

CHAMBERS ROSEWOOD NV GRAND MUSCADELLE



Review Summary

#24/TOP 100 AUS WINES of 2023 | 97 pts “A deep tawny-molasses hue. Old wines clearly involved in the meld. Scents of sticky date pudding, Indian spice rack, mahogany, walnut husk and ginger crystal. Delving deep, muscadelle’s fermented lime chutney DNA is loud and clear. An impenetrably dense wine. A chiaroscuro of dark and light, as a lilt of volatility imparts length and levity to the dense, saturated palate. Drink or hold. Indefinitely.”

Ned Goodwin MW, [JamesSuckling.com](https://www.jamesSuckling.com)
August 2023

97 pts “Although significantly cheaper than this historic producer’s Rare Muscadelle, the Grand proves equally delicious with excellent length and freshness. Walnut-hued with a pale rim, it’s rich and heady, billowing raisin, fig, coffee and chocolate-covered nuts dusted in cinnamon. Secondary notes of smoke and dusty library book add another layer of complexity. In the mouth it’s intensely sweet and unctuous, but there’s also a lovely tang of acidity, depth of flavor and a seemingly endless finish. An indulgent “sticky” alone or with a multitude of chocolate, nut or toffee-based desserts.”

Christina Pickard, Wine Enthusiast
December 2022

96 pts “Blended solera-style with material that goes back to World War I, this is heady and rich but never cloying. It opens with aromas of figs, milk chocolate, coffee beans and an earthy underbelly. The palate is luscious, cloaking the tongue in a satiny blanket until the acidity creeps in towards the end. It is a beautifully indulgent sticky, as the Aussie say, to sip fireside on a cold winter’s night with a dried fruit-studded dessert.”

Christina Pickard, Wine Enthusiast
July 2021

GOLD MEDAL

TEXSOM International Wine Awards 2020

98 pts “It’s the end of a day’s tasting, and there’s no way I’m going to spit out wines of this world-class quality. Malt, mocha, wild honey, caramel and every exotic spice you can think of - all these and more flavors blaze the mouth until you have swallowed it, when the aftertaste is wondrously fresh.”

James Halliday, Halliday Wine Companion
2020



93 pts “This is the ghost of a drippingly ripe summer peach, its wealth of sweet fruit now shaded in autumn tones of russet and scarlet-red, lasting on golden-raisin freshness. Steve Chambers blends this from barrels in his cellar dating back to World War I: It’s a massive, treacle-sweet wine to serve with candied hazelnuts and pecans, roasted walnuts or banana bread. All those flavors are there, wrapped up in the saturated texture of the wine.”

Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits
October 2020

92 pts “Showing all of aged Muscadelle’s chocolatey characters in both color and flavor, this solera-system wine from the Chambers family, drips in molasses, cocoa, raisiny fruit, nuts and tea leaves. The palate is rich and syrupy, but with enough acidity to keep you going in for another sip. Drink with an English Christmas pudding.”

Christina Pickard, Wine Enthusiast
February 2019

98 pts “It’s the end of a day’s tasting and there’s no way I’m going to spit out wines of this world class - indeed world beating - quality. Malt, mocha, wild honey, caramel and every exotic spice you can think of - all these and more flavors blaze the mouth until you have swallowed it, when the aftertaste is wondrously fresh.”

James Halliday, Australian Wine Companion
2018

94 pts “Powerful aromas of candied fig, cola, molasses and orange marmalade, along with suggestions of candied ginger, honey and brown sugar. Broad and weighty on the palate, offering intensely sweet preserved pit fruit, toffee and orange zest flavors that show impressive depth and energy. The orange and fig notes repeat emphatically on the extremely long, intensely sweet finish, which leaves behind a suggestion of gingerbread.”

Josh Raynolds, Vinous
October 2017

94 pts “Deep brown in color, this is a full-bodied, supersweet, thickly textured wine. Scents of rancio and maple sugar waft from the glass, while the flavors are brighter and fresher than expected, adding hints of citrus to the dark molasses and mocha notes.”

Joe Czerwinski, Wine Enthusiast
October 2016

96 pts “Spice and cardamom with hints of tobacco. This wine is driven by oxidative barrel aging instead of fresher fruit. Very long finish. Compelling stuff.”

Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com
August 12, 2016

95 pts “Deep, orange-tinged amber. A strikingly complex bouquet evokes an array of dried pit fruits, crème brûlée, candied fig and brown sugar, along with an exotic gingerbread overtone. Emphatically sweet, seamless and penetrating, offering orange marmalade, apricot preserve, toffee and membrillo flavors that completely stain the palate while showing surprising vivacity. Combines richness and vivacity with a deft hand and finishes extremely long and spicy, with lingering brown sugar and candied orange qualities that don’t let up.”

Josh Reynolds, Vinous
March 2016

90 pts “Sweet with date and brown sugar flavors, this is a bit of a pudding in its thick glycerol texture, saturating the palate with dense fruit and orange-water notes.”

Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits Magazine
October 2015

94 pts “Full bodied, rich and thickly textured, this is just a bit earthier and chunkier than Chambers’ Rare bottling, while still remaining an outstanding sweet wine. The flavors are dark, earthy and intense, with lots of candied date notes and a lingering finish of molasses.”

Joe Czerwinski, Wine Enthusiast
March 2015

94 pts “Deep amber with an orange edge. Explosive aromas of toffee apple, candied orange zest, honey and gingerbread, with a smoky topnote and a touch of candied ginger. Sappy, sweet and densely packed but showing unlikely vivacity to its lush pit fruit compote, vanilla and fruitcake flavors. Really stains the palate and finishes spicy, sweet and extremely long, with a hint of bitter orange and no rough edges.”

Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar
July/August 2014

95 pts “Deep amber color. A wild, highly perfumed bouquet evokes brown butter, candied fig, spicecake, orange pith, dried flowers and woodsmoke. Intensely sweet but lively, offering an array of candied pit and citrus fruit flavors and notes of toffee, caramel and quince paste. Clings with superb tenacity on the finish, which strongly echoes the orange, toffee and fig notes. As rich and intense as this wine may be, it’s almost shockingly lithe and precise as well.”

Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar
July/August 2013

94 pts “Bright orange-amber. Pungent, spicy aromas of burnt orange, candied ginger, toffee and candied dates, with a floral overtone. Sweet, deeply pitched citrus and pit fruit nectar flavors are complemented by notes of caramel and toasted nuts. Shows an intensely spicy character on the strikingly sweet, penetrating and endless finish, which leaves notes of gingerbread and caramel apples behind.”

Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar



July/August 2012

92 pts "Smooth, thick and unctuous, a dark swirl of walnut, coffee, chocolate and pineapple flavors that pick up hints of clove and white pepper as the finish lingers."

Harvey Steiman, Wine Spectator Insider
March 14, 2012

96 pts "Mahogany, with olive rim; intense tea leaf, toffee, fish oil and coffee varietal character, the flavors blazing in the mouth. Chambers' Grand is almost anyone else's Rare; 375 ml."

James Halliday's, Australian Wine Companion
2012

94 pts "Full amber. Aromas of dried apricot, honey, caramel, toffee and flowers. Deep, sweet candied pit fruit and burnt orange flavors are complicated by smoke and spice nuances, with zesty acidity adding lift. The orange and toffee notes repeat on the long, clinging finish."

Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar
September/October 2011

93 pts "Coffee- brown in color, with a hint of golden- yellow at the rim, Chambers Grand Muscadelle features intense aromas of caramelized walnuts and a pronounced rancio character, all tied together by molassesey sweetness. Viscous and wildly concentrated, it leaves a lasting impression on glassware palate alike."

Joe Czerwinski, Wine Enthusiast
February 2011

93 pts "Light brown with a green rim. Complex aromas of brown sugar, quince paste, saffron and dried flowers, with a deeper note of cola coming up with air. Broad, syrupy, caramelized pit fruit flavors become spicier with aeration, picking up notes of cinnamon and nutmeg. Extremely sweet but there's unlikely energy here as well. The finish leaves maple syrup and spicecake notes behind, eventually."

Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar
July/August 2010

96 pts "The NV Rosewood Vineyards Grand Muscadelle gives a very deep brown color with a hint of green in the rim. Revealing an alluring nose of treacle (molasses), toasted walnut, dried mulberries, Christmas pudding, dark chocolate, preserved mandarin peel and espresso, this is an incredibly rich and thick mouthful with a great backbone of fresh acidity to enliven. The finish goes on and on delivering a whole pantry of dried fruit and spice flavors. Who needs crumbly old dessert when you have nectar like this?"

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Robert Parker Wine Advocate
June 2010



95 pts "Dark brown in color, with coffee, cream, clove and walnut aromas and flavors lingering on the rich, opulent finish. Has amazing depth of flavor without extra weight. Drink now."

Harvey Steiman, Wine Spectator Insider
February 2010

97 pts "As has been noted in Issues 168 and 173, they are the product of a solera system so there is total consistency from year to year. The lower end wines are spectacular values and the Rare bottlings approach perfection. They should not be missed."

Jay Miller, Robert Parker Wine Advocate
December 2009

94 pts "Deep amber. Powerful aromas of toffee, toasted nuts, molasses and cherry pit, lifted by a hint of dried rose. Rich, fleshy and powerful, offering spicecake, cherry and cocoa flavors and a strong smoky quality. Denser than the Grand Muscat, with strong finishing thrust and lingering orange marmalade and spice character."

Josh Raynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar
September/October 2009

96 pts "The Non-Vintage Grand Muscadelle is amber/brown with aromas and flavors of toasted coconut, almonds, and chocolate (reminiscent of an Almond Joy candy bar), graham cracker, and fig. Remarkably, the wine comes off as elegant because of its superb acid balance."

Robert Parker Wine Advocate
February 2009

"The Old Tokay, not blended every year, comes from a "modified solera." The oldest is from the start of the twentieth century: The Chambers do not know its average age. Stephen describes the Chambers style as lighter and finer than the Morris style, because there is no fermentation nor skin maceration. The style of both the Old and Special Tokay is unbelievably complex and concentrated, with rancio, malt, molasses, and butterscotch aromas. The Special has more young material in the blend, so has a slightly fruitier character."

Neil Beckett, 1001 Wines You Must Taste Before You Die
2008

96 pts "The Non-Vintage Grand Muscadelle is amber/brown with aromas and flavors of toasted coconut, almonds, and chocolate (reminiscent of an Almond Joy candy bar), graham cracker, and fig. Remarkably, the wine comes off as elegant because of its superb acid balance. Chambers Rosewood Vineyards makes my short list of greatest fortified wine producers."

Robert Parker Wine Advocate
October 2007



92 pts "Tawny in color, with scents of caramel apples and toffee, this turns darker in tone, meaty, its flavors shadowed even as they remain firm and brisk. The complex contrasts are dark and resinous as hash, bright and honeys, balanced for a savory almond tart."

Wines & Spirits Magazine
February 2006

97 pts "Possesses a deep amber color as well as extraordinary concentration, and additional caramel, toffee, fig, prune, and raisin aromas and flavors. This incredibly rich, unctuous, full-throttle offering is never cloying because of its good acidity."

Robert Parker Wine Advocate
October 2004

98 pts "Deep olive-green. Very advanced, slightly varnishy nose is almost beyond rancio! Steeped in licorice, spices and leather. Unctuous, definitively oily, sweet and breathtakingly concentrated, yet manages to finish lively and fresh. Incredible, nearly perfect."

Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar
July/August 2003

99 pts "...extraordinary concentration of flavor, explosive aromatic fireworks...an orgasmic smorgasbord of flavors. They are almost unbelievable in their richness and aromatic complexity. Life's too short not to drink at least a few glasses of William Chambers' fortified Muscats and Tokays."

Robert Parker Wine Advocate
October 2002

99 pts "It is amazing how many sensational efforts emerge from this country. This luxurious offering possesses such extraordinary unctuousity, thickness, complexity, and richness that it must be tasted to be believed. It is not just a big, thick sugar ball, because it has sound underlying acidity as well as remarkable complexity and freshness. A spoonful or two is enough for most non-gluttons to appreciate the riveting heights this cuvee represents. The wine possesses notes of smoke, roasted nuts, coffee, brown sugar, maple syrup, prunes, honey, fruitcake, overripe orange/apricots, and remarkable spicy characters. This is a riveting example of a fortified dessert wine that I enthusiastically recommend ... In summary, life is too short not to try this wine ... a true Australian treasure."

Robert Parker Wine Advocate
June 2001