

standout wines of 2025

Each rated Outstanding or Exceptional with scores of 95 points or higher, these 45 wines are some of the Tasting Team's highlights from the 2025 Companion.

SPARKLING



2021 Hungerford Hill Dalliance, Tambarumba

Terrific intensity through the length of the palate. Ripe lemon flavours with fresh cream nuances plus a tiny hint of cashew. The bead is fine and energised. A crescendo of flavour on the finish makes it a highly satisfying fizz to savour and enjoy. Detailed and long. TP 12% alc. **RRP \$50 / Drink 2026 / Hungerford Hill ★★★★★** hungerfordhill.com.au

RIESLING



2023 Brangayne of Orange Riesling, Orange

Fruit sourced from the Ynys Witrin Vineyard. This half-dry style opens up with juiced green apple, honeydew melon and finger lime. Greengage plums and kiwi skin. Crystalline chalk and beach sand. The wine almost glimmers with attractiveness. Succulence in its coconut water refresh and saline across the palate. A spray of orange blossom on the finish. This, once again, is impossible not to love. SW 11% alc.

RRP \$35 / Drink 2030 / Brangayne of Orange ★★★★★ brangayne.com



2023 ChaLou Wines Riesling, Orange

Lemon sherbert, key lime pie, yellow guava and orange blossom. Delightfully fresh and vibrant with a real undertow of sweetness and succulent acidity. Like the tide receding before a tsunami before a wave of wild citrus, orchard apples and stony, grey slate minerality. There is a peach fuzz like fur of phenolics and a long flavour length. A scintillating wine, utterly delectable and impossible to put down. SW 11.5% alc.

RRP \$36 / Drink 2033 / ChaLou Wines ★★★★★ chalowines.com.au



2023 Dandelion Vineyards Enchanted Garden of the Eden Valley Riesling, Eden Valley

Pure and enchanting, there seems to be a little more concentration with this release, the freshly squeezed lime and Bickford's tones carrying a little more weight and perhaps a little more nuance as well. Hints of honeysuckle, citrus blossom, dried honey, crushed stone and almond paste. There's a nice squeak of grapefruit pith texture in the mix too, sapid, lacy acidity and a touch of green apple to the finish, long and dry, as is the norm with this wine. DB 11.5% alc.

RRP \$27 / Drink 2033 / Dandelion Vineyards ★★★★★ dandelionvineyards.com.au



2023 Meadowbank Wines Riesling, Tasmania

The beautiful Meadowbank on the upper Derwent River is primarily a grape grower, with 52ha of vines employed in various ways since 1976; only enough for 800 dozen directed to wines contract-made by Peter Dredge. It's such a ravishing wine, as rich and deep as it is pure and fine. Redefines citrus. JH 11.5% alc.

RRP \$39 / Drink 2043 / Meadowbank Wines ★★★★★ meadowbank.com.au



2023 Robert Stein Vineyard Dry Riesling, Mudgee

The majority of fruit is sourced from their estate vineyard at 580m above sea level in Mudgee. Delicate lilies of the valley meet freesia and star jasmine. A bouquet of pretty white blooms. Zested limes in a creamy cheesecake filling, sugar almonds and salt flakes. It slithers on the palate with the glide of a viper, and acidity strikes with its tail. It's pulpy and heavenly. Another outstanding vintage of this Mudgee beauty. SW 11% alc.

RRP \$40 / Drink 2035 / Robert Stein Vineyard ★★★★★ robertstein.com.au



95 2023 Wine x Sam The Victorian Riesling, Goulburn Valley

Sam Plunkett first made his name as a riesling maker. Attention to detail is his mantra, and it shows. There's an intensity of lime, grapefruit, green apple and spice, which is steely, concentrated and completely invigorating. It goes to every nook and cranny of the wine, in tandem with racy acidity that works the tastebuds. Taut and crisp with a tangy finish. So good. JP 11% alc.

RRP \$24 / Drink 2033 / Wine x Sam ★★★★★

CHARDONNAY



2022 Domaine Naturaliste Purus Chardonnay, Margaret River

Before putting down words to describe this exceptional wine, I just kept tasting and tasting it. Oh, OK, I did drink it, being the last wine of the day. A reward, then. This is scintillating thanks to the purity of fruit, the superfine palate led by pristine acidity with a little saline twang to it. There's texture, a light phenolic tug to the finish; this offers complexity and delicious drinking in equal measure. JF 12.8% alc.

RRP \$62 / Drink 2032 / Domaine Naturaliste ★★★★★ domainenaturaliste.com.au



2022 Logan Wines Ridge of Tears Chardonnay, Orange

Star jasmine and mock orange blooms. Lemonade fruit, white peach and nashi pear. A burst of elevated acidity, pithy grip and a long flavour line. Almond nougat, sandstone and pear skin. A touch of sparkler flint and vanilla buttermilk icing. Poised and elegant. SW 12.5% alc.

RRP \$50 / Drink 2030 / Logan Wines ★★★★★ loganwines.com.au



2022 Winmark Wines Single Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay, Broke Fordwich

Gorgeous, sweet stone-fruit enhanced with lemon-butter tones and citrusy acidity. Although the wine has a sweet-fruited entry, it finishes with pleasing savouriness. A beautiful aqueous clarity on the finish, making it refreshing and cleansing. It is a thoroughly modern chardonnay, well made with impeccable balance. TP 12.5% alc.

RRP \$62 / Drink 2029 / Winmark Wines ★★★★★ winmarkwines.com.au



2022 Woodlawn Waverley Vineyard Chardonnay, Tasmania

The cooler of the two Woodlawn chardonnay sites, Waverley is located just to the east of Launceston. It's a finer, tauter rendition of the grape variety. There's still the sea spray influence, but there's also the crispness of mountain air. White peach, nectarine and citrus with tones of fine spice, cut fennel, wildflowers, crushed stone, ozone and almond paste. There's an ache of umami on the palate, the most lovely porcelain acid line pulling the wine along and a finish with just a tint of meal to its form. Great drinking. DB 13% alc.

RRP \$75 / Drink 2030 / Woodlawn ★★★★★ woodlawnwine.com.au

OTHER WHITES



2018 Brokenwood ILR Reserve Semillon, Hunter Valley

This wine is an unmistakable ILR and is one of the season's highlights. Alluring smoky tones and hints of lanolin adorn the ripe, lemony fruit. The sweet-natured palate is generous, flavoursome and powerful with moreish lemon butter tones. The rate of progression in this wine is driven by the warmth of the '18 season. That said, it is no less lovely, and the upside is that it's ready to drink now, so you won't need to wait years to enjoy it. TP 10.8% alc.

RRP \$120 / Drink 2028 / Brokenwood ★★★★★ brokenwood.com.au



2022 Flowstone Wines Sauvignon Blanc, Margaret River

Now, this is how I like my sauvignon blanc – vivacious yet textural and moreish as there's savoury complexity here thanks to fermentation in old, large oak barrels and ceramic eggs. Hints of preserved lemon, lime, lemon verbena and sliced ginger with grapefruit pith and beeswax. There's depth across the palate with the lees adding creaminess and toasted nuts flavour, plus adding shape. Yum. JF 12.5% alc.

RRP \$36 / Drink 2030 / Flowstone Wines ★★★★★ flowstonewines.com



2022 Stormflower Vineyard Wilyabrup Chenin Blanc, Margaret River

The label states just 322 bottles made; fruit off the estate's organic vineyard. Get it while you can as it has lots of charm: Packam pear and skins, a touch of quince with an umami hit of miso and luscious lees. The all-important acidity keeps this very tidy. JF 13.2% alc.

RRP \$42 / Drink 2029 / Stormflower Vineyard ★★★★★ stormflower.com.au



2023 Briar Ridge Vineyard Albariño, Hunter Valley

This is a beautifully bright wine with star fruit, ripe green apple and fresh pear flavours. The mid-palate has a lovely texture from extended lees ageing, and the acidity is perfectly integrated. There is a hint of savouriness and pleasing length. TP 12.5% alc.

RRP \$35 / Drink 2026 / Briar Ridge Vineyard ★★★★★ briarridge.com.au



2023 First Creek Wines Limited Release Small Batch Vermentino, Hunter Valley

A stunning example of Australian vermentino, and one of the best I have tried. Fragrant lemon top notes with a hint of lime blossom. The palate is citrusy and bright, with flecks of dried mandarin peel plus barely perceptible savouriness, adding interest and depth. Pleasing texture, back-palate drive and excellent integration of the elements. Sourced from the historic Roxborough Vineyard in the Upper Hunter Valley. TP 11.9% alc.

RRP \$40 / Drink 2026 / First Creek Wines ★★★★★ firstcreekwines.com.au



2023 First Creek Wines Single Vineyard Murphy Vineyard Semillon, Hunter Valley

First Creek took over the caretaking of this Lovedale region vineyard, planted in fine, pink, sandy loam on the side of a creek bed, from the De Bortoli family in '18. The aromatics are glorious, reminiscent of citrus drinks on summery days and hints of warm jasmine. The laser-focused palate is powerful and punchy with long, lemony flavours. It has excellent purity and a cleansing finish. This is an intense, youthful wine at the beginning of its journey. TP 11.5% alc.

RRP \$70 / Drink 2035 / First Creek Wines ★★★★★ firstcreekwines.com.au

GRENACHE & BLENDS



2023 Aravina Estate Limited Release Grenache, Margaret River

Margaret River and grenache – it's a love story in the making. So fragrant and flavoursome with roses, raspberry leaves, some red licorice and a hint of dried raspberry powder (used in cake baking). But this is not at all sweet or mawkish on the palate. It's savoury, with sandy tannins and superfine acidity, and it offers such a compelling finish, you'll be back for another glass, and another. JF 13.8% alc.

RRP \$33 / Drink 2031 / Aravina Estate ★★★★★ aravinaestate.com

standout wines 2025

(continued)



2019 d'Arenberg The Ironstone Pressings Grenache Shiraz Mourvèdre, McLaren Vale

This a powerful expression from a dry and warm year, but it's leavened with some suppleness of texture and an energy of delivery – when given air. It has a hard-won quality, with craggy, rocky mineral notes and scrubby dried herbs, fruit notes both red and black – savoury but not desiccated – cured meats, licorice and tar. The tannins have the commanding house signature, but there is a certain refinement here, a succulence not always on show. ME 15% alc.

RRP \$78 / Drink 2032 / d'Arenberg ★★★★★
darenberg.com.au

PINOT NOIR



2023 ChaLou Wines Pinot Noir, Orange

With 50% whole bunch. Bing cherries, black raspberry and Davidson plum. Thistle and winter pine, rosemary and anise. Compact in black fruit pulp, while acidity chugs along with silky skin tannins. There is olive fleck with black sesame and clove. Lovely middle-palate structure, restraint on oak use and a meaty quality. This shows Orange pinot in its purest form with substance and a good interplay of structural integrity. SW 13% alc.

RRP \$40 / Drink 2028 / ChaLou Wines ★★★★★
chalouwines.com.au



2022 Yering Station Reserve Pinot Noir, Yarra Valley

A light, bright ruby red. Ultra fragrant with its aromas of red cherries, cranberry, blood oranges, rose petal, nutmeg shavings and a dusting of cinnamon. And while it's light on its feet, the flavours keep building on the palate, which finishes with silky, persistent tannins on the lingering finish. A wine that's destined to provide considerable pleasure over the next six to eight years. PR 12.7% alc.

RRP \$130 / Drink 2030 / Yering Station ★★★★★
yering.com

SHIRAZ & BLENDS



2021 Balnaves of Coonawarra Shiraz, Coonawarra

Fruit is sourced from the Paulownia and Vortmann Vineyards. Fermented with 28% whole bunches and matured in large-format French oak (34% new) for 13 months. A bouquet of baked boysenberries, mulberries and ripe cherries followed by a concoction of baking spices, caraway, vanilla and cardamom. Pumpernickel bread, pressed prune pits and black olive. The acidity is perfectly poised like a tiger ready to spring with silky tannins that draw out the length of flavour on the palate. It is wholesome in its generosity and yet svelte in its frame. A class act and astonishing for the price. SW 14.5% alc.

RRP \$28 / Drink 2028 / balnaves.com.au
Balnaves of Coonawarra ★★★★★



2022 Brokenwood Vineyard Shiraz, Hunter Valley

This is an ultra-stylish, well-made Graveyard with tightly coiled fruit and a serious demeanour. In fact, it would be easy to miss its greatness, especially alongside riper styles, if one wasn't paying attention. Quiet and reserved with a youthful crimson hue, the fruit is tensioned within an intricate matrix of acidity and tannin. With aeration, one sees exotic black cherry characters nestled within a dense, sculpted, savoury palate. It's a slender, majestic shiraz that has grace and restrained power. It will be an extremely long-living wine, and I can't wait to see how it transforms with time. One for the future. TP 13.2% alc.

RRP \$420 / Drink 2052 / Brokenwood ★★★★★
brokenwood.com.au



2022 Boydell's Shiraz Viognier, Hilltops

Co-fermented shiraz and viognier. A beautiful mix of richness and freshness with outstanding fruit purity, as frequently seen from vintage '22. It is beautifully fragrant, with a melange of red and black berries, tensioned by acidity and underpinned by savouriness. An outstanding debut blend. TP 14.5% alc.

RRP \$45 / Drink 2034 / Boydell's ★★★★★
boydells.com.au



2022 HEAD Wines The Blonde Barossa Shiraz, Barossa

Flaxman Valley fruit, 98/2% shiraz/viognier, matured for 18 months on fine lees in 20% new French oak. Deep magenta-splashed crimson in hue. Aromas of ripe, juicy plum and boysenberry fruits with secondary fruity tones of nectarine and apricot flitting in and out of the olfactory periphery. Hints of five-spice, teacake, olive tapenade, citrus blossom, earth, vanillin oak, graphite and pressed flowers. A voluptuous fruit presence, powdered granitic tannins and a gorgeous outflow of ripe, spiced plummy fruit that slowly fades. DB 14.5% alc.

RRP \$55 / Drink 2038 / HEAD Wines ★★★★★
headwines.com.au



2022 HEAD Wines The Brunette Barossa Shiraz, Barossa

Shiraz from a single site; a 1965-planted block in Flaxman Valley, 10% whole bunch, matured on fine lees for 18 months in 20% new 500L French oak. Super deep magenta-flashed crimson. Such a beautiful-smelling wine. Pure and lifted plum and blue fruits with tones of citrus and clover blossom, fine spices, sage, ironstone, jasmine and earth. Powdered granitic tannins seem to flocculate through the wine; the fruit, pure and endearing, shows grace and presence, mineral cadence providing the perfect amount of thrust, finishing long and purely dark-fruited. A great release for Alex. DB 14.5% alc.

RRP \$75 / Drink 2038 / HEAD Wines ★★★★★
headwines.com.au



2021 HEAD Wines Wilton Hill Barossa Ranges Shiraz, Eden Valley

Alex Head's flagship shiraz from the 1965 plantings of the Wilton Hill Vineyard at 480m elevation in the Barossa Ranges, wild ferment, 30% whole bunch and 17 months in 25% new Troncais barriques. Deep crimson with beautiful dark and black fruits, deep and resonant with hints of baking spice, plum compote, cedar, licorice, tobacco, sage, pressed wildflowers and earth. The Troncais oak rolls in with a bit more volume on the palate, the fruit is just lovely, and the finish is like a roll of thunder, fading off into the distance slowly. Superb. DB 14% alc.

RRP \$175 / Drink 2043 / HEAD Wines ★★★★★
headwines.com.au



2021 Hare's Chase Lepus, Barossa Valley

The Hare's Chase icon shiraz, Marananga-born and rich in aroma and flavour also shows some really nice restraint, detail and elegance, which is always nice to see. There's a deep spice and ironstone frame to the wine, plush plum and black fruits drape comfortably off its shoulders along with hints of baking spice, clove, fruit-and-nut chocolate, cedar, tobacco and earth. It has a composed feel, savoury in shape with fine, silty tannins and notes of plum, wood spice, panforte and tapenade as it trails away. DB 14.5% alc.

RRP \$178 / Drink 2028 / Hare's Chase ★★★★★
hareschase.com



2021 Langmeil Winery The Freedom 1843 Shiraz, Barossa Valley

Shiraz sourced from a gnarled old patch of 177-year-old vines at the Langmeil estate in Tanunda; 26 months in French oak. A great release of the Freedom from the strong 2021 vintage. Deeply coloured with superb depth of fruit, concentration, texture and balance. Deeply resonant blackberry and dark plum fruits, packed with layers of spice, licorice, dark chocolate, roasting meats and earth. It's got a wonderful flow on the palate. Rich and elegant with a real sense of latent power, compact tannins and a finish that shows great persistence and carry. A good bet for the cellar. DB 14.8% alc.

RRP \$200 / Drink 2048 / Langmeil Winery ★★★★★



2021 Mount Langi Ghiran Langi Shiraz, Grampians

Grown on the estate's 'Old Block' of shiraz vines, planted in 1969. It spent 16 months in French oak barriques (50% new). It's a magnificent release. It's fluid, elegant and controlled but, just a bit, it also stamps its feet and says: the world is mine. It's awash with cherry/plum, peanut shell, black pepper and floral flavours, and it's both silken to the touch, and (super) long through the finish. This is a wine. CM 14.8% alc.

RRP \$210 / Drink 2044 / Mount Langi Ghiran ★★★★★
langi.com.au



2021 Oliver's Taranga Vineyards HJ Shiraz, McLaren Vale

From 1948-planted estate vines, indigenous ferment, matured in French oak (35% new). This has classic stylings, richly supple fruit, dusty, earthy scents and dark spices, but the house refinement is also on show. It's like an old snapshot, artfully coloured. Black and blue fruits, Christmas spices, crème de mure, coffee crema and dark cocoa. There's richness and a supple flex to the palate, oak suitably matched, tannins cleansingly savoury. It's a very smart release. ME 14.5% alc.

RRP \$85 / Drink 2034 / Oliver's Taranga Vineyards ★★★★★
oliverstaranga.com



2022 Oliver's Taranga Vineyards Ihana Shiraz, McLaren Vale

A collaboration between Oliver's Taranga and Finnish Formula 1 driver Valtteri Bottas, this was picked from two blocks (vines 35 and 10 years old) and matured in French oak (20% new). It's woven from a different cloth to the other pinnacle bottlings at this address. Brightly fruited – blackberry, plum and cherry – and sleek, a little reductive presently, with a sheen of classy oak and feeling less earthy and rugged than the older vine HJ. (Ihana is a superlative, translating as 'wonderful' or the like, by the way.) This is a fine expression, rich but streamlined and oh-so polished. It's a fine debut. ME 14.5% alc.

RRP \$80 / Drink 2032 / Oliver's Taranga Vineyards ★★★★★
oliverstaranga.com



2020 Schubert Estate Goose-yard Block Shiraz, Barossa Valley

Shiraz sourced from the Block 2 vineyard at Schubert's Roennfeldt Road estate in Marananga. It's a traditionally framed Barossan wine with ripe plum, kirsch and cassia fruit tones wrapped in hints of fruitcake spice, olive tapenade, roasting meats, leather, dried tobacco leaf, cedar and dried cranberry. There's a soothing, calming flow to the proceedings, fine silty tannins and elegant dark and black fruits, oak spice and dried meats as the wine slowly fades. DB 15% alc.

RRP \$150 / Drink 2035 / Schubert Estate ★★★★★
schubertestate.com



2021 Angove Family Winemakers Warboys Vineyard Shiraz Grenache, McLaren Vale

From 50-year-old vines, with the shiraz hand picked and chilled for a week prior to the grenache, then co-fermented as crushed berries; additionally, there was a portion of grenache fermented with some whole bunches. This is an excellent expression, gifted elegance from a cooler year, and with varieties interlocking seamlessly, an appealing scrubby herbal note permeating the wild blackberry, tart boysenberry, ripe cranberry and dried cherry fruit notes, bay leaf, white pepper and iron accenting. The balance is impeccable, the feel both inviting and savoury. ME 14.5% alc.

RRP \$75 / Drink 2032 / Angove Family Winemakers ★★★★★
angove.com.au



2018 d'Arenberg The Old Bloke & The Three Young Blondes Shiraz Roussanne Viognier Marsanne, McLaren Vale

The shiraz is from the oldest (100+ year old) estate vines and crushed on top of roussanne, viognier and marsanne (1% each); matured in old French oak. Though modest in proportion, the trio of white Rhône grapes appears to have a softening effect, perhaps adding a lilt of floral fragrance? Perhaps. Either way, this is powerful expression equipped with some serious tannins, but there's a relative levity and suppleness, too. Damson, blackberry pastille, dried black cherry, cacao nibs, brown cardamom, cassia, mace and clove. This is built to age with tannic drive, so time will be its ally, but all is proportionate and aligned, so a vigorous decant does the trick. ME 15% alc.

RRP \$200 / Drink 2032 / d'Arenberg ★★★★★
darenberg.com.au



2022 Sweetwater Wines Shiraz, Hunter Valley

One is immediately drawn to this wine by the extraordinary aroma that leaps from the glass. Its dried cherry, cacao nib, and Moroccan spice notes are alluring and mysterious. It has both richness and clarity, achieved through attentive viticulture and skilful winemaking. Fragrance, richness and brightness are the hallmarks of this impressive, moreish wine. TP 13.5% alc.

RRP \$70 / Drink 2032 / Sweetwater Wines ★★★★★
sweetwaterwines.com.au

standout wines 2025

(continued)



2022 Mérite Wines Shiraz Malbec, Wrattobully

Boysenberry, wild raspberry and prune plums. You need to peer into the depth of this wine to slowly unveil it – a swift decant, perhaps. There is a plethora of spice with cardamom, tonka bean and a tempered snap of dark chocolate. A violet lift with mahogany, boot polish and cigar box. The palate is seductive, with a river of running acidity and powdery tannins that persist and make for a serious wine. It's quite deceptive in its exotic persona but has the stuffing to go the distance. A wine that really does reward the more you drink it. SW 14.5% alc.

RRP \$45 / Drink 2033 / Mérite Wines ★★★★★
meritewines.com

CABERNET SAUVIGNON & BLENDS



2021 Balnaves of Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon, Coonawarra

Fruit was sourced from the Walker and Dead Morris Vineyards, matured in French oak (36% new) for 13 months. A mix of Berger, Tarasaud and Sylvian cooperages. Cassis berries, dark bilberries and juniper spice. Plush black mulberries and thistle. Black sesame, potting soil and cassia bark. The lift of perfectly ripe cabernet berries is tangible in this elongated palate; it stretches both vertically and lengthwise. Oak allows the compact fruit to unfurl and shine. This will only continue to open and evolve. SW 14% alc.

RRP \$40 / Drink 2035 /
Balnaves of Coonawarra ★★★★★
balnaves.com.au



2020 Peter Lehmann Mentor, Barossa

The Mentor consistently ranks up there at the pointy end of Barossa cabernets. There are some dried herbal tones in there, but that plush tide of blackberry, black cherry and blueberry fruit, showing impressive weight and depth, is the star of the show. Hints of baking spice, licorice, olive tapenade, chocolate, tobacco, espresso and cedar wrap things up nicely; fruit opulent and full; tannins fine and firm and just waiting for a few years in the cellar to really strut its stuff. DB 14.5% alc.

RRP \$45 / Drink 2043 / Peter Lehmann ★★★★★
peterlehmannwines.com



2021 Thompson Estate The Specialist Cabernet Sauvignon, Margaret River

Ultimately, a barrel selection, with the wine aged 14 months in French barriques (percentage of new not known), but no matter how a flagship wine comes to be, it must be a wine of note. And it is, coming together well and offering all the hallmarks of Margaret River cabernet – the cassis and mulberries, the flutter of herbs and a certain elegance across the palate. Fuller bodied, and richly flavoured, with the cedary oak adding to the wine's shape without taking over. JF 14% alc.

RRP \$95 / Drink 2036 / Thompson Estate ★★★★★
thompsonestate.com



2022 Ferngrove The Stirlings Bluff Knoll Cabernet Shiraz Malbec, Great Southern

The top-of-the-tree release from Ferngrove. This is elegant, refined and superbly balanced. Pleasing to see fruit at the forefront, dark cherry, red plum, pomegranate and mulberry with a gentle slick of cinnamon-clove spice, faint nougat and milk chocolate. Superb perfume, wonderful at medium weight, with all the fruit, spice and seasoning detail, a sense of freshness, lithe tannin profile and a vibrancy all up. It extends wonderfully too. Utter charm here, and so vivid as a red wine. A delight. MB 13% alc.

RRP \$90 / Drink 2035 / Ferngrove ★★★★★
ferngrove.com.au



2022 Briar Ridge Vineyard Limited Release BDX, Wrattobully

A unique, captivating blend of cabernet sauvignon, shiraz, barbera, cabernet franc and malbec creates a beautifully aromatic and flowing red wine. Heady and exotic with dark chocolate, Turkish delight, mulberry, rhubarb and pink guava. Fragrant crushed herb accents add freshness and lift. The grapes are sourced from estate vineyards in Wrattobully. Each variety is fermented separately and blended prior to maturation. It is drinking beautifully now, though will reward mid-term cellaring. TP 14% alc.

RRP \$40 / Drink 2030 / Briar Ridge Vineyard ★★★★★
briarridge.com.au



2021 Robert Stein Vineyard The Kinnear Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz, Mudgee

A blend of cabernet sauvignon (93%) and shiraz (7%); 30% whole berries and fermented for 15 months in French oak hogsheads (50% new). A nod to the legacy of the past, this wine captures the essence of Mudgee with consideration towards its bright future. Dark cherries, blackberries and cola spice. Caraway seed, carob and clove. It drinks classically, with firm tannins, savoury undergrowth and potting soil elements and a long, spiced finish. It gives and gives, this wine. Share it with someone you love, preferably someone wise, and learn something from their teachings. SW 14% alc.

RRP \$97 / Drink 2030 / Robert Stein Vineyard ★★★★★
robertstein.com.au

OTHER REDS



2022 Aravina Estate Wildwood Ridge Reserve Merlot, Margaret River

An impressive merlot that has structure and detail, not just plummy, lovely flavours. The latter is augmented by baking spices, cedary oak and dark chocolate, while the fuller-bodied palate comes complete with plush tannins, a richness throughout and a fineness to the acidity. Very good now even if more time in bottle is advisable – just to round everything out. JF 13.8% alc.

RRP \$55 / Drink 2032 / Aravina Estate ★★★★★
aravinaestate.com



2022 Dandelion Vineyards March Hare of the Barossa Mataro, Barossa

Marananga-sourced mataro with a bit of whole bunch action going on; matured in French and American oak for 20 months. Some nice pressed purple flower top notes hover over the plush plum, cherry and mulberry fruits. Hints of exotic spice, a touch of garrigue, amaro herbs, biltong, dates, turned earth and fruit and nut chocolate. The oak peels back into the fruit, the tannin is fine and sandy and there's a blackberry pastille edge to the acidity as the wine trails off. DB 14.5% alc.

RRP \$60 / Drink 2035 / Dandelion Vineyards ★★★★★
dandelionvineyards.com.au