



Welcome to the CellarHand newsletter for November 2021. Here's a little taste of what's going on this month...

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NEWS

THE EGAN PROJECT

Hail Yarra Cabernet in all its glory! 2019 Amelia is out now, and what a thing it is. "One of my most favourite wines," says Wine Front's Gary Walsh of this, evoking the affection inspired in so many by the wines of Reg Egan and daughter Maryann. Reg planted the vineyard back in 1963 on the fringe of the Yarra Valley. Melbourne's suburbs have since crept towards its boundaries but this remains a haven.

Amelia is labelled Cabernet Sauvignon / Merlot but that's just a little over half the story. Back in the day when Reg ordered the vines, he was erroneously sent a hotchpotch of Merlot and Cab Franc. Planted in blissful ignorance, to this day they're picked together and co-fermented, accounting for roughly 45% of the blend - about the same as Cabernet Sauvignon. Petit

Verdot accounts for the remaining 10% and grows beautifully here. It looks innocuous as it comes off the vine only to blossom into violet and lilac aromatics and inky fruit.

"Delivers so much flavour without being heavy," concludes Gary Walsh in his 96-point verdict. "Beautiful."

2019 Wantirna Estate Amelia Cabernet Sauvignon / Merlot RRP \$95

The 2019 growing season was certainly one of many parts. After the hottest and driest January on record, February was up and down in temperature with March pretty warm to start with. But after a run of warm days, autumn seemed to arrive, and we had lovely cool nights and mild days for the last three weeks of the Merlot and Cabernet ripening.

And the nice part of the story is that there was quite a decent crop across the varieties. We harvested the grapes over two weeks, bringing the Cabernet Franc and Merlot in first, followed by the Cabernet

Sauvignon and finally the last variety to be harvested: Petit Verdot.

2019 was the first year in our new winery. So much space. Not only were we happy winemakers but we were able to utilise many small 1000-litre fermenters. Each batch is hand-plunged and/or pumped over a couple of times a day. This keeps the ferment temperature under control, allows the skins and juice to stay amalgamated and begins to gently extract flavours and tannins. Sugar fermentation usually takes about seven days from start to finish, and it's during this time that the beautiful aromas fill the winery, especially from the fruity Cabernet Franc.

As is now common in our winemaking, all the ferments except Petit Verdot have extended post-ferment time on skins, with nine days for the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon. We love the fine tannins that this treatment gives the wine and the rich fruit flavours that are extracted.

The moment of truth - when we lift the lid on the 'locked-down' ferment - is always filled with a little apprehension, as well as excitement; not having been able to taste nor analyse the wine during that time can make a winemaker nervous. Having said that, the wines thus far have always been terrific and none of the wild ideas of the *things that could go wrong* are apparent!

The 2019 is from a warmer year but the wine has the trademark elegance that Amelia is known for. It has terrific fruit and lovely long tannins that round the wine off beautifully as well as giving it structure and the ability to age very well. – **Maryann Egan**

One of my most favourite wines.

Blackcurrant, blackberry, sarsaparilla/liquorice pastille, so much violet here, and spiced cedar oak. Medium-bodied, dark fruit with some redcurrant in the mix, tobacco and pencils, a little chew to gravelly tannin, fresh too, with a firm long finish. Delivers so much flavour without being heavy. Beautiful. 96 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front October 2021

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J'ADORE 744

Cuvée 743 disappeared in a perfect storm of spring, re-opening and its own awesomeness. Roll on 744!

The latest wine from the fabulous frères Chiquet is a portrait of 2016 and their harvest in Aÿ, Dizy, Hautvillers (55%), Avize and Oiry (45%).

Winter and spring were extremely rainy.

Temperatures at the start of the year were mild at first, then temperatures dropped from the end of February, with severe frosts occurring at the end of April. Late spring was sunny and cool, but summer got both very hot and very dry.

Jean-Hervé, Laurent and the team started picking on September 19th and finished on October 6th, with a hiatus of a few days in between to take into account fairly uneven levels of maturity across the parcels.

The harvest gave them ripe and perfectly healthy grapes. They reported wines that were aromatic and tasty with a notable mention for the very successful Pinot Noir.

As always, a few 700-series reserve wines complete the cuvée, which required a dosage of just 0.75g/L.



Champagne Jacquesson Cuvée No. 744 RRP \$149

Very attractive aromas of cooked apple with fresh brioche. Bread dough and some lemon rind, too. Medium to full body with a creamy and refined mouth feel and a rounded finish. Some almond and cooked apple in the aftertaste. Very drinkable now. 45% Chardonnay, 35% Pinot noir and 20% Pinot Meunier. 92 points. James Suckling, jamesuckling.com October 2021

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IL CAPO DEI CAPI

Growing great wine takes patience. Stephen Pannell knows it as well as anyone. Here's a man who's worked more than 40 vintages, including nine in Europe. When he started S.C. Pannell in the early 2000s, he'd already risen to the top of the tree at Hardys, off-and-on Australia's biggest producer. By the time he bought the Koomilya vineyard in McLaren Vale, it had already been the subject of a 20-year love affair and the source of a Jimmy Watson Trophy.

And then there's Protero. The site appeared on his radar in 2004, when he returned from harvest in Piedmont. He started using the fruit a year later, but it was 14 more years before he inked the deal on this vineyard in Gumeracha.



The Protero project might appear to have come together quickly; a year on from the emergence of a first Nebbiolo, the range sports four eminently pourable delights.

And now we welcome the godfather of the range: Capo.

But like Mario Puzo's sprawling saga of the Corleone family, Protero has a lengthy backstory and engrossing twists. The 1999-planted site is the source of all previous Nebbiolo wines under the S.C. Pannell label, including 2007's AAVWS Wine of Show. Steve and Fiona Pannell finally signed a contract with Frank Baldasso in December 2019, a week before fires ravaged the Adelaide Hills. They've since removed Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Merlot

and Viognier and planted varieties they believe in for the region: Barbera, Dolcetto, Gewürztraminer, Pinot Gris and Riesling.

And, of course, the great Nebbiolo grape remains front and centre. This inaugural release of Capo is the culmination of all Steve's experience with the variety in his beloved Piedmont and here in the Hills. It's another milestone on Steve's incredible vinous journey, as well as another landmark for Nebbiolo down under.

2020 Protero Pinots Macclesfield, Adelaide Hills RRP \$32

From the Macclesfield district, crafted by Steve Pannell. A creative mix of 85/15% Pinot Grigio/Pinot Nero (Noir if you will). What the latter component brings is a debate to be had, otherwise we're in solid grigio/gris territory, with lovely ripe fruit and florals to open, citrus orchard flowers wafting. A small portion spent 3 or so months in an old French barrique, giving a mouth-filling texture with baking spice

elements. A note of white pepper adds to all round satisfaction. 93 points. Tony Love, Halliday Wine Companion 2022

2021 Protero Aromatico Woodside, Echunga & Carey Gully, Adelaide Hills RRP \$32

Pannell shifted this across to Protero from the S.C. Pannell collection of wines. This is a blend of primarily Gewürztraminer with Riesling and sauvignon blanc from the Adelaide Hills. The aromatics are off the chart, with such intense florals and roses with lime, white-peach, pear and apple aromas and flavours. Succulent and refreshing. Drink now. Screw cap. 92 points. Nick Stock, jamesuckling.com November 2021

2019 Protero Barbera Gumeracha, Adelaide Hills RRP \$37

This has such showy ripe red fruits with berry pastry too, some gentle spice and dried red currant as well as a peppery edge. Perched on a good point of ripeness. The palate has a succulently juicy feel with vibrant, plush red fruit flesh. Succulent and lively to the very last moment. Drink over the next five years. Screw cap. 93 points. Nick Stock, jamesuckling.com November 2021



2019 Protero Nebbiolo Gumeracha, Adelaide Hills RRP \$37

The fruit comes from Block 2 on the Protero Vineyard in Gumeracha, Adelaide Hills. The vines were planted in 1999 by Frank and Rosie Baldasso, and the site is managed by Carmine Pepicelli. The Nebbiolo clones are 230, 111, F12V7, F12V13, Mudgee all on own roots.

Eight tonnes of fruit were harvested on 17th April 2019. The Nebbiolo grapes macerated for 25 days before gentle pressing. The wine was sent to 4600-litre French oak vat and extra-large puncheons for malolactic conversion and maturation. The wine underwent extended maturation in old French oak vats and puncheons. It was bottled without fining or filtration in December 2020.

The nose is at once perfumed, alive and subtle. It immediately activates all the senses with its brick dust, rose petals, red fruit and linseed.

The palate is varietal, confident and charming. It has raspberry and layers of fruits-of-the-forest. The finish has a liquorice kick with amaro the final salute to its Italian roots. The tannins are layered and present but sit back on the palate, latent and reserved in some regards, but ultimately bold and persistent. – Stephen Pannell

2018 Protero 'Capo' Nebbiolo Gumeracha, Adelaide Hills RRP \$80

100% Nebbiolo (clones Mudgee and 230, both on own roots) from Block 2 on our Protero Vineyard in Gumeracha, Adelaide Hills. The vines were planted in 1999 by Frank and Rosie Baldasso, and the vineyard is managed by Carmine Pepicelli.

The 2018 vintage was, thankfully, a gentle and kind affair. We had good winter rain, late budburst and a cool, mild harvest that gave the grapes natural acidity and vibrant fruit flavours. The grapes were handpicked on 12th April 2018, from the top of the vineyard only.

Each parcel was gently crushed and kept separate. They were spontaneously fermented and kept on skins for 100 days before very gentle pressing. The wines were blended and settled in tank for 13 days before being sent to old French oak puncheons for malolactic fermentation and maturation. The best barrels were selected in July 2019 and sent to a 2800-litre vat for extended maturation. The wine was bottled without fining or filtration on 4th August 2020.

The nose is amped and alive with classic tar and roses followed by brick dust, dark berries, Luxardo liqueur, cherry kernel and pomegranate juice. The palate shows class, grace and charm. A cool entry of

blackcurrant granita is joined by grenadine, sumac and stewed rhubarb all held together by a well-worn leather belt. The finish has classic Negroni, dried citrus peel, hawthorn berries and black tea. This wine has layers of complexity and excellent mouthfeel. The tannin comes in gentle but persuasive waves and the flavours meld with the texture. It has a tubular shape that fans out at the end much like a trumpet. –

Stephen Pannell

*A new top bottling of Nebbiolo from Pannell, this has pretty classical aromas of anise and red cherry with some orange zest, too. The complex tannin architecture is impressive, with a suave, velvety texture holding a fresh red-cherry core. Finely detailed and astutely pitched. Drink over the next eight years. Screw cap. 96 points. **Nick Stock, jameessuckling.com August 2021***

*A top-of-the-hill vineyard selection of vines and just 2 clones in play (for the record, clone 230 and what's called the Mudjee clone, of undetermined origins despite its name), co-fermented with a 121-day long maceration. Nebbiolo's paler garnet colour is immediately in the zone, the aromas lifted, with a black cherry, leather and terracotta-like earthiness. Once all of these meld on the palate, the wine becomes intently more about its savoury and sweet umami elements, the variety's tannins wrapping up with a gentle force and subtle bitterness. Something special here. 96 points. **Tony Love, Halliday Wine Companion June 2021***

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GASPING AT STRAWS

It's a single-vineyard release but controversially it isn't *all* about the vineyard.

You can't downplay the Macedon Ranges' role in this. A lot of people are still coming to terms with the specialness of this region. The coolest quality wine-growing area on Australia's mainland milks that natural advantage for all it's worth in a warming world where people love to drink Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

What does that mean? In a nutshell chez Shadowfax, it means plentiful flavour with the drive and energy to keep things taut and tense. It means fine aromatic detail as you pick up the glass for a sniff. It means a similar dénouement in the glass, as the invitation of floral and fruit aromas unfolds with mineral and savoury tones. It means texture and length, too. With the Pinot Noir it also means – thanks in no small part to Al Timms's near 20-year experience in the region's vineyards – impeccably presented grape tannins knitted through the wine.

So that's the lofty platform we're working from. And then, of course, the sites begin to assert themselves. Macedon is anything but uniform. The vineyards are sparsely scattered around remote hillsides, each one bearing its own unique promise thanks to elevation, exposure, soil, vine age, and so on.

If there were a grand-cru classification, Straws Lane and Little Hampton would sit together. As it is, they're some way apart. Straws Lane is a close-planted vineyard perched on the north side of Mt Macedon near Heskett, almost kissing the clouds at 800m above sea level. The 30-year-old vines grow on a granite outcrop, producing magnificent Pinot Noir. 2020 is the second single-vineyard release, and once again it presents a puffy, powdery purity of cranberry and cherry, with a coulis-like concentration that runs exquisitely long. As with Little Hampton, dried



herbs and Indian spices are threaded through the prettiness.

The second wine is from the jewel in the Shadowfax crown: Little Hampton. Situated near Trentham at an altitude of 740m, it's one of the coolest vineyards in Macedon. It's rare to find young, volcanic red soils at this elevation; usually you'll find these soils washed down to the lower slopes. Combined with altitude, though, there seems to be an alchemy. Graphite, rosehip, cardamom, violets and blue fruit – all in a distinctly concise but powerful package – are always in the mix. It's now the sixth release and this Pinot - with no new oak or whole bunches - is so assured in its strength and personality: fragrant, precise and spicily nuanced with quietly impressive drive and length.

We're bowled over by the way Alister Timms and the team are moving Macedon forward, and we're confident that these two wines will blow you away.

2020 Shadowfax Straws Lane Pinot Noir RRP \$63

The fruit is grown on the Straws Lane Vineyard, a close-planted site perched on the northern side of Mt Macedon, almost kissing the clouds at 800m above sea level. The 30-year-old vines grow on a granite outcrop, near Heskett, producing grapes with great acidity and fragrance. It's a truly unique site among the Macedon Ranges.

We handpicked the fruit on 29th April 2020 in pristine condition. It was carefully sorted and destemmed with 100% whole berries going into small open fermenters. Natural fermentation occurred with daily hand pumpovers and limited plunging to extract fine tannins and flavour. After two weeks on skins the wine was pressed then racked into new (20%) and used French hogsheads, where it rested and grew. The wine was then blended and filtered prior to bottling in January 2020. Alcohol 12.5%; pH 3.5; TA 6.4g/L In the glass it's dark red with bright purple hues and brilliant clarity. This elegant Macedon Ranges Pinot Noir has violet and musk notes, with fine spice aromas including dried sage and cardamom. Mixed wild



berries set a brooding tone, while notes of graphite powder and raspy grapeseed oil add complexity. The wine has intrigue and flair in the glass, if you can let it rest, telling a story as it evolves through time. Cherry and violet tones fill the palate. There's complexity galore, some cherry pit, mocha warmth and cardamom all sitting on a precise palate of lacy fine tannins with a lovely acid core. The wine's tightrope frame and finesse are a highlight. The palate is long and persistent. This is a fine example of cool-climate, single-vineyard, high-altitude Macedon Ranges Pinot Noir. – Al Timms, Shadowfax

2020 Shadowfax Little Hampton Pinot Noir RRP \$63

The fruit is grown on the Little Hampton Vineyard near Trentham. Sitting at 730m above sea level, this is one of the coolest sites in the Macedon Ranges.

We handpicked the fruit on 26th April 2020. It was carefully sorted and destemmed with 100% whole berries going into small open fermenters. Natural fermentation occurred with daily gentle pumpovers to extract fine tannins and flavour. After two weeks on skins the wine was pressed and then racked into second-, third- and fourth-use French hogsheads and puncheons where it rested and grew. The wine was then racked and filtered prior to bottling in February 2021. Alcohol 12.3%; pH 3.55; TA 6.2g/L.

In the glass the wine is deep purple with a deep crimson hue. The aromatics of this Little Hampton Pinot Noir are seductive and engaging. Violet and rose-petal floral notes waft from the glass, bolstered by blackberry and dark cherry fruits. Further complexities reveal themselves, such as cardamom and

sandalwood spice. Mineral aspects such as gunpowder and graphite provide intrigue. Given time in the glass the Little Hampton's signature aromatics intensify and gracefully seduce the drinker. Cherry sap and blackberry fruit fall immediately onto the palate with nuances of sandalwood, graphite and some white pepper spice. A focused and mineral core has drive, vibrancy and poise. Fine and lacy tannins frame the complex cardamom spice and subtle fruits. The wine has energy and lift that can only be seen in high-altitude, cool-climate Pinot Noir. This Little Hampton Pinot Noir is uncompromising in its purity and identity. - **Al Timms, Shadowfax**

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SEARCHING FOR EVA LAND

2019 may seem to need no introduction in Germany; its greatness has long since been confirmed.

What you may forget is that the warm and relatively abundant 2018 vintage was a stunning success for Mittelmosel growers like Eva Clüsserath.

And 2019 was far from a sure thing. "Klein und fein" is how Eva summed it up, reflecting the reduced yields as well as eventual finesse. Mosel vegetation started sprouting very quickly at the end of April, but growth was slowed by cooler temperatures in May, meaning the overall pace was a little behind the extremes of June 2018.

Drought was an early risk among the younger vines, but sporadic thunderstorms chimed in with rain.

And then a few midsummer days brought extreme temperatures of 40 degrees and more, with sunburn significantly reducing yields.

In the middle of August the nights then became cooler, which promoted fruit ripening while acidities remained reassuringly stable. Harvest began at the end of September, punctuated by intermittent showers. This is the time when Eva's team is bolstered by Rheinhessen reinforcements following the Westhofen harvest of husband Philipp Wittmann. The team in Trittenheim brought in very ripe and healthy grapes which, with Eva's trademark patience and purism, have turned into another beautiful set of wines.



2018 Ansgar Clüsserath Vom Schiefer Riesling Trocken RRP \$40

The dry Riesling "Vom Schiefer" (literally, from slate) provides an introduction to the world of steep-site Rieslings from the Middle Mosel. The grapes for this wine are sourced from two individual sites. Trittenheimer Altärchen, on the left bank of the Mosel, with weathered, shale-based soils, brings forth Rieslings with aromas of citrus, grapefruit and orange peel. Neumagener Rosengärtchen, located north of Trittenheim, has loamy, weathered, shale-based soils. This cuvée is a sleek, sophisticated Riesling with a delicate minerality born of the internal dance between its two vineyards of origin.

*Mighty refreshing! So much herbal and white-fruit character, plus lemony acidity that gives this wonderful vitality. Drink now. Screw cap. 91 points. **Stuart Pigott**, [jamessuckling.com](#) August 2020*

2019 Ansgar Clüsserath Apotheke Trocken Riesling RRP \$100

This is Eva Clüsserath's top dry bottling from this grand cru site. Trittenheim's finest individual vineyard, Apotheke, lies on the right bank of the Mosel, opposite the village of Trittenheim. Although Apotheke literally means pharmacy, the vineyard's name does not refer to medicinal/healthful properties of its wines, but rather derives from a foundation established by the "Abtsberg" Abbey of Trier. It numbers among the top sites on the Mosel, not least due to its extreme slope of up to 78%. The southwest-facing hillside benefits from direct solar radiation well into late evening, a lengthy time during which the slate soils store heat – warmth that lengthens the ripening period. Weathered slate slopes with subterranean water veins ensure an optimal supply of nutrients and enable the vines to develop deep roots. Single-stake training is practiced in the family's oldest parcels in this site planted with 60- to 80-year-old vines. The grapes yield wines that have great aging potential and reflect complex minerality. In their youth, the wines show finesse; as they mature, rich fruitiness reminiscent of apricot and peach.



Stunning dry Mosel! Great citrusy freshness, but also ripe mini banana and grapefruit, then a lot of mineral power at the wonderfully uplifting finish. Drink or hold. 95 points. Stuart Pigott, jamesuckling.com August 2020

2018 Ansgar Clüsserath Trittenheimer Riesling Kabinett RRP \$43

The fruit for this village-designated Kabinett comes from the Apotheke grand cru, Trittenheim's finest individual vineyard site. It lies on the right bank of the Mosel, opposite the village of Trittenheim. 'Apotheke' literally means 'pharmacy' but the vineyard's name doesn't refer to the medicinal properties of its wines. It in fact derives from a foundation established by the "Abtsberg" Abbey of Trier. With its extreme slope of up to 78%, Apotheke ranks among the top sites on the Mosel. The southwest-facing hillside benefits from direct sunlight well into late evening, a lengthy time during which the slate soils store heat, which extends the ripening period. Weathered slate slopes with subterranean water veins ensure an optimal supply of nutrients and allow the vines to develop deep roots. The grapes yield wines with great aging potential and complex minerality. In their youth, the wines show finesse; as they mature, they display rich fruitiness reminiscent of apricot and peach.

*The 2018 Trittenheimer Riesling Kabinett is super pure, fresh and slatey on the bright, fresh and crunchy nose. Bottled with 8.5% alcohol, this is a charmingly round and fruity Kabinett. It doesn't have the mineral-piquant thrill of the outstanding 2017, but it serves all those who like their Riesling more graceful and less challenging. Or let me put it this way: You don't need to be a Viking to love this wine. Tasted from AP 0219 in May 2020. 92 points. Stephan Reinhardt, *Wine Advocate* May 2020*

2019 Ansgar Clüsserath Trittenheimer Apotheke Spätlese RRP \$59

Apotheke is Trittenheim's finest individual vineyard site. It lies on the right bank of the Mosel, opposite the village of Trittenheim. 'Apotheke' literally means 'pharmacy' but the vineyard's name doesn't refer to the medicinal properties of its wines. It in fact derives from a foundation established by the "Abtsberg" Abbey of Trier. With its extreme slope of up to 78%, Apotheke ranks among the top sites on the Mosel. The southwest-facing hillside benefits from direct sunlight well into late evening, a lengthy time during

which the slate soils store heat, which extends the ripening period. Weathered slate slopes with subterranean water veins ensure an optimal supply of nutrients and allow the vines to develop deep roots. Single-stake training is practiced in the family's oldest parcels in this site, which comprise 60- to 80-year-old vines. The grapes yield wines with great aging potential and complex minerality. In their youth, the wines show finesse; as they mature, they display rich fruitiness reminiscent of apricot and peach. The Spätlese grapes are harvested after the Kabinett in order to achieve greater ripeness. It's challenging acidity and minerality brilliantly counterbalance the ripe fruit and subtle fresh herbs of this naturally sweet beauty. As befits a premium wine, the grapes are always hand-harvested and gently pressed. The must is then fermented with native yeasts in traditional Mosel fuder barrels and left on the lees until May. 8.5% alcohol.

*Wonderful peach and lemon character. Succulent and vibrant with quite a discreet touch of natural grape sweetness, then a very crisp finish. Excellent depth at the finish. Drink or hold. 94 points. **Stuart Pigott**, jamessuckling.com August 2020*

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HUBER VACUUM FILLED

We're more than ready for this! The 2018 wines from Julian Huber are here. After a cold Baden winter that eventually yielded snow, a relatively normal spring followed in 2018. The very warm temperatures that followed caused the vines to develop explosively. Good flowering conditions resulted in good fruit set. The further rapid vegetation period threatened to overrun the team, and hardly anyone would have thought in March that harvest wouldn't end until 19th September. High summer temperatures in combination with low precipitation were a particular challenge for the estate's young plants but in the end the vines came through the hot, dry phase really well. The team in Malterdingen started picking on August 21st - earlier than

ever before. The result was super healthy grapes with great ripeness.

As well as the village and old-vine renditions of Pinot Noir, we're delighted to offer the Malterdinger Weiss for the first time. This is predominantly Chardonnay blended with the estate's best Pinot Blanc from the Bienenberg vineyard.

2018 Huber Malterdinger Weiss RRP \$64

This wine is built upon our best Pinot Blanc plants from the Bienenberg vineyard in an assemblage with the finest selections from our Chardonnay vineyards. The grapes grow on weathered limestone soils. The Pinot Blanc vines are more than 60 years old, while the Chardonnay vines are up to 10 years old.

The blend is 70% Chardonnay with 30% Weisser Burgunder. The must is spontaneously fermented in small French oak barrels and matured on the yeast lees for 16 months. It is bottled without filtration. For us, the origin is more important than the grape varieties. Therefore we call this local wine as "Malterdinger" white. - **Julian Huber**





**2018 Huber Malterdinger Pinot Noir RRP \$64
375ml RRP \$43**

More than 700 years ago, Cistercian monks brought Pinot Noir to Malterdingen. The monks' estate, called "curia", was in the Mönchhofmatten district where the Huber winery is located today. In Malterdingen the monks encountered the same terroir - the weathered "shell limestone" soil - as in Burgundy. And they brought with them cutting-edge experience on how to grow Pinot Noir. In vine variety books and wine encyclopedias, the terms "Pinot Noir" and "Malterdinger" are synonymous.

The 2018 Bernhard Huber Malterdinger Pinot Noir is a VDP village wine grown on weathered shell limestone soil with a thin layer of loess clay. These grapes come from vines that are between 8 and 25 years old. After the traditional must fermentation, this wine is mainly aged in first-, second- and third-use barriques and is bottled without filtration. - **Julian Huber**

*An excellent village wine with plenty of structure and fine tannins for this category. Deep, earthy nose with plenty of sour cherries and forest berries, but also a nice hint of sweetness at the cool finish. Drink or hold. 93 points. **Stuart Pigott, jameessuckling.com** August 2020*

2018 Huber Alte Reben Pinot Noir RRP \$107

Our Malterdinger Spätburgunder Alte Reben is labelled as old-vine VDP Ortswein but we think of it as a village 1er cru from our home in Malterdingen. The Pinot Noir grapes grow on weathered shell limestone, with the vines aged 20 to 45 years. After the traditional must fermentation, the 18-month maturation takes place in small first-, second- and third-use French oak barrels filled with first, two and thirds. The wine is bottled without filtration. - **Julian Huber**

*An elegant, mid-weight pinot noir with great balance of moderately dry tannins, bright acidity and plenty of blackberries. Nice, chalky character at the crisp, long finish. Drink or hold. 93 points. **Stuart Pigott, jameessuckling.com** August 2020*

2014 Bernhard Huber Bienenberg Pinot Noir Grosses Gewächs RRP \$132

*Calling it the spice girl of Spätburgunders does not insinuate that the Bienenberg is shallow, but the choice of barrique has resulted in an extremely spicy fragrance. Cloves and nutmeg also dominate the palate, giving the fruit a hard time at this early stage. Fortunately, minerality refuses to be suppressed and makes its presence felt with a pronounced salty tang. There can be no doubt about the underlying substance, but a little more fruit will be welcome, if and when it emerges. 17/20 **Michael Schmidt, jancisrobinson.com***

2013 Bernhard Huber Bienenberg Pinot Noir Grosses Gewächs RRP \$132

*One of Huber's grand cru vineyards, with vines planted in the '50s and '60s. Finer, and more 'mineraly' than the Alte Reben 2013, though quite similar. Smoky whole bunch spice, dark cherry and chocolate, with raspberry filling, hazelnut and stony mineral stuff. Medium bodied, distinct 'minerality' here with pure acidity, an almost volcanic rock character, with brisk and bright flavour, raspberry packed with spice and a very long detailed finish. Crisp. Energetic. So expressive. You can almost taste the earth. Great expression of Pinot Noir. 95 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front** July 2017*

2013 Bernhard Huber Schlossberg Grosses Gewächs Pinot Noir RRP \$164

The faintly turbid colour doesn't set the heart racing, but the perfumed bouquet does with its cherry allsorts fruit and multi-spices, the supple palate underlining the great quality of the wine. You'd be hard-pressed to find a Burgundy of this calibre at the same price. Drink to 2030. 97 points. James Halliday October 2020

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SHADES OF SCHIEFER TERRASSEN

It's no exaggeration to say that Schieferterrassen is unique.

In 1980, when Reinhard Löwenstein and Cornelia Heymann founded the estate, they effectively invented a new style of Mosel Riesling.

Their patiently, naturally raised Riesling married the flavour and textural depth of very ripe berries from vines on these dizzying terraces with the Mosel Valley's inherent energy and finesse.

And Schieferterrassen is the estate's signature, accounting for the vast majority of its production and reflecting the premier-cru sites around the family home in Winningen.

But visionaries rarely stand still, which is why we're able to present a couple of new iterations of this perennial favourite.

The first is Schieferterrassen Bohème, an off-dry rendition with a year's extra lees aging.

And the second is Schieferterrassen in Orange, a skin-contact Riesling whose debut down under comes a few years after an instructive experimental bottling.

Along with those exceptional firsts from 2018, we're delighted to be offering the original Schieferterrassen from the stupendous 2019 vintage.



2018 Heymann-Löwenstein Riesling RRP \$47

The Heymann-Löwenstein Riesling bottling comes from declassified grapes from the family's Schieferterrassen vineyards - essentially the premier-cru sites of Hamm and Brückstück. These are very steep slate sites that are organically farmed. The grapes are very gently pressed as whole bunches before indigenous-yeast fermentation (around 30% in old casks, 70% stainless steel) before a long period of lees contact and relatively late bottling.

2019 Heymann-Löwenstein Schieferterrassen Riesling RRP \$64

The 2019 Riesling Schieferterrassen opens with a clear, intense, floral, herbal and finely slatey bouquet that is the most beautiful, complex and refined I have ever had from this wine. Löwenstein's 2019s are so generously open yet at the same time so precise and authentic, without any reduction stealing the show. There is a coolish and flinty tone that makes this a Mosel and no Alsace Riesling. Generous yet refined and frisky on the palate, this as medium-bodied, fresh, salty-crystalline and highly stimulating dry Riesling with a lot of character and fine grip on the finish. What a giant step ahead for this wine! Tasted as a still slightly cloudy sample in June 2020. 92 points. Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate August 2020



2018 Heymann-Löwenstein Schieferterrassen Riesling Bohème RRP \$71

Heymann-Löwenstein turned 40 in 2020. Reinhard, Connie and Sarah Löwenstein decided to release limited-edition magnums of a long lees-aged, off-dry rendition of Schieferterrassen to help their longest-standing German customers celebrate. “We bottled a wine that was slightly off-dry from various Schieferterrassen plots,” recalls winemaker Kaddi Starker. “We like this wine because it animates you to celebrate and not to think too much. Easy to

understand without being sweet. To celebrate life and being together, enjoying good food and a wine that suits everybody's taste.” Indeed the wine was loved by customers, and the team.

And as 2020 wore on and became, courtesy of the pandemic, a gruelling, isolating experience, the idea bubbled up to repeat the exercise with a broader release from 2018 fruit. “We’ve found ourselves often dreaming of a return to the days of uncomplicated gatherings, traveling and dancing,” said Sarah Löwenstein at the time. “And so we took that as our inspiration for a new wine: Schieferterrassen Bohème. Following a long period on the lees, these bottles — like last year’s anniversary blend — reveal a joyful character: juicy, radiant, and playful with a slate spice, and an eccentric, approachable charm.”

“So again, like with Schieferterrassen in Orange, we are playing a different style of what Schieferterrassen can be,” concludes Kaddi. “We’re still on our journey trying to find out what the truth is, like any winemaker I suppose.”

2018 Heymann-Löwenstein Schieferterrassen Riesling in Orange RRP \$71

Heymann-Löwenstein winemaker Kathrin Starker – Kaddi to her friends - got interested in skin-contact whites while working vintage in New Zealand years ago. In 2015, Reinhard Löwenstein kindly gave her some Riesling grapes from Winningen’s Schieferterrassen vineyards, to allow her to make an experimental wine. The experience taught some valuable lessons, as well as giving the team the encouragement to produce a normal-scale batch in 2018. “From the first attempt in 2015 we learned not to go too hard on the phenolic side,” says Kaddi. “So, we decided just to hand-plunge it once a day, pushing the cap down to get it nice and juicy without over-extracting phenolics.” The Riesling grapes were fermented and macerated on skins for three weeks. “We pressed it off to a combination of barrel and tank for a long, long time,” Kaddi continues. “We learned that the wines need time for the phenolics and all parts of the wine come together. So we tasted and tasted and tasted and we made the decision based on taste that we wanted to bottle it after two and a half years.” The wine was bottled in March 2021, with the lowest possible level of SO₂ to prevent oxidation. “We’re pretty happy with how it came out,” Kaddi concludes. “Phenolics are there but they’re not too harsh. It’s still Riesling. It’s doesn’t show the vineyard, but that’s not the idea. It’s a facet of Schieferterrassen we’re trying to point out.”



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POURING RIESLING

Heading into warmer (looser?) times, we’d like you to know we’ve got you covered on the Riesling front. The pourable, everyday end of the rizza spectrum is replete with options from all corners. Here’s a quick

and by no means exhaustive reference for you!
You'll find notes and reviews beneath the table:

WINE	REGION	STYLE	RRP
2020 Gunderloch Fritz's Riesling	Rheinhessen	Dry	\$24
2020 Dr L Riesling	Mosel	Dry	\$25
2021 Frankland Estate Riesling	Frankland River	Dry	\$30
2020 Wittmann 100 Hügel Riesling	Rheinhessen	Dry	\$30
2020 Domäne Wachau Terrassen Riesling Federspiel	Wachau	Dry	\$32
2019 Villa Wolf Wachenheimer Riesling	Pfalz	Dry	\$32
2021 clos Clare Riesling	Clare Valley	Dry	\$32
2020 Koehler-Ruprecht Kallstadter Riesling	Pfalz	Dry	\$33
2020 Weaver Riesling	Adelaide Hills	Dry	\$35
2020 Paul Blanck Riesling	Alsace	Dry	\$36
2019 Domäne Wachau Ried Bruck Riesling Federspiel	Wachau	Dry	\$36
2019 Stefano Lubiana Riesling	Tasmania	Dry	\$36
2018 Ansgar Clüsserath Vom Schiefer Riesling	Mosel	Dry	\$40
2020 Dönnhoff Estate Riesling	Nahe	Dry	\$43
2020 A. Christmann Estate Riesling	Pfalz	Dry	\$43
2020 Gunderloch Als Wär's ein Stück von Mir Riesling	Rheinhessen	Dry	\$43
2020 Wittmann Estate Riesling	Rheinhessen	Dry	\$43
2020 Bründlmayer Kamptal Terrassen Riesling	Kamptal	Dry	\$43
2020 Dönnhoff Nahe Riesling	Nahe	Off-dry	\$36
2020 Gunderloch Jean-Baptiste Riesling Kabinett	Rheinhessen	Off-dry	\$36
2016 Charteris Hunt Vineyard Riesling	Central Otago	Off-dry	\$40
2018 Ansgar Clüsserath Trittenheimer Kabinett	Mosel	Medium	\$43
2020 Dr Loosen Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	Mosel	Medium	\$44



2020 Gunderloch Fritz's Riesling RRP \$24

The Hasselbach family's introduction to the Roter Hang shows why this slope is perfect for producing wonderful ripeness. Red slate soil, proximity to the river, exposure to the sun and the steepness of the vineyards combine for a Riesling with lovely stone fruit, fresh natural acidity, spice and aromatic lift. Dry, fresh and full of character.

2020 Dr L Riesling RRP \$25

This crisp, refreshing Riesling represents the jumping-in point from Dr. Loosen, capturing the elegant and racy characteristics of steep, slate-soil Mosel vineyards at a very reasonable price. It's produced from grapes from contracted growers throughout the Mosel valley who work closely with brothers Ernst and Thomas Loosen to

achieve excellent quality and superb concentration in every vintage.

2021 Frankland Estate Riesling RRP \$30

Pale, green and bright in the glass. Aromas of guava, brown lime juice, grapefruit pith, ginger and melon

skin. Sweet, juicy fruit on entry, citrus pith, brown lime, white peach, bruised apple and tangy acidity. Long, textured and layered. 90 points. **Aaron Brasher, The Real Review** October 2021

2020 Wittmann 100 Hügel Riesling RRP \$30

Plenty of nutty apple and quince aromas and a juicy, generous body with very lively acidity that gives this considerable appeal. From organically grown grapes. Drink now. Screw cap. 90 points. **Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com** October 2021

2020 Domäne Wachau Terrassen Riesling Federspiel RRP \$32

Green pear, lime, a dusting of pepper and dried herb. Juicy, apple and stonefruit, chalky grip, a pleasant lemon zest bitterness, and a bright and tangy finish of good length. Tasty. 91 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front** September 2021

2019 Villa Wolf Wachenheimer Riesling RRP \$32

Generous and full of life with plenty of citrus and fresh herbs, the balance of ripeness and crisp acidity very attractive. Long, lemony finish. Tank sample. 91-92 points. **Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com** August 2020

2021 clos Clare Riesling RRP \$32

Attractively soft fragrance here with jasmine and lime, as well as apple blossom and a white-peach edge. The palate holds a very intense and focused feel with slick, juicy acidity and rich, concentrated fruit flesh. So long. Drink or hold. Screw cap. 96 points. **Nick Stock, jamessuckling.com** October 2021

2020 Koehler-Ruprecht Kallstadter Riesling RRP \$33

Classic Koehler-Ruprecht in cooler vein. Lemon balm, yellow flowers, hay, honey and white pepper on the nose. Quince joins in on the palate which has a peppery freshness, lemon-honey echoes and a briny finish with tangy acidity.

2020 Weaver Riesling RRP \$35

Miraculously, these vines survived the disastrous December 2019 bushfire that destroyed Geoff Weaver's sheds and equipment at his revered Lenswood vineyard. Working a new way with the Riesling in this vintage, the wine was fermented and spent 7 months in old barrels with lees contact, leaving a delicate 5g/L RS in the final wine. The barrel characters offer some cream and spice to the apple and custard apple flavours; the sugars are benign yet textural and in context. 94 points. **Tony Love, Halliday Wine Companion** 2022

2020 Paul Blanck Riesling RRP \$36

The fruit comes from vineyards with sand and gravel soils around the village of Kientzheim. The juice is extracted with infinite care in an air-bag press. The slow, gentle pressing avoids crushing the stalks and pips. The must starts fermenting of its own accord thanks to the natural yeast present in the juice, and the fermentation generally lasts from four to 10 weeks. It is carried out in stainless-steel vats equipped with temperature control, a medium which maximises the expression of this variety's aromas.



2019 Domäne Wachau Ried Bruck Riesling Federspiel RRP \$36

Excellent value here, for something a little different, and perhaps exotic. Slightly smoky, lemongrass and lemon peel, fresh apricot, apple and spice. Pure, juicy and lively, a spicy feel to it with a smattering of citrus



zest, light flinty/chalky grip and an opulent, yet tight finish showing something of an exotic character. Lovely drinking. 93 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front September 2021

2019 Stefano Lubiana Riesling RRP \$36

It seems a good year for Riesling in Tasmania. Very pretty, all the citrus blossom, sugar dusted green apple and lime. Juicy, light chalky texture, sweet green apple and some tangy citrus, cool acidity well-threaded and a perfumed finish of fine length. It's lovely now. Not wince inducing in style, and easy to like. Kind of Tassie-Germanic, as an afterthought. 94 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front October 2020

2018 Ansgar Clüsserath Vom Schiefer Riesling RRP \$40

A pungent, zesty impression of lemon and lime is allied to one of crushed stone, almost dusty on the nose and then expressed as suffusion on a flatteringly silken, alcoholically buoyant (at 11.6%) but palpably extract-rich palate. Suggestions of almond and hazelnut lend richness; bright citric juiciness serves for animation; while a dose of mineral salts triggers salivary action on a refreshing- and invigoratingly sustained finish. The extra textural allure here is probably attributable to the wine's having been bottled later than usual – at the end of July 2019 – and rested on its lees until just before that. 90 points. David Schildknecht, Vinous Media November 2020

2020 Dönnhoff Estate Riesling RRP \$43

Very fresh, sleek and straight with a slew of summer-fruit and citrus aromas and a super-refreshing, crisp finish. Mostly from little-known vineyard sites in Oberhausen. From organically grown grapes with Fair'n Green certification. Drink now. Screw cap. 92 points. Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com July 2021

2020 A. Christmann Estate Riesling RRP \$43

For a basic dry Riesling this is very cool, mineral and herbal with a compact core. Attractive white and citrus-fruit character on the medium-bodied palate. Serious, dry finish. From biodynamically grown grapes with Respekt certification. Drink or hold. Screw cap. 92 points. Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com July 2021

2020 Gunderloch Als Wär's ein Stück von Mir Riesling RRP \$43

For Johannes Hasselbach's "A piece of me", he decided to push an imaginary reset-button and look back at how his grandparents made wine. The focus is on the grapes and he wants to use every part of them (e.g. long maceration time on fully crushed grapes up to 72 hours; minimal clarification; natural yeast fermentation; long time on lees) but he also wants to make sure not to lose or alter anything (no artificial yeasts; no fining; no aromatisation of any kind). 100% healthy fruit comes from young vines in the top site Nackenheimer Rothenberg, blended with grapes from a parcel of 35-year-old vines from Hipping in Nierstein to create a tautly strung wine with extraordinary aromatic expression.



2020 Wittmann Estate Riesling RRP \$43

Wonderful peach, melon and floral nose. Concentrated, racy and filligree with intense, chalky minerality at the long, polished and playful finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold. Screw cap. 93 points. Stuart Pigott, jamesuckling.com August 2021

2020 Bründlmayer Kamptal Terrassen Riesling RRP \$43

Almost German style, this dry Riesling has a great balance of citrus and stone-fruit aromas, as well as some nice fresh-herb notes. Juicy and well-structured with plenty of minerality, this is a delightful and complex wine that's just beginning to give its best. Long finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold. 93 points. Stuart Pigott, jamesuckling.com May 2021



2020 Dönnhoff Nahe Riesling RRP \$36

Cornelius Dönnhoff's off-dry Riesling is a great introduction to the Nahe, with cool and juicy citrus and stone fruits flowing light and pure on a perfectly balanced palate.

2020 Gunderloch Jean-Baptiste Riesling Kabinett RRP \$36

*Jolly indeed. Sweet apple and lime with floral notes thereabouts. Juicy as all get up. Soft in the mouth, grapey, long-enough through the finish. The pleasure is ours. It drinks a treat, in an easy-but-persistent way. 91 points. Campbell Mattinson, *The Wine Front* September 2021*

2016 Charteris Hunt Vineyard Riesling RRP \$40

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* April 2019*

2018 Ansgar Clüsserath Trittenheimer Kabinett RRP \$43

*The 2018 Trittenheimer Riesling Kabinett is super pure, fresh and slatey on the bright, fresh and crunchy nose. Bottled with 8.5% alcohol, this is a charmingly round and fruity Kabinett. It doesn't have the mineral-piquant thrill of the outstanding 2017, but it serves all those who like their Riesling more graceful and less challenging. Or let me put it this way: You don't need to be a Viking to love this wine. Tasted from AP 0219 in May 2020. 92 points. Stephan Reinhardt, *Wine Advocate* May 2020*

2020 Dr Loosen Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett RRP \$44

*Sweet lemon, florals, tight and juicy crunch, a slight Disprin flavour (which I like), precise and poised, steely and sweet, with an almost spicy finish of good length. Light, energetic and excellent. Feels like it will push ahead with a little more time in bottle. 93+ points. Gary Walsh, *The Wine Front* August 2021*

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