

HARVEY STEIMAN'S 25 BENCHMARK WINES OF AUSTRALIA

The tasting notes below are those for the currently available vintage; the wines are arranged alphabetically by producer. For complete reviews, see the Buying Guide of this or previous issues or the Wine Ratings search at www.winespectator.com.

WINE	SCORE	PRICE	WINE	SCORE	PRICE
BAROSSA VALLEY ESTATE Shiraz Barossa Valley E&E Black Pepper 2003 Round and juicy, with cherry, blackberry and floral flavors, lingering on the finish with a touch of dark espresso. Polished tannins. Balanced, graceful and harmonious.	94	\$85	JASPER HILL Shiraz Heathcote Georgia's Paddock 2005 Bright and distinctly peppery on the nose. Savory and appealing for its polished frame and range of dark berry flavors against notes of cedar and coffee.	91	\$75
JIM BARRY Shiraz Clare Valley The Armagh 2004 Bright and jazzy, with a red pepper edge to the cherry, green olive and spice flavors that linger against very fine tannins and lively acidity on the long finish.	92	\$140	KAESLER Old Bastard Barossa Valley 2004 A big but graceful Shiraz, with ripe cherry, blackberry, pomegranate and cardamom mingling beautifully on the rich, expressive finish.	95	\$135
BETTS & SCHOLL Grenache Barossa Valley The Chronique 2005 Vivid, with a burst of blackberry and black currant flavors on a lithe frame. Lingers against refined tannins, with a floral, creamy note on the finish.	92	\$39	LEEUWIN Chardonnay Margaret River Art Series 2003 Rich, ripe and seamless, with real elegance. Citrusy pineapple, guava, pear and spice play over a polished frame; could gain in depth with age.	94	\$80
ROLF BINDER Shiraz Barossa Valley Hanisch 2005 Supple, generous and long, with delineated blueberry, plum and blackberry fruit shaded with hints of clove and white pepper. Finishes with a creamy texture.	94	\$108	MOUNT HORROCKS Cordon Cut Clare Valley 2005 Sweet and rich, yet beautifully lifted with lacy acidity. Passion fruit, lime and green plum weave through the Riesling fruit.	94	\$30 350ml
BINDI Chardonnay Macedon Ranges Quartz 2005 Lithe and focused, with pure nectarine, grapefruit and lime flavors that sail over a layer of vibrant acidity with finesse and grace.	92	\$55	PENFOLDS Shiraz South Australia Grange 2002 Lithe, almost subtle, a dense, powerful wine with plum and currant fruit and nuances of pepper, coffee and saffras. Finishes with vibrant acidity.	95	\$250
WOLF BLASS Shiraz Barossa Platinum Label 2004 Dark and juicy. Harmonious and complex, with a welcome lift of acidity to the blackberry, cherry and licorice flavors, persisting on the fleshy finish against fine tannins.	93	\$85	PETALUMA Chardonnay Piccadilly Valley Tiers 2002 Elegant, almost delicate, then the flavors kick in with melon, quince, citrus and a touch of hazelnut against judicious acidity.	95	\$64
CLARENDON HILLS Astralis Clarendon 2005 A supple, graceful and focused Syrah. Its whoosh of blackberry, cherry, dusky spice and clotted cream character zig across the palate, with hints of espresso and mineral.	96	\$325	ROCKFORD Shiraz Barossa Valley Basket Press 2002 Dense and chunky, with gritty tannins around plump black cherry, raspberry and blackberry flavors. Exotic spice and a meaty note persist on the firm finish.	91	\$70
DEVIL'S LAIR Chardonnay Margaret River 2005 Bright and effusive. Generous with its nectarine-scented apple and mineral flavors, lingering beautifully on the fine-textured finish.	91	\$23	ROSEMOUNT Syrah McLaren Vale Balmoral 2002 Smooth, with lively acidity to balance the expressive cherry and blueberry fruit, Toasty, spicy notes add interest. Has depth and focus.	92	\$50
DOMAINE TERLATO & CHAPOUTIER Shiraz Pyrenees Malakoff 2005 Expressive, with an open texture, and good acidity keeping it refreshing and balanced. Flavors center on smoky, licorice-scented black cherry and mineral.	93	\$40	SHAW & SMITH Chardonnay Adelaide Hills M3 Vineyard 2005 Bright and juicy, a lively mouthful of lemon, star fruit and subtle spices, lingering on the exuberant finish.	91	\$29
ELDERTON Shiraz Barossa Command Single Vineyard 2003 Big, ripe and generous. Cherry, spice and mineral flavors rush on the finish yet stay in perfect balance. Has depth and grace.	94	\$78	TAPANAPPA Cabernet-Shiraz Wrattobully Whalebone Vineyard 2004 Distinctively spicy, with warm, earthy overtones to currant, black cherry and nutmeg aromas and flavors. Generous finish, with firm tannins.	93	\$65
GROSSET Riesling Clare Valley Polish Hill 2006 Vibrant and steely, with a ramrod backbone supporting its floral pear, apple and melon flavors, lingering on the citrusy finish.	92	\$33	TORBRECK RunRig Barossa Valley 2004 Firm in texture, raw around the edges but juicy underneath, brimming with blueberry, blackberry and a distinct floral note. Shiraz and Viognier.	94	\$220
HENSCHKE Shiraz Eden Valley Hill of Grace 2001 Supple, round and distinctive for the way it balances gamy, meaty notes with rich fruit and spice. Black cherry, dark plum and clove character in abundance.	95	\$375	TWO HANDS Ares Barossa Valley 2005 A majestic Shiraz, aromatic, dense yet refined. Coffee and dark chocolate shade ripe plum, blueberry and currant flavors, hinting at smoke and licorice on the finish.	98	\$150
			YALUMBA Grenache Barossa Valley Hand Picked Tricentenary Vines 2005 Lithe, open-textured and appealing for its ripe cherry and blackberry flavors, hinting at guava as the finish lingers softly.	90	\$30