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OUR WINES IN THE PRESS: JULY

James Halliday's Wine Companion

Our producer's results from the 2012 Edition

As you may have heard - if not, where the hell have you been? - the oracle has spoken. To the usual excitement and clamour, James Halliday's Australian Wine Companion 2012 was released this week. For marketing purposes or simply for personal interest below we offer a rundown of the great and the greater from the Bibendum portfolio.

This is not an exhaustive list. Please contact us for a full digest of results from our producers.



All Notes © James Halliday 2011

SPINIFEX

2009 INDIGENE (LIMITED)

1ST/BEST OF THE BEST SHIRAZ AND FAMILY

"Deep purple-crimson; there is a bottomless well of ripe black fruits on the bouquet and velvety rich, medium-to full-bodied palate, and no hint of elevated alcohol or dead fruit; wonderful complexity and length, and tantalising glimpse of what the wine will offer over the coming decades. Mataro/Shiraz. Screwcap." 97 points.

2009 LA MALINE

1ST/BEST OF THE BEST SHIRAZ VIOGNIER

"Slightly more colour than Bete Noir; the fragrant bouquet is more lifted and fruit-focused, the elegant, medium-bodied palate with impeccable balance and length, the tannins very fine. Shiraz. Screwcap." 96 points.

2010 LOLA

"Bright, gleaming straw-green; an exceptionally complex Marsanne/Semillon/Roussanne/Ugni Blanc/Viogner blend, but with an overall finesse and harmony, due at least in part to the fresh, cleansing citrus fruit on the finish of the long palate with its mix of dried and fresh fruit flavours. Screwcap." 94 points.

2009 BETE NOIR

"Deep purple-crimson; the bouquet is very complex,

with dark fruits, Asian spices including garam masala, the medium-bodied palate, flavour complex, but also with an open weave texture; finishes with a spicy, savoury flourish. Shiraz. Screwcap." 94 points.

BANNOCKBURN

2007 S.R.H CHARDONNAY

"Superb green-yellow; an exceptionally intense chardonnay, with awesome drive to the white peach, grapefruit and cashew, the finish long and fresh as a spring day. Let the cork gods be kind." 97 points.

2008 GEELONG CHARDONNAY

"Bright straw-green, a remarkable wine that has spent 2 years on lees in a mix of big and small French oak and stainless steel, with one-third going through mlf; still intensely focused and brightly flavoured, with great length; deserves a screwcap or at least, Diam, for it will quite certainly outlive its closure. Cork." 96 points.

2007 SERRE PINOT NOIR

"Better hue than the '08 Pinot; here the alcohol is even lower, yet the wine has more focus and concentration, the super-close planting naturally playing a role; there is distinct minty (rather than stemmy) overlay to the fruit that I don't object to, although others may; the length and texture are very good indeed. Pinot Noir. Cork" 95 points.

BINDI

2010 COMPOSITION CHARDONNAY

"From the '88 plantings on a quartz/alluvial and volcanic soils; tasted only a month after bottling, already has an imperious presence; there is a strong stony/minerally base for the grapefruit/stone fruit melange on both bouquet and palate, oak relegated to the far corners of the mouth." 95 points.

2010 COMPOSITION PINOT NOIR

"Crystal clear shortly after bottling; classic Bindi line, length and balance; a fragrant, scented bouquet, then red and black cherry fruit on the very long palate, the tannins superfine but reassuringly persistent. The wine verges on precocity, and it is easy to see why it is released a year earlier than other Bindi pinots. Diam." 94 points.

2010 PYRETTE HEATHCOTE SHIRAZ

"Purple-crimson; spicy, perfumed aromas of black cherry and plum yield to a powerful, full-bodied palate with black fruits, cracked pepper and abundant tannins; fermented in 1-tonne vats with wild yeast, then 1 year in French oak. Leave it alone for 5 years. Diam." 94 points.

EDEN ROAD

2009 CANBERRA SHIRAZ

"Vivid colour; a heady mixture of spice and black fruit perfume, showing truffle, roasted meat, char and spice; the palate is densely packed, chewy and serious in nature, yet over time reveals a silky, soft and intriguing combination of spice and fruit; beautifully detailed, with rapier-like acidity drawing out the finish, this wine is another example of just how good Canberra District can be. Screwcap." 97 points.

2009 THE LONG ROAD TUMBARUMBA CHARDONNAY

"Pale, bright straw-green; a wine that is all about texture and structure; whole-bunch pressed direct to used French barriques, part wild ferment, part mlf, extended lees stirring; accelerates through the palate to the finish and aftertaste. Screwcap." 94 points.

2009 THE LONG ROAD HILLTOPS CANBERRA BARBERA CABERNET SAUVIGNON

"Good colour, an intriguing blend of red and black fruits plus lifted spicy nuances, the palate with cherry and blackberry swathed in superfine tannins; 12

months in French oak puncheons has hit the jackpot. Drink any time over the next 5 years. Screwcap." 94 points

GREENSTONE

2008 HEATHCOTE SHIRAZ

"Right up there with the best of prior Greenstone releases, an exercise in refined elegance; the colour is excellent, the red and black cherry fruit aromatic and lively, the tannins smooth, the oak perfectly balanced and integrated, the natural acidity underlining the fresh finish. Classic medium-bodied red, inviting the second glass, not just the second taste. Screwcap." 96 points, James Halliday.

2008 ROSSO DI COLBO HEATHCOTE SANGIOVESE

"Some colour development, but still very healthy; sangiovese is not meant to be more than medium-bodied at most, its appeal coming through its fine, complex web of savoury cherry fruit, part sour, part not, the cedary/silky tannins tying the parcel together. Screwcap." 94 points.

LAUGHING JACK

2008 GREENOCK BAROSSA VALLEY SHIRAZ

"Deep crimson-purple; a dense, power-packed wine with formidable black fruits backed by dark chocolate and a neutral pathway of savoury characters. Needs to back off, and will do so over the decades ahead. Screwcap." 94 points, James Halliday, 2012 Wine Companion

MAC FORBES

2010 RS20 TASMANIA RIESLING

"Light straw-green; a beautifully fragrant Riesling with flowers and spice on the bouquet, then a super-elegant palate, the residual sugar perfectly balanced by acidity; the citrus/apple fruit will sustain the wine for the long-term future. Screwcap." 94 points.

OAKRIDGE

2010 YARRA VALLEY FUME

"A 58%/42% Sav Blanc/Semillon blend from the Slaty Creek and Oakridge Vineyards; whole bunch-pressed to old oak barrels and wild-yeast fermented; intense and pure, it is finely structured and perfectly balanced, the finish long and dry. Screwcap." 95 points.

2009 OAKRIDGE 864 YARRA VALLEY SYRAH

“Crimson-purple; spice, pepper, sage, red and black fruits come together on the medium-bodied palate with fine tannins and some French oak in support; some bacon bone and oak nuances appear on the bouquet, and reappear on the finish. Screwcap.”

94 points.

TEUSNER

2008 AVATAR

“Great colour; has greater structure, complexity and density than the deliciously juicy '09 Joshua; there is an array of licorice, poached blood plum, spice and polished leather on the bouquet and perfectly balanced palate; finished with ripe, soft tannins. Grenache/Mourvedre/Shiraz. Screwcap.” 95 points.

2009 THE INDEPENDENT SHIRAZ MATARO

“Bright, clear colour; the bouquet is fragrant and full of red fruit aromas, the very well balanced palate with luscious (not jammy) fruit offset with savoury tannins. A 50%/50% blend with a very humorous label. Screwcap.” 94 points.