



OBC WINES TRUMP 4 OF THE 8 CATEGORIES IN THE SEPT 2013 WINE ENTHUSIAST ADVANCE BUYING GUIDE

Wine Enthusiast's Advance Buying Guide for September 2013 features a sizable collection of reviews on Australian wines by Joe Czerwinski. From the OBC family, the wines below received top honors, a great number of them the leaders their respective categories. In fact, the Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, White Blends and Cabernet Sauvignon sections were all trumped by wines from the OBC portfolio.

93pts EDITOR'S CHOICE Kilikanoon 2009 Blocks Road Cabernet Sauvignon

This is a dark, chocolaty Cabernet. It's full bodied and richly textured, with plenty of firm structure to support the layers of cassis, plum pudding and mocha flavors, then shows ample length to its velvety finish. Drink from 2015–2025.

93pts Cullen 2010 Kevin John Chardonnay

One of Australia's leading Chardonnays, this is wonderfully mouthfilling and fleshy, yet remains cool and sophisticated. Buttery, toasty and nutty notes accent grilled peach and pineapple flavors, all pulled together on the finish by a refreshing squeeze of lime-driven citrus.

93pts Leeuwin Estate 2009 Art Series Chardonnay

Leeuwin's 2009 is a worthy successor to the flamboyant 2008. While perhaps just a touch more restrained in aroma and flavor despite being higher in alcohol, it still shows off flashy notes of grilled peach and pineapple. As always, it's full bodied and luscious without being overblown, and has a lingering finish.

92pts CELLAR SELECTION d'Arenberg 2009 The Coppermine Road Cabernet Sauvignon

d'Arenberg's The Coppermine Road is always structured—sometimes to excess—but the 2009 vintage seems to have the requisite flesh to age successfully. Cedar, chocolate and cassis notes surround a firm core of dusty tannins. Drink from 2015–2025, and possibly beyond.

92pts CELLAR SELECTION d'Arenberg 2009 The Dead Arm Shiraz

As always, d'Arenberg's top Shiraz isn't all cuddles and charm. It's rather firm in texture, with rugged tannins that impart a dusty edge to the lengthy finish. But this vintage the fruit comes through clearer than it has sometimes in the past, bringing bright berry notes that marry well with hints of campfire smoke and grilled meat. Try a bottle after 2016.

91pts CELLAR SELECTION Plantagenet 2009 Shiraz

Darker, sterner and less accessible than Plantagenet's Omrah bottling, the winery's flagship Shiraz offers substantial dark fruit flavors reminiscent of espresso, plum and cracked pepper. The tannins are firm, suggesting at least 2–3 years of cellaring. (The 2007 is drinking well now.)

91pts EDITOR'S CHOICE Plantagenet 2010 Chardonnay

Hints of smoke, lemon curd and grilled pineapple mark the nose, while the flavors run along similar lines—from grilled peach and pineapple to crème brûlée. It's mouthfilling but gentle—a soft, caressing style of Chardonnay that's easy to sip again and again, thanks to a long-lingering citrus note on the finish. Drink now.



91pts CELLAR SELECTION Kilikanoon 2011 Mort's Reserve Watervale Riesling

Lean and tightly focused, this looks like one for the cellar—try it around 2018 if you can wait. Right now, it shows modest, restrained citrus fruit, hints of wet stone and a wickedly long, sinewy finish.

91pts Yarra Yering 2009 Dry Red Wine No. 2 Shiraz-Viognier

Vintage after vintage, this wine impresses for its complexity and balance, and the 2009 won't disappoint on those counts. It may not be the biggest, baddest Dry Red No. 2, but it features blueberry fruit and espresso and black olive shadings, a lovely supple texture and a softly lingering finish. Drink it over the next few years.

91pts Yarra Yering 2009 Underhill Shiraz

Savory, meaty notes marry nicely with plummy fruit and clove spice in this wonderfully supple example of Yarra Valley Shiraz. With extended aeration, this wine develops lots of smoky, ashy notes—a possible side effect of nearby bush fires—so I'd opt for drinking it over the next couple of years.

91pts Cullen 2010 Mangan Malbec-Petit Verdot-Merlot

Cullen's 2010 Mangan captures the great potential of the vintage. It's a youthful, juicy mouthful of berry fruit accented with cedar and vanilla oak, but where the wine really shines is its texture, which is richly silky, with a fine dusty quality reminiscent of cocoa powder or ground cinnamon. Drink it now and over the next several years.

90pts CELLAR SELECTION d'Arenberg 2009 The Wild Pixie Shiraz Roussanne

This is surprisingly tough and tannic for a wine that incorporates 8% of a white variety. But those mouth-drying tannins give shape to the cassis, cranberry and black olive notes. Take a chance by cellaring this rather austere wine for five years or so and see how it develops.

90pts EDITOR'S CHOICE Plantagenet 2010 Omrah Shiraz

An easy-drinking introduction to Shiraz from Western Australia's Great Southern region, the 2010 Omrah offers gentle cherry and cedar notes accented by hints of chocolate and roasted meat. It's medium to full bodied, with a round, supple mouthfeel that ends in a wash of softly dusty tannins.

90pts EDITOR'S CHOICE Cullen 2011 Cullen Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon

Despite its relatively low alcohol level, this comes across as reasonably mouthfilling and rich. Smoky notes from barrel fermentation emerge with air, accenting white nectarine and citrus fruit. It's one of the few blends of this type to show the textural interest of a good white Graves.

90pts Kilikanoon 2011 Mort's Block Watervale Riesling

This wine is already showing hints of evolution in its aromas of kerosene, toast and honey. Developing flavors of apple and citrus marmalade suggest that this dry, medium-bodied Riesling should be at its best now and over the next 5–6 years.

90pts Plantagenet 2011 Riesling

This impressive offering is crystal-clean and direct, with green apple, lime and petrichor notes that typify Riesling. It's medium bodied and fully dry, with a long, lime-riddled finish. Drink it over the next decade or so.