

# LIBERTY



# LIQUORS

# Tasting Panel

## NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 17

FEB - MARCH 2026

We're back with our first newsletter of 2026! Building on the success of our previous newsletters, we reviewed another 40+ wines with our expert tasting panel. All wines are tasted blind in brackets and scored on colour, aroma, and flavour. We kept the focus seasonal with aromatic and textural whites, and delicious and lush local and imported rosés. After an ultra- competitive blind tasting, with a real showing for the white varietals we're excited to bring to you our first top 12 tasting panel recommended wines for 2026.

## BIRD IN HAND TASMANIAN RIESLING 2025

**Amazing!**

Australian Riesling is really making its mark in the wine industry, and this wine is a testament to that. Bird in Hand Tasmanian Riesling 2025 opens with vibrant aromas of fresh lime zest, lemon blossom and crisp green apple, layered with delicate white florals and a subtle hint of wet stone. On the palate, it is bright and finely structured, driven by pure citrus flavours of kaffir lime and grapefruit, balanced by touches of pear and a faint hint of white peach. A clean mineral thread runs through the wine, giving way to a long, dry and refreshing finish.



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## HESKETH SMALL BATCH CHARDONNAY 2024

**Small batch, big punch!**

Chardonnay of the day unanimously, this shows lifted aromas of ripe stone fruit, white peach and nectarine, layered with notes of citrus zest and a gentle touch of struck match complexity. On the palate, it is beautifully balanced, with a creamy texture wrapping around flavours of lemon curd, grilled peach and subtle melon. Fine, well-integrated oak gives hints of toasted almond and vanilla, while remaining fresh and focused. A great all-around Chardonnay, agreed by all of us.

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## HENSCHKE PEGGYS HILL RIESLING 2025

**Great winery, Great Wine!**

Henschke is renowned for the quality of their red wine, but they work just as hard on their amazing white wines. When we unmasked this wine we weren't surprised. From Eden Valley, the wine shows bright aromas of lime zest, lemon blossom and crisp green apple. The palate is lively and precise, driven by fresh citrus flavours, with a fine mineral edge adding structure. It finishes clean and refreshingly persistent.



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## MARCHAND AND BURCH VILLAGES ROSÉ 2025

**Oz rosé with French Flair!**

We loved this rosé, it's actually the second vintage of this wine that our panelists have selected in our newsletters. Burch 2025 Rosé hails from the cool-climate Great Southern region. The wine has delicate aromas of wild strawberry, raspberry and rose petal, with a subtle hint of citrus zest. The palate is crisp and finely textured, offering bright red berry flavours balanced by a refreshing, gentle savoury edge. It finishes dry, clean and vibrant, making it an effortlessly elegant and food-friendly rosé.

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## HIGHER PLANE 'JEWELS OF KARRIDALE' CHARDONNAY 2024

**Chardonnay Gem!**

From the esteemed winemaking and minds behind Juniper Estate comes the Higher Plane Jewel of Karridale Chardonnay. The wine opens with aromas of white peach, nectarine and lemon zest, layered with subtle hints of cashew and struck match. On the palate, it is refined and beautifully textured, showing ripe stone fruit and citrus with well-integrated oak. Balanced and driven, it has a long and elegant finish with a delicate savoury edge. If you liked the Mon tout Chardonnay, you'll love this wine!

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## SWELL SEASON ROSÉ 2025

***A Swell Time!***

We got a little surprise here! We first tried this wine as a last-minute add on to wine tasting last year and we're pleasantly surprised by it's quality and value. It seems our panel was as well. This is great WA rosé! Using a blend of Shiraz and Cabernet, this lovely textural rosé has a delicate pale pink hue with savoury red berry notes on the nose. The palate is crisp, offering bright red fruit flavours with a balanced, refreshing and dry finish. Perfect for sunny afternoons, pairing well with all summer dishes.



## SNAKE AND HERRING TOUGH LOVE CHARDONNAY 2024

***Easy Loving!***

A refreshing number in the lineup, we certainly enjoyed this delicious Chardonnay. Tough Love by Snake and Herring, from the great Margaret River region, shows lifted aromas of white peach, nectarine and lemon zest, complemented by subtle notes of toasted almond and gentle oak spice. The palate is vibrant yet textural, with ripe stone fruit and grapefruit layered over a fine mineral backbone. Bright freshness leads to a clean, elegant finish. A great seafood pairing wine or drink on its own.



## FRANKLAND ESTATE RIESLING 2025

***Frank-ly delicious!***

From the cool-climate Frankland River region (no longer our best-kept secret), where ironstone soils and long ripening conditions contribute to its precision and purity. The wine opens with lifted aromas of lime zest, yellow citrus peel, wet stone and delicate florals. The palate is bright and crystalline, showing fresh lime and green apple layered over a fine mineral backbone, with vibrant natural freshness driving a long, dry and focused finish. A perfect match for fresh oysters, sashimi, ceviche, Thai salads, or grilled prawns.



## HEIRLOOM VINEYARDS CHARDONNAY 2025

***Terrific!***

The Heirloom Vineyards Adelaide Hills Chardonnay 2025 shows lifted aromas of white peach, nectarine and citrus zest, complemented by subtle oak spice and a savoury nuance. The palate is vibrant and beautifully balanced, with fresh stone fruit and green apple layered over a fine mineral line that keeps the wine bright and focused. It finishes clean and elegant, making it a versatile partner for roast chicken, grilled fish, creamy pasta or fresh seafood dishes.

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## TURKEY FLAT ROSÉ 2025

**Gluggable!**

Panel tested, critically acclaimed and universally loved, we weren't surprised to see this amazing rosé was in the line-up, one panelist actually guessed it correctly. This hallmark wine shows vibrant aromas of fresh strawberry, raspberry and rose petal with a hint of spice. The palate is bright and juicy, offering red berry fruits with a gentle textural feel. Crisp natural freshness keeps it lively and balanced, finishing dry and refreshing. It pairs beautifully with charcuterie, grilled prawns, Mediterranean salads or lightly spiced



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## CHALK HILL FIANO 2024

**Fantastic Fiano!**

The last Fiano to make it through the blind tasting panel was a hit, so we challenged our submitters to bring their A-game, and they did. However, only one shined above the rest and the Chalk Hill Fiano. It opens with lifted aromas of pear, green apple and citrus blossom, layered with hints of almond and fresh herbs. The palate is textural and savoury, showing pear and lemon pith balanced by a gentle nuttiness and a fine mineral edge. It pairs beautifully with grilled seafood, chicken dishes, antipasto or fresh salads.

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## CASTELLI ESTATE RIESLING 2024

**Cracking Castelli!**

Another WA classic, our panel loves the resurgence of Riesling. The wine opens with fragrant aromas of lime zest and green apple, with a subtle slate-like minerality. The palate is bright and finely structured, delivering crisp citrus flavours layered with hints of pear. Lively natural freshness carries the wine to a long, dry and focused finish. It pairs beautifully with fresh oysters, sashimi, and white fish with a squeeze of lemon.





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