

Wine Enthusiast

Best of the Year 2017

December 2017



CALIFORNIA

94 pts Clos Du Val Estate Chardonnay 2015

New management, farming and winemaking practices at this producer, including a focus on smaller production, are remarkably on display in this delicious white. Golden pear and crunchy apple provide an unctuous, delightfully balanced experience that's crisp in underlying acidity and subtle baking spice.

AUSTRALIA

92 pts John Duval Annexus Grenache 2015

From ex-Penfolds winemaker John Duval and made in part from vines over 150 years old, this Grenache offers a complexity and depth. This favors dark fruit on the nose and is chock full of intriguing aromas of cumin, clove, chocolate, sandalwood and mint. The palate offers more of the same multifariousness, with added minerality reminiscent of hot stones and graphite.

92 pts/EDITORS' CHOICE Kilikanoon Killerman's Run Riesling 2015

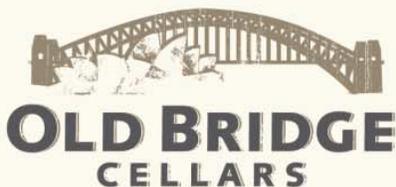
A pretty nose of lemongrass, lime leaf and a touch of mint are followed by a mouthwatering palate of wet stone, a chalky texture and a long lemony finish.

91 pts/EDITORS' CHOICE Kilikanoon Mort's Reserve Riesling 2016

Classic Clare Valley notes of blossoms, lime popsicle and kerosene are all here, along with apple skin and a chalky minerality. The palate offers more of the same and wonderfully balanced acidity, slight spice and a long, limey finish.

90 pts Occam's Razor Shiraz 2014

This is a herbaceous expression of Shiraz from the under-appreciated Heathcote region of Victoria, and made by Emily Laughton, daughter of the well-regarded Jasper Hill family. Mint and green herbs mingle with potpourri, juicy fruit, and charred oak characters. Tannins are tightly wound at the moment, but the wine is well balanced and here for the long haul. Drink 2020–2032.



89 pts Kilikanoon Mort's Block Riesling 2016

A bit more austere than some of Kilikanoon's other cuveés, Mort's Block is in it for the long haul. Still a baby, it currently shows lemon-lime characters, with kerosene and Barbie doll plastic. The palate is linear and supercitrusy.

89 pts Cullen Ephraim Clarke Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon 2015

From one of the region's leading producers and biodynamic rockstars, this wine stands out from the crowd. It offers apple tart, lemon rind and wild mint, with some floral soap notes. The acidity is present but not overpowering, balanced by some textural weight and an attractive citrus and spice finish.

89 pts/BEST BUY Shoofly Chardonnay 2015

This is an easy-drinking style, attractive in aromas of peach, pineapple, pressed yellow flowers, and butter that flow right into a light- to medium-weighted palate. A slightly chalky texture with more tropical fruit flavors carry to a spicy, vegetal finish.

88 pts Kilikanoon Killerman's Run Grenache-Shiraz-Mataro 2015

The French oak is prominent in this classic blend, but it's more or less balanced by ripe red fruit, sweet spice and hints of chocolate and smoke. The palate is medium to full bodied, red fruited, and finishes with charred, smokey flavors that last long.

CHILE

87 pts/BEST BUY Oveja Negra Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon-Syra 2014

Spicy plum, berry and herbal aromas cover the bases. This Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah blend is drawing and pulling on the palate. Raw, spicy flavors of toasty plum and herbs finish with a dominant note of wood spice.