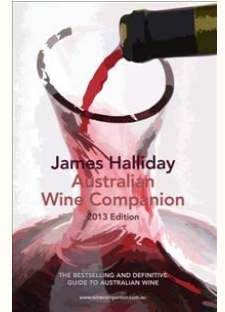




James Halliday 2013 Australian Wine Companion

Old Bridge Cellars Portfolio Reviews



BALGOWNIE ESTATE ★★★★★ WINERY RATING

Balgownie Estate continues to grow in the wake of its acquisition by the Forrester family, and celebrated its 40th vintage at Maiden Gully in 2012. A \$3 million upgrade of the winery coincided with a doubling of the size of the vineyard, and Balgownie Estate also has a cellar door in the Yarra Valley (Yarra Glen) The Yarra Valley operation of Balgownie Estate neatly fits in with the Bendigo wines, each supporting the other. Balgownie has the largest vineyard-based resort in the Yarra Valley, with over 65 rooms and a limited number of spa suites. It specialises in catering for conferences and functions, and Rae's Restaurant is open seven days for breakfast and lunch. Exports to the UK, the US, Canada, the Netherlands, Fiji, Hong Kong, Singapore and NZ.

2009 Balgownie Estate Bendigo Cabernet Sauvignon 90 pts

Medium purple-red; has come through a difficult vintage well, even though the normal richness and depth of the cabernet fruit is lacking, the savory notes made more obvious by that lack, yet the old vines provide an undercurrent of nobility. Medium-term cellaring will do no harm.

2009 Balgownie Estate Bendigo Shiraz 88 pts

BROKENWOOD ★★★★★ WINERY RATING

This deservedly fashionable winery, producing consistently excellent wines, has kept Graveyard Shiraz as its ultimate flagship wine, while extending its reach through many of the best eastern regions for its broad selection of varietal wine styles. Its big-selling Hunter Semillon provides the volume to balance the limited quantities of the flagships ILR Semillon and Graveyard Shiraz. Next there is a range of wines coming from regions including Beechworth (a major resource from the associated Indigo Vineyard), Orange, Central Ranges, McLaren Vale, Cowra and elsewhere. The two-storey Albert Room tasting facility (named in honour of the late Tony Albert, one of the founders) was opened in 2006. In 2012 Iain Riggs celebrated his 30th vintage at the helm of Brokenwood, offering a unique mix of winemaking skills, management of a diverse business, and an unerring ability to keep Brokenwood's high profile fresh and newsworthy. He has also contributed a great deal to various wine industry organisations. Exports to all major markets.

2006 ILR Reserve Semillon 96pts

Straw-green, still bright and relatively light; at the first moment of the emergence of honey and toast from its lime and mineral womb, but has many years before it becomes an adult. Thus you have the best of all worlds, drink it now, tomorrow, or in 10 years or more by which time the honey, toast and nut characters will be at their zenith.

2011 Hunter Valley Semillon 94pts

Pale quartz; the bouquet is clean and pure, with cut grass and apple/citrus aromas, the palate fresh and lively, building impact on the back-palate and finish, yet doing so with delicate, rather than phenolic, flavors. Made to be enjoyed young, but still able to repay medium-term cellaring.



2009 Area Blend Shiraz **92pts**

A curious blend of the two regions, with an elegant expression of shiraz the outcome; fragrant sappy red fruits, with clove and anise, later followed on the palate by a medium-bodied and fine boned experience; elegant rather than profound, but very drinkable indeed.

2010 Cricket Pitch Sauvignon Blanc Semillon **90pts**

A stalwart of the Brokenwood portfolio, it appears generosity and texture are sought and found; ripe nectarine and citrus notes accompanied by straw on the bouquet; the palate is soft-centred, fleshy and accessible, with a complex barrel-derived blanched almond note lingering on the finish.

2010 Cricket Pitch Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz Merlot Petit Verdot **90pts**

Bright mid-garnet; highly perfumed, fragrant and attractive red and black fruit bouquet, with olive and cedar thrown in for good measure; juicy and refreshing, designed for maximum appeal as a young wine, and should be enjoyed as such.

CHAMBERS ROSEWOOD



Chambers Rare Muscat and Rare Muscadelle (or Topaque or Tokay, what's in a name?) are the greatest of all in the Rutherglen firmament, the other wines in the hierarchy also magnificent. Stephen Chambers comes into the role as winemaker, the sixth generation of the Chambers family. Exports to the UK, the US, Belgium, Sweden and NZ.

Rare Rutherglen Muscadelle NV **98pts**

Deep, dark burnt umber, with an olive rim; exceedingly complex, and contains some very old material contributing to the rancio characters; the wine adheres to the sides of the glass as you swirl it, but, notwithstanding its concentration, the innumerable flavors come together on an exceedingly long, yet effortless, finish.

Grand Rutherglen Muscat NV **96pts**

Has moved well into the brown spectrum, with olive starting to appear on the rim; here the raisin fruit has concentrated and developed strong Christmas pudding, liquored plum, and an array of Asian spices, wrapped up in a viscous drum roll of flavour.

Classic Rutherglen Muscat NV **94pts**

Is old enough to have lost any red hues, but is still fresh and youthful, with raisins and warm spices illuminating the bouquet and palate alike. It is one of those wines that is so well-balanced and inviting, you might well regret the following morning how much you drank the night before.

CULLEN WINES



One of the pioneers of Margaret River, which has always produced long-lived wines of highly individual style from the mature estate vineyards. The vineyard has progressed beyond organic to biodynamic certification and, subsequently, has become the first vineyard and winery in Australia to be certified carbon neutral. This requires the calculation of all of the carbon used and carbon dioxide emitted in the winery; the carbon is then offset by the planting of new trees. Winemaking is now in the hands of Vanya Cullen, daughter of the founders; she is possessed of an extraordinarily good palate. It is impossible to single out any particular wine from the top echelon; all are superb. Exports to all major markets.

2010 Cullen Wines Kevin John Chardonnay **97pts**

Hand-picked, whole bunch-pressed, and wild yeast-fermented in two-thirds new French barriques, one-third one-year-old, before spending a further five months in those barrels. The texture and mouth feel are supple and round, the white peach, cashew and fig flavors coursing in an unbroken stream through to the finish and aftertaste. The length of the finish is prodigious.

2009 Cullen Wines Kevin John Chardonnay **97pts**

The 23- to 35-year-old vines were hand-picked over two weeks; the wine was wild yeast-fermented and spent nine months in new French oak that barely intrudes, so intense and focused is the mix of grapefruit, white peach and mineral flavors of the magnificently long and fresh palate. A wine of exceptional poise and purity.



2010 Cullen Wines Diana Madeline 96 pts

A 77/10/6/4/3% blend of cabernet sauvignon, merlot, petit verdot, malbec and cabernet franc. Confident with the quality of her biodynamically-grown estate grapes, Vanya Cullen is taking a gently gently approach with all aspects of the wine. Thus it is medium-bodied at best, but is perfectly balanced and its array of blackcurrant, redcurrant, earth and spice fruit flavors are clearly varietal. Above all else, it is certain the wine will develop beautifully over the next 20-30 years.

2009 Cullen Wines Diana Madeline 95pts

The usual complex blend of Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc/Merlot/Malbec, wild yeast-fermented and matured for 13 months in French oak. It has excellent colour, and is made in the 'new' medium-bodied Cullen style; the texture is silky, and the tannins are not the least aggressive, making it a very elegant and fresh wine that will doubtless age for as long as you wish.

2011 Cullen Wines Mangan Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 95pts

A blend of 58% sauvignon blanc and 42% semillon; 20% fermented in French oak, 25% new. Like the Cullen Vineyard, made without any acid addition, the multiple components seamlessly woven together; slightly fuller in the mouth, perhaps reflecting the slightly higher alcohol and the greater percentage of semillon; once again, this is an exercise in harmony that no man should put asunder.

2010 Cullen Wines Mangan Malbec Petit Verdot Merlot 94pts

Bright, clear purple-crimson; a 38/32/30% blend; the color typifies the wine, similarly bright and lively, with crunchy red and black fruits, and great clarity of line. It is light- to medium-bodied, and can be enjoyed any time from now on.

2009 Cullen Wines Margaret River Red 93pts

Not even 'classic red', yet it easily qualifies with its 80%/15%/5% blend of merlot, malbec and petit verdot that spent 7 months in used French oak. Released in July 2011, it has bright, bell-clear, youthful color, a pristine berry fruit bouquet, and a palate with great drive and length. The flavors are not green, nor are the tannins, despite its low alcohol. I'll bet Vanya would have loved to call it claret, for it has nuances of older-style Bordeaux from a good vintage.

2011 Cullen Wines Margaret River White 92pts

This is a blend to top them all: 44% sauvignon blanc, 30% semillon, 16% chardonnay, 6% chenin blanc, 2% verdelho and 2% riesling. There's no question, the sauvignon blanc and semillon are the drivers, but experience in laboratory bench blend trials tells you 2% of this or that can have a totally disproportionate influence on the final outcome. The flavors linger long after the wine is swallowed, the balance is very good. It's not made to be cellared, but it's not going away any time soon.

2010 Cullen Wines Margaret River Red 92pts

A 48/36/16% blend of malbec, petit verdot and merlot with only 21% of the wine having oak contact (eight months in two-year-old French oak). It is a compelling demonstration of the quality of the fruit that Cullen receives, leaving others shaking their heads in envy. It is full of red and blackcurrant fruit and with emphasis on plum, and has a soft, inviting palate.

2011 Cullen Wines Mangan Malbec Petit Verdot Merlot 92pts

A 66/18/16% blend, the most distinguished malbec-dominant blend in Australia; a vivid purple-crimson color, the wine not long into bottle after seven months in French oak. It is quite savory, and I would like to see the tannins soften a little, reassured by Vanya Cullen's drinking span of now-15 years.



d'ARENBERG

★★★★★ WINERY RATING

Nothing, they say, succeeds like success. Few operations in Australia fit this dictum better than d'Arenberg, which has kept its almost 100-year-old heritage while moving into the 21st century with flair and élan. At last count the d'Arenberg vineyards, at various locations, have 24 varieties planted, as well as 120 growers in McLaren Vale. There is no question that its past, present and future revolve around its considerable portfolio of richly robed red wines, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Grenache being the cornerstones, but with over 20 varietal and/or blend labels spanning the gulf between Roussanne and Mourvedre. The quality of the wines is unimpeachable, the prices logical and fair. It has a profile in both the UK and the US that far larger companies would love to have, underlined by the *Wine & Spirits Magazine* (US) accolade of Winery of the Year in 2009. d'Arenberg celebrated 100 years of family grapegrowing in '12 on the property that houses the winery, cellar door and restaurant (together with some of the oldest estate vines). Exports to all major markets.

2009 d'Arenberg The Dead Arm Shiraz 94pts

Deep, inky purple-crimson; in archetypal Dead Arm style, powerful and rich, but given some welcome lift by the mix of bitter chocolate and savory/spicy notes on the palate. This is a style that will not change any time soon, and, within that context, is a good example.

2010 d'Arenberg The McLaren Sand Hills Grenache 94pts

Light but brilliantly clear crimson; a brave call on price, although the wine is of undoubted quality and varietal integrity; its cherry and raspberry fruit flavors are neatly balanced by fine but persistent tannins running through to the long finish.

2009 d'Arenberg The Footbolt Shiraz 94pts

Superb, bright clear crimson; it's not the first thing that normally comes to mind with d'Arenberg, but this is an elegant, fine, medium bodied wine' the fruits are more in the red than black spectrum, and it is spice more than dark chocolate that joins the fruit, oak and tannins, all perfectly weighted."

2010 d'Arenberg The Wild Pixie Shiraz Roussanne 94pts

Bright crimson-purple, the bouquet has a very interesting and unusual combination of spice and cured meat, characters that continue on the lively, open texture of the medium-bodied palate; the finish is very long, yet balanced. A surprise packet.

2010 d'Arenberg The Beautiful View Grenache 93pts

Mid-crimson; the bouquet is savory and full of dried herb complexity and spice, offset by a mere suggestion of red fruits; decidedly cool in character, the palate delivers taut acidity, tightly wound fruit and ample silky tannins. An interesting wine, that should reward a little patience in the cellar."

10 Blewitt Springs 94 pts "A dark and sweet-fruited wine, offering red and black fruits, briar and licorice; the palate is thickly textured, warm and compelling, with the concentration and depth of fruit to satisfy lovers of rich, heady grenache.

2009 d'Arenberg The Love Grass Shiraz 93pts

Mid-crimson and Bright color; a bright, effusive and quite pure red-fruited bouquet, with the palate delivering an even, fresh and finely detailed finish; unencumbered by heavy handed winemaking, with plenty to like.

2008 d'Arenberg The Galvo Garage Bordeaux Blend 93pts

Rich and full-bodied, to be sure, but looks as if it may have dodged the worst of the heat in '08; the bouquet, in particular, has an appealing mix of blackcurrant and cedar, and there are pleasingly savory elements on the palate that pick up the message of the bouquet. All up, a very commendable wine with years on its side.

2009 d'Arenberg The High Trellis Cabernet Sauvignon 93pts

An elegant, medium-bodied wine that sees its first duty to affirm the affinity between variety and region. The tannins are fine, the oak subtle, the overall balance hard to fault. Seriously good value.



2009 d'Arenberg d'Arry's Original Shiraz Grenache 92pts

The first shiraz grenache blends were made by d'Arry Osborn 50 years ago, and have since been embedded in the history of McLaren Vale. The healthy color of this vintage is a good start, as is the distinctly fragrant bouquet with its amalgam of spice, leather and red and black fruits. The palate has greater power than many previous vintages at the same stage of development. The wine will flourish in bottle, revealing ever more as it ages over this decade.

2010 d'Arenberg The Noble Mud Pie Viognier Roussanne 92pts

Already a golden bronze color, this wine has exceptional viscosity when poured, the enormous amount of residual sugar retained in the wine evidenced by the low alcohol. Cumquat jam, crème brulee and cinnamon cake are among the multitude of aromas and flavors. There seems to be much more botrytis influence here than in the Noble Riesling.

2009 d'Arenberg The Coppermine Road Road Cabernet Sauvignon 90pts

A deep and sweet-fruited example of cabernet, showing cassis pastille in abundance on the bouquet and palate; the sweet fruit then continues for a while, until it is shut down by forceful tannins reminding you of the full-bodied nature of the variety.

2010 d'Arenberg The Noble Wrinkled Riesling 90pts

Bright yellow-gold, far lighter than the Noble Mud Pie Viognier Roussanne. The wine is very rich and very sweet, capable of handling any dessert you come up with, but isn't particularly complex. Age in bottle will increase the complexity, but there is a question of losing on the swings what you gained on the roundabout.

2009 d'Arenberg The Stump Jump Shiraz 90pts

Open ferment and basket pressing are not at all common with a wine of this price. In May 2011 it still had a strong, deep purple-crimson color, subtlety not a strong point of this forthright expression of McLaren Vale. Instead it's loaded with blackberry, licorice, earth and dark chocolate. It is exceptional value for a wine with character stamped on it by the terroir of its birth, and will cruise through to the end of this decade in the unlikely event you haven't already drunk all that you purchased.

2009 d'Arenberg The Feral Fox Pinot Noir 89pts

Has abundant plum and cherry fruit on the medium- to full-bodied palate, tannins also playing a role. On the cusp between pinot noir and dry red; time in the cellar could tame the Feral Fox, but may not.

2008 d'Arenberg The Sticks and Stones Tempranillo Grenache Souzao 89pts

Still has deep color; notwithstanding its gold medal at the NZ International Wine Show, the Sticks & Stones needed polishing; the wine is full-bodied, which is fair enough, but it is also somewhat rustic.

NV d'Arenberg DADD Sparkling 88pts

A full-flavored sparkling wine that also has good balance and length.

2011 d'Arenberg The Olive Grove Chardonnay 88pts

Light straw-green; something of a surprise packet, with plenty of mouth-filling ripe stone fruit and melon flavors reflecting the cool vintage. No need to wait.

2010 d'Arenberg The Stump Jump Shiraz 88pts

Medium red-purple; there has been no attempt to make a wine of finesse or elegance; rather, it has been a successful attempt to extract every last drop of vinous blood and (to a lesser degree) tannins. Excellent bbq red, well priced.

2010 d'Arenberg The Stump Jump Red 87pts



GIANT STEPS/INNOCENT BYSTANDER

★★★★★ WINERY RATING

Phil Sexton first made his name in establishing some noted micro-breweries, and later established Devils Lair in Margaret River. He sold Devils Lair to Southcorp in 1996, and the following year purchased what is now known as the Sexton Vineyard in the Yarra Valley. First released in 2001, Giant Steps wines focus exclusively on the distinctive expression of single vineyard sites, drawing grapes from estate, leased and long-term contracted vineyards. Innocent Bystander wines came on-stream in 2004, and are made from carefully selected vineyards in the Yarra Valley and beyond, contributing 40 000 dozen to the overall production. Both Giant Steps and Innocent Bystander wines are handmade in small batches using gravity-flow principles. Exports to the UK, the US and other major markets.

2010 Giant Steps Sexton Vineyard Pinot Noir 96pts

From the estate vineyard, with seven clones, 10% whole bunches, remainder destemmed, not crushed (the same for all four wines); five-day cold soak, 12-day ferment with minimal plunging 24% new French oak, 25% one-year old; like all four wines, 11 months in oak. A highly fragrant bouquet with cherry and wild strawberry fruit that carries through to the silky palate. Very attractive wine.

2010 Innocent Bystander Mea Culpa Shiraz 96pts

The back label would do Freud proud, assuming the words can be deciphered. Bright crimson, it is at once elegant and intense, with a rainbow of red and black fruits supported by fine, persistent tannins and quality oak. A seriously good wine.

2010 Giant Steps Sexton Vineyard Chardonnay 95pts

The Sexton Vineyard is estate-owned, planted on the slopes of the Warramate Hills (also known as Steels Range) with a northerly aspect. It is a wine of intensity and complexity, the flavors rising in steps like the topography of the vineyard, each sip revealing a new flavor sensation.

2010 Giant Steps Harry's Monster 95pts

Vivid crimson-purple; a full-bodied intense, but very well balanced and structured wine, with cassis, blueberry, blackcurrant and plum fruit held in a gentle embrace of quality French oak and fine, ripe tannins.

2011 Innocent Bystander Pinot Noir 90pts

Bright, clear light crimson-purple; is definitely delivering its maximum right now, with its vibrantly fresh red berry flavors and gossamer tannins on the finish. All it can do is lose that all-important freshness after a couple of years.

2011 Innocent Bystander Pinot Gris 87pts

JASPER HILL

★★★★★ WINERY RATING

The red wines of Jasper Hill are highly regarded and much sought after. Over the past decade drought has caused some variation in style and weight, but as long as vintage conditions allow, these are wonderfully rich and full-flavoured wines, albeit with high levels of alcohol. The vineyards are dry-grown (hence drought problems) and are managed organically. Wines were received after the 2013 edition went to print. Exports to the UK, the US, Canada and Singapore.

2010 Jasper Hill Georgia's Paddock Shiraz 95pts

Good color; the beginning of the end of the drought has resulted in one of the best balanced Georgia's Paddocks for many years; it is a classically proportioned, medium-bodied wine, with complex flavors and equally complex texture and structure; the black cherry, spice and licorice flavors soar on the finish.

2010 Jasper Hill Emily's Paddock Shiraz Cabernet Franc 95pts

Light, clear crimson-purple; perhaps due to the restrained alcohol, the cabernet franc component plays a more important role than it has done in some prior vintages, introducing aromas of violets, and dried tobacco on the palate; here fine tannins provide the structure for a very stylish wine.



JOHN DUVAL WINES

★★★★★ WINERY RATING

John Duval is an internationally recognized winemaker, having been the custodian of Penfolds Grange for almost 30 years as part of his role as chief red winemaker at Penfolds. These days John is concentrating on his own brand, and providing consultancy services to clients in various parts of the world. On the principle if not broken, don't fix, he is basing his business on shiraz and shiraz blends from old-vine vineyards in the Barossa Valley. The brand name Plexus denotes combining the different elements of shiraz/grenache/mourvedre into a coherent structure. Exports to the UK, the US and other major markets.

2009 John Duval Wines Entity Shiraz 95pts

Crimson-purple; the perfumed bouquet proclaims the class of the wine, its array of blackberry, plum and spice fruit duly delivered on the medium-bodied palate; silky tannins and quality oak complete the picture.

2009 John Duval Wines Eligo Shiraz 94pts

This is the very essence of old vine Barossa shiraz, made with generosity and warmth as a core value; masses of sweet black fruits, bitter chocolate, graphite tannins and toasty oak combine to deliver a silky mouthful of tannins and plenty of warmth of alcohol; concentration kept in check, and exceptionally long.

2010 John Duval Wines Plexus Shiraz Grenache Mourvedre 94pts

Bright color; a beautifully generous, plump and fleshy blend, with a backbone of Provençal garrigue providing light to the masses of sweet red and black fruits shade; the trailing spice and purity of fruit is seamless and very long.

2010 John Duval Wines Entity Shiraz 93pts

Impenetrable color; there is a lush and voluptuous nature to the wines of John Duval, with sweetness of fruit, exotic spices and warmth enveloping this particular example; lavish levels of oak accompany masses of fruit, tannin and licorice; long and toasty, this is big and slippery at the same time.

KILIKANOON

WINERY OF THE YEAR

★★★★★ WINERY RATING

Kilikanoon has travelled in the fast lane since its establishment in 1997, gaining 5-star status in the 2004 Wine Companion, five red stars in '08, moving to the ultimate red star/red name in 2012. This placed it among the best 100 wineries in Australia, yet this year ('13) it surpassed its prior history with 12 of its wines receiving 94 points or above.

2009 Kilikanoon Oracle Shiraz 96pts

Deep crimson-purple; estate-grown, and spent 24 months in French and American oak, oak which has left a significant impression; more likely than not time will bring balance, and the wine has an appealing texture, full-bodied though it may be.

2009 Kilikanoon R Barossa Valley Shiraz 96pts

From the two estate vineyards in the Barossa Valley, Greens and Crowhurst. The bouquet is admirable in its fruit/oak balance, and the tannins, while potent, play a positive role in giving texture to the layered blackberry fruits.

2011 Kilikanoon Mort's Reserve Watervale Riesling 95pts

Pale straw, vivid hue; an altogether tightly wound and mineral accented bouquet, offering mere glimpses of lime, florals and riverstone; the palate is beautifully poised and precise, linear and mouth puckeringly racy, needing some time to reveal its true beauty; certainly worth the wait.

2009 Kilikanoon M McLaren Vale Shiraz 95pts

From a single vineyard, and spent 24 months in French and American oak. Deeply colored, the bouquet speaks first of its place of origin, the full-bodied palate likewise; is arguably the richest and fullest of the range, but lacks the finesse of the best. If you trust the cork gods, time may change the order of these things.



2011 Kilikanoon Mort's Block Riesling 94pts

A fragrant and expressive bouquet, with pure fresh lime juice and bath talc; taut and racy on entry, with a generous core of sweet fruit to balance out the acidity; long and fine.

2008 Kilikanoon Oracle Shiraz 94pts

While the density and complexity of this wine is indubitable the surprise lies in the subdued and restrained nature of the bouquet; the palate reveals masses of black fruits, earth, spice and tar; a savory example of big boned shiraz.

2009 Kilikanoon Parable McLaren Vale Shiraz 94pts

Deep purple-crimson; a super-rich wine at the heart of McLaren Vale style, with layer-upon-layer of blackberry, plum cake, chocolate, vanillin oak and soft tannins.

2009 Kilikanoon Green's Vineyard Barossa Valley Shiraz 94pts

Deep crimson-purple; from the estate-owned vineyard, the bouquet offers blackberry, plum, dark chocolate and integrated oak; the palate is undeniably full-bodied, but there is lots to enjoy in the wine.

2008 Kilikanoon Green's Vineyard Barossa Valley Shiraz 94pts

Deep color, bright; there is simply more of everything in this wine; loaded with sweet black fruits, sweet charry oak and roasted meat complexity; the palate is dense, chewy and massively proportioned, with the long finish having a distinctly warm feel; big wine for lovers of such.

2009 Kilikanoon Clare Valley Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 94pts

A ripe and essency wine exhibiting pure sweet red and black fruits, and a fairly healthy dose of toasty new oak; unevolved and still a little raw, the concentration of fruit is undeniable and the journey ahead sure to be a good one, provided the closure is able to do its job properly.

2009 Kilikanoon The Duke Grenache 94pts

Even brighter crimson than the Prodigal; Clare Valley grenache often goes weak at the knees, but not this one; it is flush full of red and black berry fruits, and has exemplary structure for the long, perfectly balanced palate.

2009 Kilikanoon Block's Road Cabernet Sauvignon 93pts

Deep color; saturated black fruits exhibiting lovely purity and a floral violet complexity; the palate is silky smooth and fine grained, showing great polish and precision.

2010 Kilikanoon Killerman's Run Shiraz 93pts

Deep crimson, purple hue; a highly expressive and fragrant bouquet of fresh blackberry, orange rind, spicy oak and thyme; the sweet-fruited medium bodied palate is warm, generous and fresh, finding a balance between ripeness and savory complexity; very good drinking for the price.

2009 Kilikanoon Covenant Shiraz 92pts

Medium red-purple; the amount of French and American oak on the bouquet is alarming, but the medium-bodied palate has abundant juicy red and black fruits plus fine tannins to provide overall balance, the screwcap to ensure the future of the wine.

2009 Kilikanoon Prodigal Grenache 92pts

Good color; a vibrant and lively grenache, with the accent on red berry fruit, not Turkish delight, and the medium-bodied palate has good structure and length.

2009 Kilikanoon Killerman's Run Cabernet Sauvignon 88pts



LEEWIN ESTATE

★★★★★ WINERY RATING

This outstanding winery and vineyard is owned by the Horgan family, with parents Denis and Tricia at the helm, son Justin as general manager. The Art Series Chardonnay is, in my opinion, Australia's finest example, based on the wines of the last 29 vintages. The decision to move to screwcap brought a large smile to the faces of those who understand just how superbly the wine ages, unless sabotaged by sporadic oxidation (caused by cork). The large estate plantings, coupled with strategic purchases of grapes from other growers, provide the base for high-quality Art Series Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz; a hugely successful, quick-selling Art Series Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc; and lesser-priced wines such as Prelude Chardonnay and Siblings Sauvignon Blanc Semillon. Exports to all major markets.

2009 Leeuwin Estate Art Series Margaret River Chardonnay 97pts

Pale gold, vivid green hue; a deeply fruited and hedonistically adorned bouquet of grapefruit, nectarine, spices and pain grille; the palate is deeply weighted and powerful on entry, with finesse taking over and purity of fruit remaining on the finish; a pure, long and precise edition of an Australian classic.

2008 Leeuwin Estate Art Series Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon 95pts

Vivid deep crimson; restrained and understated, the bouquet offers a tantalizing glimpse of red and black fruits, cigar box and a little briary complexity; the palate is finely detailed, and while elegant, contains its inherent power and longevity with ease.

2010 Leeuwin Estate Prelude Vineyards Margaret River Chardonnay 94pts

Light straw-green; the bouquet is fresh, but does not prepare the way for the palate, which has tremendous drive to its grapefruit-accented fruit; while 100% barrel-fermented and matured, it is driven by its fruit, not oak.

2008 Leeuwin Estate Prelude Vineyards Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon 93pts

Bright mid-garnet; a fragrant and expressive bouquet of red and black fruits, florals and a backbone of fine oak present; the medium-bodied palate is fleshy and fine boned, with taut acidity and finishing evenly balanced and poised.

2011 Leeuwin Estate Art Series Margaret River Riesling 90pts

A stalwart of riesling for the region, this edition exhibits fresh lemon, talc and a splash of ginger; the palate is fresh and racy, with the finish softening considerably; best enjoyed young and fresh.

2011 Leeuwin Estate Siblings Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 90pts

Pale color; a pleasing blend of tropical fruit, cut grass and nettle on the bouquet; the fleshy palate provides a fresh and accessible experience; drink young and drink cold.

MOUNT MARY

★★★★★ WINERY RATING

Superbly refined, elegant and intense Cabernets and usually outstanding and long-lived Pinot Noirs fully justify Mount Marys exalted reputation. The Triolet blend is very good; more recent vintages of Chardonnay are even better. Founder and long-term winemaker, the late Dr John Middleton, was one of the great, and truly original, figures in the Australian wine industry. He liked nothing more than to tilt at windmills, and would do so with passion. His annual newsletter grew longer as each year passed, although the paper size did not. The only change necessary was a reduction in font size, and ultimately very strong light or a magnifying glass (or both) was needed to fully appreciate the barbed wit and incisive mind of this great character. The determination of the family to continue the business is simply wonderful. Limited quantities of the wines are sold through the wholesale/retail distribution system in Vic, NSW, Qld and SA. No wines were received for the 2013 edition; the rating is that of last year. Exports to the UK, the US, Denmark, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea and China.

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PENLEY ESTATE

★★★★★ WINERY RATING

Owner Kym Tolley describes himself as a fifth-generation winemaker, the family tree involving both the Penfolds and the Tolleys. He worked in the industry for 17 years before establishing Penley Estate and has made every post a winner since, producing a succession of rich, complex, full-bodied red wines and stylish Chardonnays. These are made from precious estate plantings. Exports to all major markets.

2009 Penley Estate Special Select Coonawarra Shiraz 94pts

Deep color and loaded with focused dark fruits, char and spice; the palate is medium-bodied and unctuous, revealing a long, even and harmonious wine, power held in check, and ready for the long haul.

2010 Penley Estate Phoenix Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 93pts

Vibrant deep crimson; a punchy and expressive cabernet bouquet with redcurrant, cassis, clove and olive on display; the palate is medium to full-bodied, fleshy and manages to create a long and even finish; designed for early consumption, but will stand the test of time in the medium term.

2009 Penley Estate Reserve Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 90pts

Deep garnet; a dark personality filled with mocha, cassis and a brambly complexity; the palate is dense and chewy, dark and a little bitter, with the structure sitting atop the fruit; time should see this resolved.

2010 Penley Estate Condor Coonawarra Shiraz Cabernet 90pts

Bright color, with fresh red and black fruits, black olive and a gentle lift of thyme; the palate is medium-bodied, fleshy and succulent, with a long, juicy and approachable conclusion; enjoy in the full flush of youth.

2009 Penley Estate Chertsey 89pts

Impenetrable color; this is a behemoth with more of everything on board; loads of dark fruits, chappy oak and a slight conserve character offering extra sweetness on the finish; a big wine, ultimately lacking finesse. Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot/Cabernet Franc.

2010 Penley Estate Aradia Coonawarra Chardonnay 88pts

You live and learn: Aradia was a goddess, the daughter of the sun and the moon. The wine is full-flavored, but not heavy or dull; no oak has been used, allowing the peach and stone fruit flavors free rein.

2010 Penley Estate Gryphon Coonawarra Merlot 88pts

A fragrant and seriously savory example of the variety, ready to go; medium-bodied fresh and fleshy, enjoy in the full flush of youth.

2010 Penley Estate Hyland Coonawarra Shiraz 88pts

Deep color, with red and black fruit combining for a fleshy medium-bodied and fresh finish; best enjoyed in the short to medium term.

PLANTAGENET

★★★★★ WINERY RATING

Plantagenet was established by Tony Smith, who continues to be involved in its management 35 years later, notwithstanding that it has been owned by Lionel Samson & Son for many years. He established five vineyards: Bouverie in 1968, Wyjup in 71, Rocky Horror I in 88, Rocky Horror 2 in 97 and Rosetta in 99 and these vineyards are the cornerstone of the substantial production of the consistently high quality wines that have always been the mark of Plantagenet: highly aromatic Riesling, tangy citrus-tinged Chardonnay, glorious Rhone-style Shiraz and ultra-stylish Cabernet Sauvignon. Exports to all major markets.

2011 Plantagenet Mount Barker Riesling 94pts

Vivid, pale green-straw; classic Mount Barker Riesling, with a spine of steely acidity around which the wine is built, the flavors of lime and lemon; its long-term development is as much a certainty as Black Caviar.

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2010 Plantagenet Mount Barker Chardonnay 94pts

Bright straw-green; a lively and penetrating wine, with classic regional varietal expression to its grapefruit and white peach fruit, oak barely evident. Scores for its finesse.

2009 Plantagenet Mount Barker Shiraz 94pts

Good crimson color; brings to the table all the things expected of medium-bodied Mount Barker shiraz: spice and a touch of licorice, ripe red and black berry fruits, and fine tannins; oak too, is where it should be.

2009 Plantagenet Mount Barker Cabernet Sauvignon 91pts

Light to medium red-purple; a medium bodied wine, with blackcurrant/cassis fruit and a substantial amount of French oak; it may be that the oak will not assume its proper role as a mere support for the fruit; given the benefit of the doubt, partly because of its distinguished history.

2011 Omrah Great Southern Chardonnay 90pts

Bright, light straw-green; Plantagenet was one of the pioneers with quality unoaked chardonnay; this is a deliciously juicy mix of grapefruit and passionfruit, the finish long and clean.

2009 Omrah Great Southern Shiraz 90pts

Clear, light red-purple; spice and pepper perfectly season the red cherry/berry fruit of the bouquet and light- to medium-bodied palate alike; fine tannins lend structural support and complexity. Ready now for whatever food (not fish) you choose.

2011 Omrah Great Southern Sauvignon Blanc 89pts

Light straw-green; a fresh and zesty wine with citrus flavors ranging from grapefruit to mandarin, thence tropical; tailor-made for early drinking.

2010 Omrah Great Southern Chardonnay 89pts

I love it: the back label proclaims this is our 'oak free' chardonnay. It has abundant mouthfeel, bordering on outright richness, with honey, melon, fig and citrusy acidity all to be found.

YARRA YERING

★★★★★ WINERY RATING

In September 2008, founder Bailey Carrodus died, and in April 09 Yarra Yering was on the market. It was Bailey Carrodus clear wish and expectation that any purchaser would continue to manage the vineyard and winery, and hence the wine style, in much the same way as he had done for the previous 40 years. Its acquisition in June 09 by a partnership headed by Swiss-born, Singapore-based Edward (Ed) Peters seems certain to fulfil that wish. The low-yielding, unirrigated vineyards have always produced wines of extraordinary depth and intensity, and there is every reason to suppose that there will be no change in the years ahead. Dry Red No. 1 is a cabernet blend; Dry Red No. 2 is a shiraz blend; Dry Red No. 3 is a blend of touriga, tinta cao, tinta amarela, roriz and sousao; Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are not hidden behind delphic numbers; Underhill Shiraz is from an adjacent vineyard purchased by Yarra Yering over a decade ago; and Potsorts is an extraordinary vintage port style made from the same varieties as Dry Red No. 3. Exports to the UK, the US, Singapore and Hong Kong.

2009 Yarra Yering Portsorts 95pts

Inky purple-crimson; a blend of Touriga Nacional, Tinta Cao and Alvarelhao; exceptionally potent and concentrated, with a fearsome degree of alcohol, but avoids sweet fruit.

2009 Yarra Yering Pinot Noir 94pts

Strong red-purple; an extremely concentrated, powerful and densely packed pinot noir, with abundant black cherry and plum fruit that has soaked up the new oak. Prior vintages back to the '80s have proved their longevity.



2009 Yarra Yering Dry Red No. 2 **94pts**

Purple-crimson; the Shiraz/Viognier co-fermentation of Dry Red No. 2 has worked its usual magic; the wine is wonderfully lively, yet complex, with elegance and intensity to its mix of spice, red and black fruits, fine tannins and quality oak. All this and more at 13.5% alcohol.

2009 Yarra Yering Dry Red No. 1 **93pts**

Strong color; some may see the ghost of the bushfires stalking this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot, but I don't see it, just a flood of red and black berry fruits, supple tannins and quality French oak. Why the short corks in these wines?

2009 Yarra Yering Underhill Shiraz **91pts**

Earthy, savory, sinewy and complex, this shows a brooding range of meat, spice and ripe plum flavors swirling through a medium-bodied frame, remaining open and expressive through the long finish. Drink now through 2020.

2009 Yarra Yering Chardonnay **90pts**

Glowing green-gold; a very complex, richly textured wine with stone fruit and fig matched by toasty new French oak; may deceive with its development, which presently seems rapid.

YERINGBERG



Guill de Pury and daughter Sandra, with Guills wife Katherine in the background, make wines for the new millennium from the low-yielding vines re-established in the heart of what was one of the most famous (and infinitely larger) vineyards of the 19th century. In the riper years, the red wines have a velvety generosity of flavour rarely encountered, yet never lose varietal character, while the long-lived Marsanne Roussanne takes students of history back to Yeringbergs fame in the 19th century. Exports to the US, Switzerland, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong and China.

2010 Yeringberg Chardonnay **94pts**

Medium straw-green; a distinguished wine with a proud history, which it does not in any way let down; the intense fruit has considerable structure, part from the well-integrated oak, and part from the crisp acidity that prolongs the palate. Will mature gracefully over the next 5-10 years.

2010 Yeringberg Marsanne Roussanne **94pts**

Pale straw; a wine that, time and time again, has proved its ability to develop superbly given five years or more in the cellar; part of this is due to the fine, almost skeletal, structure and its moderate alcohol leaving good levels of natural acidity, particularly from the roussanne.

2010 Yeringberg Viognier **94pts**

Light straw-green; a high class grower and maker of viognier, able to invest the wine with clear-cut peach and apricot varietal fruit without any heat or weight on the finish. What's more, it will have time in the cellar without protest if you decide this is the way to go.

ZONTE'S FOOTSTEP



Zonte's Footstep has been very successful since a group of long-standing friends, collectively with deep knowledge of every aspect of the wine business, decided it was time to do something together. Along the way, there has been some shuffling of the deck chairs, all achieved without any ill feelings by those who moved sideways or backwards. The major change has been a broadening of the regions (Langhorne Creek, McLaren Vale, the Barossa and Clare Valleys and elsewhere) from which the grapes are sourced. Even here, however, most of the vineyards supplying grapes are owned by members of the Zonte's Footstep partnership. The wine quality is as good as the prices are modest. Exports to all major markets.

2009 Zonte's Footstep Langhorne Creek Z-Force **94pts**

A blend of 85% Shiraz, 15% Petite Sirah (durif) from McLaren Vale that is true to the blend, the Petite Sirah adding a major dimension to the intensity of the jet black fruit flavors. An altogether strange but compelling wine, for you don't see the alcohol at any point.



2013 Winery of the Year

*James Halliday's
Australian Wine Companion*



Kilikanoon has travelled in the fast lane since its establishment in 1997, gaining 5-star status in the 2004 Wine Companion, five red stars in '08, moving to the ultimate red star/red name in 2012. This placed it among the best 100 wineries in Australia, yet this year ('13) it surpassed its prior history with 12 of its wines receiving 94 points or above.

Kevin Mitchell has been the winemaker since day one; in the 2001 Wine Companion its production was 3000 dozen, its vineyards six hectares in the Clare Valley, and it received a 4-star rating. One sign of the future may have been its exports to seven major markets, however small the quantities may have been.

Without any fanfare (although the Clare Wine Show '02 where it won six of the seven trophies on offer must have been a catalyst), production increased to 15 000 dozen (2005 Wine Companion), then 25 000 dozen (2006). Behind the scenes vineyards leapt from 20ha to over 300ha, and in August '07 Seppeltsfield was acquired by what I describe as the Kilikanoon Group, production of the latter rising to its present level of 40 000 dozen.

The investors who purchased Seppeltsfield via their control of Kilikanoon were led by Nathan Waks, Sydney Symphony principal cellist, and included Janet Holmes a Court. When she decided to sell her share in July 2009, Warren Randall struck, completing the circle started in the 1980s when he was enfant terrible at Seppelt (Great Western).

The Warren Randall wine group now has what has been called a 'cat's cradle' of 16 interlocking entities with 2266ha of vineyards, a crush of 16 000 tonnes and global sales of 117 000 dozen. Tinlins (McLaren Vale) and Fleurieu Vintners supply the volume, Kilikanoon and Seppeltsfield the icon wines, drawing on its own vineyards, supplemented by access to the Randall group's vineyards.

The prices for the top 12 Kilikanoon red wines range from \$33 (Clare Grenache) to \$250 for 145-year-old Attunga Vineyard Clare Valley Shiraz, the majority at a financially comfortable \$80. Kilikanoon has become a golden goose thanks to exceptional vineyard resources and small production runs of its best wines.