

Wine Spectator

AUSTRALIA ON THE MOVE:

After a period of market turmoil, quality is rising amid a tide of new wines.

August 31, 2013

Savvy Shopper

- 91pts** Brokenwood Pinot Noir 2012, Beechworth (\$22) "Black cherry, black tea; tangy"
- 90pts** d'Arenberg Roussanne The Money Spider 2011, McLaren Vale (\$25) "Generous; pineapple, cherimoya"
- 90pts** Leeuwin Art Series Riesling 2012, Margaret River (\$22) "Dry; peach, pear, mineral floral"

Australia on the Move

'Sleek, polished, **Giants Steps Chardonnay Yarra Valley Arthurs Creek Vineyard 2011 (93pts, \$42)** hints at tangerine peel and hazelnut accents.'

'Leeuwin Estate's revered **Art Series** bottling's; the **2010 vintage (95pts, \$89)** tops the **Chardonnay** list, displaying a knack for balancing rich expressiveness with supple texture, pouring out pear, green guava, fig and spice notes...'

Harvey Steinman's Recommended Wines from Australia

TOP WINES

- 95pts** Leeuwin Art Series Chardonnay 2010, Margaret River 2010 (\$89) - Aromatically tight, but expansive and expressive in the mouth, pouring out pear, green guava and fig flavors in a generous stream.
- 94pts** Cluster M45 Shiraz 2009, Heathcote (\$70) - Supple, polished and open-textured, with a green olive note adding interest to the dark plum and tobacco accents at the core.

TOP VALUES

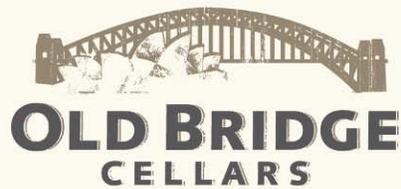
- 90pts** d'Arenberg The Hermit Crab Viognier Marsanne 2011, McLaren Vale (\$17) - Fresh and lively, with a spicy edge to the pear and pineapple flavors.

SMART BUYS

- 90pts** d'Arenberg The Hermit Crab Viognier Marsanne 2011, McLaren Vale (\$17) - Fresh and lively, with a definite spicy edge to the pear and pineapple flavors, lingering with a hint of apricot on the open finish.

BEST VALUES - CABERNET SAUVIGNON & BLENDS

- 90pts** Leeuwin Art Series Cabernet Sauvignon 2009, Margaret River (\$60) - A firm and crisp red, with chewy tannins, featuring plenty of dark berry and currant flavors and a hint of sassafras. Delivers a long and expressive finish.



88pts Leeuwin Prelude Vineyard Cabernet Merlot 2009, Margaret River (\$29) - A firm, vibrant and distinctive red, with dill and cilantro overtones around a core of dark berry and coffee flavors, lingering against refined tannins.

BEST VALUES - SHIRAZ & BLENDS

88pts d'Arenberg The Love Grass Shiraz 2010, McLaren Vale (\$20) - Fresh and open textured, with a tomato leaf and dried tomato edge to the berry flavors, lingering on the refined finish.

88pts Leeuwin Siblings Shiraz 2010, Margaret River (\$20) - Earthy notes add to the red fruit flavors in this medium weight, open textured style, finishing with refinement.

87pts Plantagenet Hazard Hill Shiraz 2010, Western Australia (\$13) - A jazzy style, with dark berry flavors and a hint of lime, dancing on the lively finish.

BEST VALUES - OTHER RED

91pts Brokenwood Pinot Noir 2012, Beechworth (\$22) - Tangy, with juicy black cherry and black tea flavors mingling around a lively core and dancing to an expressive, creamy finish. Shows depth and youth.

88pts Innocent Bystander Pinot Noir 2012, Yarra Valley (\$20) - Crisp, fresh and inviting, with dark berry and orange peel notes weaving through fine grained tannins, finishing with intensity.

BEST VALUES - WHITE & DESSERT

95pts Leeuwin Art Series Chardonnay 2010, Margaret River (\$89) - Aromatically tight, but expansive and expressive in the mouth, pouring out its pear, green guava and fig flavors in a generous stream, with glints of spice. Comes together smoothly on a deftly balanced frame to let the finish sail on and on.

92pts Brokenwood ILR Reserve Semillon 2007, Hunter Valley (\$48) - Light and silky, with pretty pear, lime, mineral and spice flavors coming together on the taut, almost fragile finish. This has depth and length without weight. Should develop more nuances with time.

91pts Leeuwin Prelude Vineyard Chardonnay 2011, Margaret River (\$36) - Fresh and lively, with vibrant acidity to balance the ripe pear and floral flavors hinting at clotted cream as the finish lingers.

90pts d'Arenberg The Money Spider Roussanne 2011, McLaren Vale (\$25) - Ripe, round and generous, offering flavors of pineapple and cherimoya. Finishes creamy and inviting.

90pts d'Arenberg The Hermit Crab Viognier Marsanne 2011, McLaren Vale (\$17) - Fresh and lively, with a definite spicy edge to the pear and pineapple flavors, lingering with a hint of apricot on the open finish.

90pts Leeuwin Art Series Riesling 2010, Margaret River (\$22) - Bright and jazzy, with lively peach, pear, mineral and floral flavors on a dry frame, lingering enticingly.

89pts d'Arenberg The Dry Dam Riesling 2012, McLaren Vale (\$17) - Fresh and vibrant, with juicy lime and a hint of celery around the green apple fruit, lingering on the dry finish.

89pts Leeuwin Siblings Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2012, Margaret River (\$20) - Bright and refreshing with pretty pear and nectarine fruit at the center, flecked by hints of white pepper and lime blossom.

88pts Innocent Bystander Pinot Gris 2012, Yarra Valley (\$18) - Light, crisp and dry, featuring tangerine accented peach flavors that finish with zip.

88pts Plantagenet Omrah Unoaked Chardonnay 2011, Great Southern (\$15) - Crisp in texture, this white shows spicy pear and quince flavors that ride easily over the refined acidity to a vivid finish.