

Panel

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 9

JULY - AUGUST 2024

Winter is upon us, and our tasting panel had one goal in mind: to present the best range and value of warming reds for the season.

Over 30 wines were tasted, discussed, and scored with the goal of presenting our top 12 wines that present the best value and quality.

All wines we'd happily recommend to our discerning customers.

STELLA BELLA CABERNET SAUVIGNON MERLOT 2022

"Highest score in 2024!"

A blend of 86% Cabernet and 14% Merlot, this classic blend becoming synonymous with Margaret River, not just Bordeaux, wowed our judges! Our highest scoring wine of 2024, this Cabernet Merlot offers a striking perfumed aromas of satsuma plums, cherries, and raspberries. The soft, supple palate features black olive, blackcurrant, and cherry fruits, complemented by a long, silky, and refreshing finish. A sophisticated and must have wine with immediate drinking and long-term cellaring potential.



WAS \$2799
MEMBER PRICE
\$299











WAS \$2199

MEMBER PRICE

MAXWELL LITTLE DEMON GSM 2022

"Devilishly good!"

GSM (Grenache, Shiraz, Mataro) has always been a staff and customer favourite, so we insisted some GSM be included in this blind tasting. This harmonious blend results in a wine that has notes of berries and subtle spice and is layered with complexity. It's a centuries-old style with a new-world freshness and vibrant flavours. The easy-drinking nature makes this wine a must-have. Enjoy it on its own or with food.





WILLOW BRIDGE ESTATE DRAGONFLY SHIRAZ 2022 "Sumptious Shiraz!"

The second time Willow Bridge Wines has impressed our panelists. We've been major proponents of the quality and style of WA Shiraz. Its aromatic profile features perfumed blueberries and a hint of vanilla. The wine is characterized by refreshing berry flavours, including raspberry and blueberry. Enhanced with a touch of French oak, the wine has a luscious and long finish.





"Well-Balanced!"

The Xanadu Circa 77 range has consistently delivered quality with a wallet-friendly budget. The palate is generously filled with luscious fruits of the forest, cassis, and red currant flavours. A medium to full-bodied wine, the fruit is complemented by supple and ripe tannins. This balanced wine has a lingering fruit finish, accented by savoury hints of bay leaf, black olive, and liquorice, with a subtle hint of oak.







TIM ADAMS LADERA TEMPRANILLO 2021

"Tempting Tempranillo!"

Dry Grown on a "Ladera" or slope in the Clare, the vines were planted in 2004, when the famous Rioja producer Isaac Muga joined the Tim Adams team for the vintage. This showcases vibrant strawberry and cherry notes. Its fruit flavours are beautifully complemented by clove and cinnamon spice, thanks to its 18-month maturation in French oak hogsheads. Decant before serving, if possible.







RINGBOLT CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021

"Captivating Cabernet!"

This wine is a winter red embodied. A bold crimson red with magenta hues, this wine looks as good as it tastes. The nose is filled with aromas of violets, black cherries, and mulberries, with a touch of cassis and earthy notes. The wine opens with floral and rich blackberry flavours, moving into a smooth mocha oak mid-palate and finishing with long, juicy tannins. Perfect with heavier winter dishes.



WAS \$2999 MEMBER PRICE \$2599 REGULAR PRICE \$2799

LECONFIELD LONICERA MERLOT CABERNET FRANC 2022

"Franc-ly Delicious!"

This wine was talked about a few times, as it had a style similar to Beaujolais. Carbonically macerated as whole bunches, this wine is made to drink now. Aromas of bright strawberry, red cherry, with a hint of pepper. The palate is delicate and supple, with freshness enhancing the crunchy red berry fruit and soft tannins. A very enjoyable wine that will have the table talking about what grapes or style it could be!









SILKWOOD BOWERS SHIRAZ 2020 "Silky-Smooth!"

This wine reveals complex aromas of chocolate, licorice, coffee beans, dried herbs, and savoury characteristics. On the palate, it is a well-structured wine with excellent length, presenting a balanced and focused profile. Well-made wine with a silky, smooth finish. This shiraz doesn't just present exceptional value; it has great cellaring potential as well. It can be kept for up to 8 years.











SEVEN HILL INIGO CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021

"Clare-ly good!"

Clare Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is always a fun wine for our panel to look at, and the Seven Hill Inigo really surprised us with its structure and value. This wine presents forest fruits, blackberry, and plum aromas with floral violet notes and hints of dried herbs. The silky texture balances its rich fruit flavours, creating a well-structured wine suitable for aging. Ideal with beef and red meat-based meals.









PATRITTI LAVORO GRENACHE 2022

"Great Grenache!"

From the acclaimed 2022 McLaren Vale vintage. This wine shows aromas of concentrated raspberry and cherry, accompanied by hints of red candy. On the palate, the wine presents a fresh and well-rounded structure with medium intensity, pronounced red berry fruit, and subtle undertones of chocolate. Perfect with Sunday roast, vegetable dishes, or on its own.



WAS \$2799 MEMBER PRICE \$24.EA



MAC FORBES BY ANY OTHER XO2 LIGHT SYRAH 2023

"Chilled out!"

A new project from the Mac
Forbes team, using organic
Syrah fruit from Margaret River,
comes with an exciting wine that
surprised the panel. The wine
has a lifted floral perfume with a
slight green root aroma. On the
palate is a juicy yet refreshing
wine, featuring vibrant violet and
dark cherry flavours with a soft
and delicate finish. Enjoy it as is
or slightly chilled!





CHALARI SHIRAZ TEMPRANILLO 2022

"Local Gem!"

From a local producer, this wine is a rich blend of Shiraz from Mount Barker and Tempranillo from Frankland. This wine offers aromas of plum, mocha, cola, marzipan, mulberry, and black pepper. The palate is medium-bodied and rustic, with flavours of fleshy black plum, cherry, and dark chocolate, finishing with subtle earthiness and dusty tannins. A new world wine, inspired by the old world, with all the hallmarks of great and innovative winemaking.











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