

## Wine Spectator

December 2016



Tasting Highlights bring the best wines from our editors' most recent tastings to WineSpectator.com members.

South Australia is one of six Australian states, located in the south-central part of the continent. Grapes were first planted there in the mid-19th century by European settlers, and now the South Australian wine industry is responsible for more than half of all production of Australian wine. There are several different appellations and sub-regions within this large state, including Barossa, Clare Valley and McLaren Vale, producing a range of wines, from crisp Eden Valley Rieslings to the distinctive Cabernets of Coonawarra. This selection focuses on Shiraz- and Grenache-based wines, two of the most widely planted and widely popular grapes. Australia's reputation for generic, ripe and alcoholic wines should be kept in the rearview mirror. You'll see a variety of styles here, from dense, muscular, rustic and chewy wines, to more supple, crisp, elegant and polished versions. Impressively, most of these bottlings are in the \$20 range.

**90 pts d'Arenberg The Bonsai Vine 2011**

The black cherry, licorice and nutmeg flavors are robust and dense, set on a velvety frame, with a note of black walnut lingering. Grenache, Shiraz and Mourvedre.

**89 pts d'Arenberg The Custodian 2013**

Plump wild raspberry and blackberry flavors show a brambly, white pepper edge. Firm tannins turn appealingly chewy on the finish.

**89 pts d'Arenberg The Footbolt 2013**

Charming, with plenty of personality to the tangy dried cherry and cranberry flavors that show a juicy vibrancy, accented by touches of orange zest and spicy tobacco. The tannins are firm and rustic.

## The Wine Advocate

*June 2016*



### AUSTRALIA

#### **91 pts Leeuwin Estate Art Series Cabernet Sauvignon 2011**

Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon Art Series has a fragrant nose of crushed blackcurrants, blackberries and dried Provence herbs with hints of black pepper, cedar, menthol and undergrowth. Medium-bodied, it has a great core of muscular, youthful fruit with grainy, approachable tannins and a refreshing herbal lift to the finish.

### OREGON

#### **91 pts Dobbles Family Estate Chardonnay 2014**

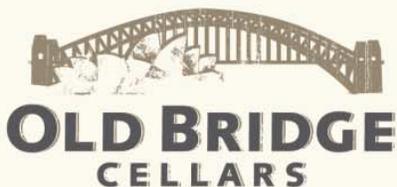
The 2013 Chardonnay sees 11 months in French oak (30% new) following five months in tank before bottling. It has an attractive bouquet that offers praline, white chocolate and almond scents that are neatly integrated with the new oak. The palate is well balanced with a sensual, soft texture counter-balanced by the acidity. It leads to a finish that offers lovely praline and hazelnut notes, and the aftertaste is persistent. This is a well crafted Chardonnay.

#### **89 pts Dobbles Family Estate Patricia's Cuvée Pinot Noir 2013**

The 2013 Pinot Noir Patricia's Cuvée, matured in 55% first fill barrels, has a well-defined bouquet with dark cherries, stewed black tea and wild hedgerow notes. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, a little chewiness that should be addressed with 12 months in bottle, and finishes with a generous pinch of black pepper and tobacco on the finish. This is a commendable wine of the vintage.

#### **89 pts Dobbles Family Estate Griffin's Cuvée Pinot Noir 2013**

The 2013 Pinot Noir Griffin's Cuvée has a sweet, rather high-toned bouquet that does not quite have the complexity of the Patricia's Cuvée of the Symonette Vineyard Pinots. The palate is well balanced with ripe blackberry and blueberry fruit belying what is a sturdily structured finish that will benefit from 12-18 months in bottle.



**88 pts Dobbles Family Estate Symonette Vineyard Pinot Noir 2013**

The 2013 Pinot Noir Symonette Vineyard sees ten months in French oak, 40% new. It has a straightforward redcurrant and cranberry-scented bouquet, a touch of balsamic emerging with time in the glass. The palate has a structured entry, gently gripping the mouth with broody dark berry fruit and a lightly spiced, clove-infused finish that needs more flesh to develop.

**87 pts Wine by Joe Pinot Gris 2014**

The 2014 Pinot Gris Wine By Joe, which sees no wood contact, has a commendable melon and dried honey-scented bouquet that is well defined. The palate is fat and generous, a Pinot Gris that cares little for finesse but gives lots of texture. Slightly chilled, I can imagine this offering a lot of pleasure on a summer's day.

