a favour to a friend, sat through a major Friday afternoon tasting of dozens of wines from across the market aimed at nailing the addictively quaffable, emerging-variety bargain. You'd think, with relatively modest aspirations and a bit of built-in novelty, that should be fun. In fact no, not really.

Turns out it's not as easy as it looks. During the tasting, a bottle of Heartland's Foreign Correspondent was grabbed from the shelf as a reference point, and it was bloody refreshing. That is to say, it refreshed the palate, but more than that it stemmed the flow of wishy-washy, half-arsed or downright horrid wines by being a damn good drink.

So this snippet appears as a toast to good fruit and the talent of Ben Glaetzer in making it look easy, and slip down with equal ease.



### 2018 Heartland Foreign Correspondent Dolcetto & Lagrein RRP \$25

*I looked at the label and it reminded me of my younger cub-reporter self. This comes out of Langhorne Creek. Well. It's a very good drink. You don't have to pay the big bucks. Red liquorice,*

*black cherries, drifts of aromatic dried herbs. Fresh and juicy in the best of ways. A gentle tether of tannin; just enough. Good stuff. Thumbs up. 90 points. **Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front***

### 2015 Heartland Shiraz RRP \$23

*Langhorne Creek shiraz, always made in hearty style. True to form and to style. Quite a bit of slippery vanillin oak here but it's attached to ripe plum/tar flavours and a good deal of them. Choc-cream and dark berried fruits. Old school in a good way, and at a (very) good price. Have to enjoy a good clip of oak to really dig this. 91 points. **Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front***

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## IMPORTS

### SÉLÈQUE HARVESTS

The wines of Jean-Marc and Oriane Sélèque burst on the CellarHand scene when we first introduced them in autumn of 2018. We ran through the Solessence wines in next to no time before bringing in reinforcements with a raft of other wines later in the year – but then could barely hold onto those long enough to make Jean-Marc's visit in February for CellarHand's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

We're talking intimately crafted grower Champagne, so of course supply is limited. And we're



talking a true young superstar, so of course demand is high. Many of you got the chance to meet Jean-Marc during February's foray to Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, and got to see what a charismatic and astute talent we have on our hands. The charisma spills into the wines – these are Champagnes of personality – while the cleverness of Jean-Marc and Oriane shows in the detail. These are wines of purity, energy and texture, with lessons learned from the very best, including Laurent and Jean-Hervé Chiquet of CellarHand stablemate Jacquesson.

This new offer includes new disgorgements of the three Solessence wines: the young NV white – the cornerstone of the range – plus a longer-aged zero-dosage version of the same and the rosé. Last time 'round, **Mike Bennie of The Wine Front** evoked the former as "Tightly wound, bracing Champagne of velocity and intensity. This is really good." The Solessence Nature was described by **James Suckling** as "texturally enchanting" while

**Wine Advocate's William Kelley** called it "full-bodied, broad and fleshy, with ripe acids, chewy concentration and a precise, chalky finish." And **James Halliday** placed the rosé in **The Australian's Top 100 Wines of 2018**, admiring how "Spice and wild strawberry fuel an elegant palate with utterly exceptional drive and presence".

Scintillating Champagne is a fairly rare and marvellous thing – and here is a little more of it!

**NV JmSélèque Solescence Extra Brut RRP \$92**

**MAGNUM RRP \$199** (base vintage 2014)

**375ml RRP \$58** (base vintage 2015)

50% Chardonnay, 40% Meunier, 10% Pinot Noir. Fruit from seven crus on mostly flinty clay on chalky subsoil: Pierry, Moussy, Épernay, Mardeuil, Dizy, Boursault, Vertus. Base vintage 2016, 80% stainless steel tank and 20% oak barrels. 50% of the blend from wines in perpetual reserve (in tank and oak barrels). Two years ageing under crown seal. No fining or filtration. Dosage 3g/L.

**NV JmSélèque Solescence Nature RRP \$110**

50% Chardonnay, 40% Meunier, 10% Pinot Noir. Fruit from seven crus on mostly flinty clay on chalky subsoil: Pierry, Moussy, Épernay, Mardeuil, Dizy, Boursault, Vertus. Base vintage 2013, with 50% of the blend from wines in perpetual reserve. 80% stainless steel tank and 20% oak barrels. Five years ageing under crown seal. No fining or filtration. Zero dosage.

**NV JmSélèque Solescence Rosé Extra Brut RRP \$107**

**MAGNUM \$145.13** (base vintage 2015)

45% Chardonnay, 40% Meunier (of which 10% skin-contact Meunier Infusion from Les Charmiers, Pierry 1er Cru) and 15% Pinot Noir of which 5% is Coteaux Champenois from Les Gayères, Pierry 1er Cru). Fruit from seven crus on mostly flinty clay on chalky subsoil: Pierry, Moussy, Épernay, Mardeuil, Dizy, Boursault, Vertus. Base vintage 2016, with 40% of the blend from wines in perpetual reserve. 70% stainless steel tank and 30% oak barrels. No fining or filtration. Two years ageing under crown seal. Dosage 4g/L.

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## ADVANCED RIESLING FREAKS

“What a collection again!” rhapsodised **Stephan Reinhardt** of **Wine Advocate**. “The 2017s are beautifully balanced Rieslings that impressively reflect their particular terroir in a very noble and unspectacular way. These wines are rather discreet and show their class through their quietness and inner grandness. The fruit steps back in favour of the terroir, so this is for advanced Riesling freaks.”

If you’ve got this far, you’re an advanced Riesling freak. We’ve never made a secret of our love of the Heymann- Löwenstein wines, and the way they marry intellectual stimulation with thirst-crushing intensity and visceral pleasure.

We have a wide range of these wines on hand, from the double happiness that was 2016 and ’17 in the Mosel.

**2016 Heymann-Löwenstein Schieferterrassen Riesling RRP \$58**

Toasty, honeycomb notes, green apple, white flesh pear, melon and stone fruits. Quite a tropical fruit-orientated Riesling here, floral-mouth perfume too, slightly distracting in a way, and giving life to the expression ‘vaporous texture’, per se. Decent drink, but pretty darn floral, pot pourri-like kinda vibe. 91 points. **Mike Bennie, The Wine Front**

**2017 Heymann-Löwenstein Kirchberg Riesling Grosses Gewächs RRP \$89**

The 2017 Riesling Kirchberg VDP Grosse Lage displays a golden-yellow colour and a deep, intense and crystalline bouquet of perfectly ripe and concentrated fruits. This is a full-bodied, lush and fruity dry Riesling with an elegant, mouth-filling texture and a vibrating mineral tension and

*long-lasting salinity. This is firmly structured, with lovely bitters in the finish and grapefruit flavours in the aftertaste. Tasted during the preview of the GG wines in Wiesbaden in August 2018. 93 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate***

**2016 Heymann-Löwenstein Kirchberg Riesling Grosses Gewächs RRP \$74**

*A dramatic and complex dry Mosel Riesling even if it has done some malolactic fermentation (there's a hint of butter which ought to integrate with bottle age). Lots of green chilli aroma alongside the ripe fruit, then the spicy finish kicks in and leaves you in no doubt. Better from 2018 through 2035. 93 points. **Stuart Pigott, [jamessuckling.com](http://jamessuckling.com)***



**2017 Heymann-Löwenstein Röttgen Riesling Grosses Gewächs RRP \$108**

*The 2017 Röttgen displays a white-golden colour with a citrus-yellow shimmer. The nose is deep and flinty, with perfectly ripe, precise stone fruit intermixed with crunchy slate aromas. Highly elegant and beautifully balanced, this is an almost creamy-textured Röttgen with great finesse and elegance. The finish is lush and stimulatingly salty, provided with very fine tannins and a lovely grip with very fine bitters. Very long, intense and fresh. One of the classics of Hermann-Löwenstein. Tasted during the preview of the GG wines in Wiesbaden in August 2018. 94 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate***

**2017 Heymann-Löwenstein Uhlen Blaufüsser Lay Riesling Grosses Gewächs RRP \$124**

*Very concentrated, but the sleekest and most filigree of this producer's trio of single-terroir wines from the Uhlen site. The blue slate of these terraces has given this a lemon and mint character, plus just a hint of peach. Very long finish that feels almost weightless. From organically grown grapes. Fair'n Green certified. Drink or hold. Screw cap. 95 points. **Stuart Pigott, [jamessuckling.com](http://jamessuckling.com)***

**2016 Heymann-Löwenstein Uhlen Blaufüsser Lay Riesling RRP \$108**

*Big, bright perfume shows honey notes, honeysuckle floral notes, green apple, fennel. Palate talks a similar language with an almost salty acid profile, great velocity and length, fine texture and intensity for days. This is a whip crack of awesome Riesling, detailed, precise and delicious. 94 points. **Mike Bennie, The Wine Front***

**2016 Heymann-Löwenstein Uhlen Laubach Riesling Grosses Gewächs RRP \$115**

*This very concentrated wine makes you feel that you are floating on the clouds that hang in the Mosel Valley before and during the harvest. There's plenty of acidity in here, but you barely feel it directly, and once you sink into the depths of the finish it's difficult to climb out again. Drink now and for some decades to come. 96 points. **Stuart Pigott, [jamessuckling.com](http://jamessuckling.com)***

2016 Heymann-Löwenstein Uhlen Roth Lay Riesling Grosses Gewächs RRP \$140

**MAGNUM RRP \$280**

**DOUBLE MAGNUM RRP \$577**

*Although this has great depth and power, it is less lush and more delicate than Heymann-Löwenstein's other 2016 dry Rieslings. Noble austerity at the very dry and super-mineral finish. From organically grown grapes. Fair'n Green certified. Drink or hold. Screw cap. 96 points. **Stuart Pigott, jameessuckling.com***

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## PY IS FOR PERFECTION

These last three vintages from Beaujolais have been a joy ride, with '16 and '17 being a rung each above the much-hyped 2015 vintage. Dominique Piron's 2017 suite was duly ravenously received, but we had to wait a bit longer for the cream of the crop – Morgon Côte du Py – to land. Its here now and is, indeed, the cherry on top. Go for it!



2017 Dominique Piron Beaujolais-Villages RRP \$25

*Very bright and fresh berry-pastry and some toasty and nutty nuances, too. The palate has plush and rich dark fruit that carries well on the finish. Drink now. 92 points. **Nick Stock, jameessuckling.com***

2017 Dominique Piron Brouilly RRP \$35

*Supple and fleshy, almost chocolaty, in with raspberry, cherry and some baking spices. It's lovely to drink, thick with charm and flavour, plenty of sooty tannin, and a slightly loose, yet satisfying finish. Very easy to enjoy. 92 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front***

2017 Dominique Piron Morgon Côte du Py RRP \$46

*Dark cherry, earth, distinct mineral feel. Rich in fruit, deep tannin, slight sour cherry flavour, finishing bright and long. Excellent. Très sérieux. 94 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front***

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## CHERRY KOEHLER

Idiosyncratic Pfalz estate Koehler-Ruprecht has been dabbling in Pinot Noir for years, and it's really come into its own with the shrewd and jovial Dominik Sona at the helm. This warm (for Germany) dry region is well placed to ripen Pinot to a pleasing degree, and there's no doubt that world-class reds will be raised here as temperatures rise and skills sharpen.

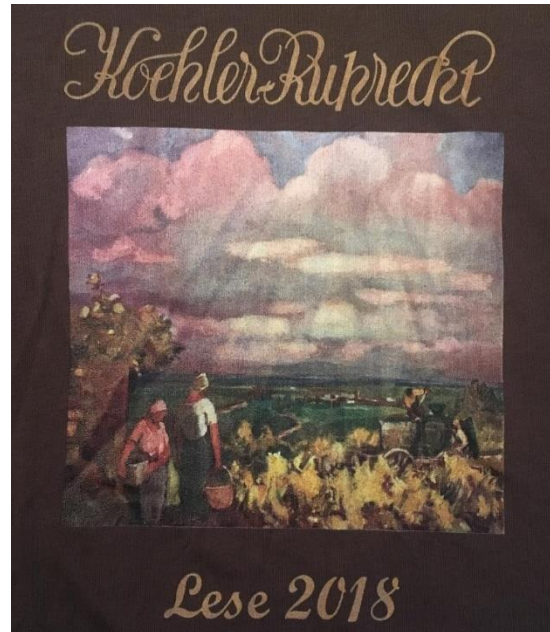
Already, though, Dominik's knocked his Spätburgunder into a damn good drink. The first rendition we shipped from 2015 was a hit; and the follow-up hits the spot in the same juicy, charismatic vein.

**2016 Koehler-Ruprecht Kallstadter Riesling  
Kabinett Trocken RRP \$31**

*Rich bouquet offering honey, toast, candlewax, ripe pear and tropical fruit notes – palate has generosity and concentration, mellifluous, honeyed and waxy, textural with chew and pucker on its side, long finish with bitter (pleasing) tang. Nicely done complex style. 94 points. **Mike Bennie, The Wine Front***

**2016 Koehler-Ruprecht Pinot Noir RRP \$35**

*Along with smoky, resinous and toasty notes from cask come fresh dark berries and a mouthwatering suggestion of beef marrow. The feel is firm but there is welcome mid-palate tang and juiciness to complement the wine's low-toned meatiness. The finish is nicely sustained, and introduces saliva-liberating salinity, albeit also a slight rasp of tannin. 88 points. **David Schildknecht, Vinous Media***



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**EVERYDAY PIEDMONT**

“I have long believed that the most accurate barometer of where an estate sits on the qualitative hierarchy is its most humble wine,” wrote **Antonio Galloni** of **Vinous Media** recently in putting together a compilation of his latest reviews from all over Piedmont.



A photo of 2016 Cigliuti Barbera d'Alba Serraboella graced the piece, and all of CellarHand's Piedmontese stable were written up in glowing terms in the section in which he looked at Dolcetto, Barbera, Langhe Nebbiolo from top Barolo and Barbaresco estates. The vivacity and character of these wines makes them hard to resist.

**2017 G.D. Vajra Dolcetto d'Alba  
RRP \$39**

*Vajra's 2017 Dolcetto d'Alba is plump, bold and absolutely delicious, all of which make it an excellent choice for readers in search of gorgeous, hand-crafted, everyday wines. Succulent red cherry, plum and spice notes are pushed forward in this racy, inviting Dolcetto. 89 points. **Antonio Galloni, Vinous Media***



**2016 Cigliuti Barbera d'Alba Serraboella RRP \$53**

*The 2016 Barbera d'Alba Vigna Serraboella, just bottled, is fabulous. Dark, textured and yet also light on its feet and vibrant, the 2016 is a rockstar wine. Hints of lavender, menthol, plum, liquorice and espresso round out this super-expressive, silky Barbera from Cigliuti. The 2016 spent 18 months in oak, equal parts cask and used 500-liter tonneaux. Don't miss it. 91 points. Antonio Galloni, Vinous Media*

**2015 La Spinetta Langhe Nebbiolo RRP \$53**

*La Spinetta's 2015 Langhe Nebbiolo is mostly young-vine fruit from Starderì. Racy and layered, the 2015 offers a beguiling mix of bright red cherry fruit and floral, spiced, minty notes that add perfume. I would prefer to drink this pretty, expressive Langhe Nebbiolo over the next handful of years. 90 points. Antonio Galloni, Vinous Media*

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**MEURSAULT MEDICINE**

It's at this time of year, when the weather has just shifted to truly wintry in parts of Australia, that it's hard not to envy those heading to northern climes for some sun. I mean, who wouldn't rather be in Beaune right now? But one of the beauties of great wine is its ability to transport you to that special place. So if you can't beat 'em, join 'em – in spirit at least.

Here are a few recently reviewed Meursault wines from Domaine Matrot and Domaine Latour-Giraud that'll help cure your winter blues and serve as an antidote to Euro FOMO.

**2016 Matrot Bourgogne Blanc RRP \$53**

*Juicy stone fruit, cumquat, vanilla and spice. Soft, fleshy, some sour yoghurt, bright limey acidity, stony feel, a little glossiness, kind of Parmesan rind and tang to close. Characterful, for sure. Highly enjoyable. 91 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front*

**2015 Matrot Meursault RRP \$140**

*White fruit, grapefruit, hazelnut, sizzled butter, mint, a little struck match. Juicy white stone fruit, creamy vanilla topped with nuts, silky and fine, lime acidity, and a long creamy, yet tight finish. Burgundy feels. A delight. 94 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front*

**2016 Latour-Giraud Meursault Narvaux RRP \$140**

*Smoky, white fruit and flowers, toasted hazelnut. Ripe, fleshy and flavoursome, smooth and glossy, then flinty and savoury, complex and suave through the finish. Yum. 94 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front*

**2016 Latour-Giraud Meursault 1er Cru Perrières RRP \$223**

*Butter, white mint chocolate, pineapple and white fruit. Slippery, lime acidity, but a little stale and*



*lacking vigour, though it pushes through the finish very nicely. Sophisticated, but quite forward. 93 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front*

#### 2016 Latour-Giraud Meursault 1er Cru Genevrières RRP \$206

*Toasted nuts, smoke, mint and white chocolate, stone fruit. Smooth, gliding and pushing through though the mouth, some sizzled butter, ripe acidity, bursting and bright through the long finish. Excellent. 95 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front*

#### 2016 Domaine Matrot Meursault 1er Cru Perrières RRP \$264

*The 2016 Meursault 1er Cru Les Perrières was bottled a bit later than has been the norm chez Matrot, as Elsa Matrot is keen to see if longer sur lie élevage would benefit the domaine's wines. It was showing very well when I tasted it, revealing classic scents of lemon oil, white flowers and chalky soil tones that are defined more by the site than the vintage. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied, satiny textured and deep, with good concentration, bright acids and a long, searingly stony finish. 93+ points. William Kelley, Wine Advocate*

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## HUBER UBER ALLES

“Hold onto your hat, because here comes the most amazing Pinot Noir bottled in Germany during modern times!” That was the intro to the '15 Bernhard Huber Schlossberg GG review in **James Suckling's Top 100 German Wines 2018**. Hard not to sit up and listen - yet this is just a reminder of what we've known for a long time now: When it comes to German Pinot Noir, Weingut Bernhard Huber is the best there is. Once upon a time, one might have been tempted to crack a



cheap gag about one-eyed kings in the land of the blind. But not only has Spätburgunder in general taken great leaps in quality and desirability lately; Huber has spent decades as Pinot royalty on a global scale.

Julian took over from his father Bernhard in 2014 having worked a few vintages in handover mode. It took him no time to find his feet. “Great purity and precision here!” wrote **Wine Advocate's Stephan Reinhardt** of the '15 Schlossberg This is another great Pinot Noir from Julian Huber, who has produced his finest red wines thus far in 2015.”

Really, you mustn't miss out on these wines – and the Chardonnay will blow

your mind.

#### 2015 Bernhard Huber Weissburgunder RRP \$53

The wine was fermented mainly in stainless steel tanks to accentuate its bright fruit. A smaller

portion was vinified in oak barrels, which gives it depth and reverberation. The wine is very light yellow with lively, floral, white fruit. The palate shows nectarines and melon. It's rich and crisp with good acidity and a well-rounded finish.

#### **2015 Bernhard Huber Alte Reben Chardonnay RRP \$96**

The grapes for this Chardonnay are grown on yellow limestone. We harvest the Alte Reben at 35hl/ha. The wild yeast fermentation as well as the malolactic conversion is done in one-third new oak, with one-third two-year-old and one-third older barrels. After 20 months on the lees the wine is bottled unfiltered. Chardonnay grown on weathered limestone always shows characteristics of fine-fruited freshness, vivid acid structure and a fine finish.

#### **2015 Bernhard Huber Pinot Noir RRP \$53**

This is the winery's regional wine and comes from young vines between six and 12 years old. Even for this basic wine the estate conducts green harvesting in order to reduce the crop to about 65 hl/ha. It spends 25 days in stainless steel with 15 to 20% whole bunches, then a year or so in 2nd and 3rd use oak.

#### **2015 Bernhard Huber Malterdinger Pinot Noir RRP \$64**

*Spiced cherry and plum, ample fruit, though essentially savoury with things like walnut, sausages and hazelnuts. Medium-bodied, sappy and tangy, fine dense 'mineral' tannin and earthiness, solid finish. This wine is invariably interesting and offers a point of difference to many Pinot Noir. 92 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front*

#### **2015 Bernhard Huber Alte Reben Pinot Noir RRP \$96**

In quality terms, the Alte Reben is Huber's equivalent to a Premier Cru. This Pinot comes from vines of up to 40 years old. Huber harvests the Alte Reben at 37 hl/ha. The ferment contains 35 to 40% whole bunches, with some parcels from the Bienenberg vineyard also going into this. This wine is bottled unfiltered. It has complex, deep aromas of black cherry, dark chocolate and spice but also soft tannins, a frisky-elegant character with a fine echo.

#### **2015 Bernhard Huber Bienenberg Pinot Noir Grosses Gewächs RRP \$149**

*From the stunning ripeness on the nose (the sweetest cherries!), through the graceful entry, through the generous and silky mid-palate and again through the powerful, chalky finish, which has staggering vitality, this is a great pinot noir that's just beginning to reveal its riches. Better from 2019 and on the strength of earlier vintages, this has maybe 20 years' ageing potential. 96 points. Stuart Pigott, jameessuckling.com*

#### **2015 Bernhard Huber Schlossberg Pinot Noir Grosses Gewächs RRP \$197**

*Hold onto your hat, because here comes the most amazing Pinot Noir bottled in Germany during modern times! The blackest berries you can imagine are the main feature on the nose, but it's still so delicate and lacking any trace of overripeness. The interplay of concentrated fruit and superfine tannins creates an enveloping impression on the palate, then on the finish the seamless harmony extends in the direction of eternity. You could drink this now, but the 2009 is still youthful and gives an idea of the ageing potential. 98 points. Top 100 German Wines 2018, jameessuckling.com*

2015 Bernhard Huber  
Wildenstein Pinot Noir  
Grosses Gewächs RRP \$408

*The 2015 Bienenberg  
Spätburgunder GG  
Wildenstein has a super clear,  
deep, fresh and mineral  
bouquet of dark fruits, crushed  
stones and flowers. It is a full-  
bodied and very generous  
Pinot Noir with a calm flow  
over the palate as well as great  
finesse and elegance. The  
tannins are very finely grained*



*and carry this complex and expressive wine into a long, persistent finish. The Wildenstein combines power with finesse, and the finish is intriguingly juicy. This is a great German Pinot Noir and surely one of the finest you can find from this vintage. Tasted in Wiesbaden in August 2017. 94 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate***

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