

**U3A Castlemaine Wine Appreciation Group
7 February 2019
Wines and food presented by Russell A**

Setting the Standard

The purpose of this night is to present iconic wines that will allow members to understand and appreciate the varietal characteristics of each wine.

Wines were selected which had won awards, trophies or had reached gold medal standard.

Members are encouraged to take specific note of each type of wine as it is proposed to conduct a blind tasting later in the year.

RIESLING

Peter Lehmann 2013 Wigan Limited Release Masters Eden Valley Riesling

The Masters wines are named in honour of a person or event that has played an intrinsic role in the Peter Lehmann story, and released with bottle age to capture the wines' full potential. Wigan Riesling is a testament to our former Chief Winemaker, who revolutionised white winemaking and championed the Riesling. This is one of our most celebrated wines.

A mature wine with remarkable youth on the palate. Great fruit purity with a crisp, dry finish.

Sourced from 2 low yielding vineyards in the Eden Valley grown on rocky, shallow limestone soils to produce an elegant style showing clean minerality.

Palate displays great fruit purity with lemon and lime flavours overlaid with toasted brioche and honey characteristics from bottle age.

SAUVIGNON BLANC - NEW ZEALAND

Cloudy Bay 2018 Marlborough

For its 34th vintage, Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc reaffirms its outstanding quality. Cloudy Bay has built a reputation for refined, elegant Sauvignon Blanc and the 2018 vintage is no exception thanks to the stable weather during the harvest. A Sauvignon Blanc of the highest quality

Fresh and bright on the nose with aromatics of bright citrus, kaffir lime, orchard fruits and passion fruit.

The palate is concentrated and mouth-watering and delivers a generous palate of ripe citrus, stone fruit and lemongrass flavours balanced by crunchy acidity. Fruit and subtropical characters are underpinned with a fine minerality and meyer lemon acidity.

SAUVIGNON BLANC - AUSTRALIA

Shaw and Smith 2018 Adelaide Hills

2018 is the 29th vintage that Shaw + Smith has made. It has become known as a benchmark for Adelaide Hills, and Australian, Sauvignon Blanc.

Typically it shows a pink grapefruit character, concentration and mid-palate texture, 2018 was a standout year giving us well-balanced acidity and good flavour development in the pink grapefruit, lavender spectrum.

Huon Hooke - Gourmet Traveller Wine - September 2018

This is an outstanding Aussie sauvignon, perhaps the best that Shaw + Smith have made. It is superbly fragrant and fresh, scented with lemon, lime, grapefruit and floral touches. The palate follows on from there, crisp and dry, intensely fruity and fresh, light but powerful, with refreshing qualities. Passionfruit is there but not too overt. It's intense, delicate and light on its feet, begging another sip.

CHARDONNAY

Evans and Tate Butterball Chardonnay 2017 Margaret River

Bright golden green with a fresh green rim

Ripe stone fruit, melon and pear with intense shortbread, brioche and toasted bread notes from time spent maturing on yeast lees.

Rich, full and seamless. Creamy, ripe stone fruits fill the mouth on entry, with lovely shortbread and brioche flavours adding richness and complexity. This full flavoured wine is a classic style that rewards with long flavours and length but remaining in complete balance from the first sip to the last drop.

James Halliday :

Matured, but not fermented in, it would seem, oak, the expansive and seductive array of white peach, nectarine and a wisp of fig making any additional oak strictly redundant. The Butterball name is unexpectedly appropriate, even though that isn't necessary.

SEMILLON

Tyrrell's Wines Single Vineyard Stevens Semillon 2011 Hunter Valley

Semillon grapes that were grown on Neil Stevens' Glenoak vineyard. This vineyard is entirely dry grown with the oldest vines being planted in 1911. This undulating vineyard is situated on a combination of light sand and red clay soils.

Complex mineral and flint aromas with a palate that has good length. Tyrrell's Stevens Semillon has wonderful balance between the fresh citrus flavours of youth and the aged 'toasty' characters. It is great with seafood dishes.

A semi-mature Hunter semillon with a prominent citrus fruit profile. Bright colour with a youthful green hue. The nose shows only a hint of toasty bottle age development behind its prominent citrus fruit profile. This wine already shows all the characteristics of a semi mature Hunter semillon, with its wonderful balance between youth and age. A core of citrus fruit, with the palate just starting to fill out with some bottle age and the acid beginning to soften into what is a seamlessly structured wine.

The nose shows fresh citrus and floral characters associated with this vineyard. The palate is dominated by lime characters with a mineral edge showing good length with a soft, approachable acid structure.

PINOT NOIR

Bay of Fires Pinot Noir 2016 Tasmania

Bay of Fires Pinot Noir is always produced in such limited quantities, you need to get in quick to secure some. It isn't hard to see why Tasmania is quickly gaining a reputation as one of Australia's greatest cool-climate Pinot regions with wines like this Bay of Fires Pinot Noir.

Showing ripe cherry, spice and leafy tones with soft, velvety tannins to complete the stylish package.

The perfume of this wine is very complex. Sweet ripe strawberry fruit feature with Chinese spice - star anise, cinnamon plum blossom. Although elegant and supple, the wine shows remarkable power, intensity and length on the palate. Framed by ripe, moderate tannin the graceful sweet strawberry fruit is complemented but not dominated by spice.

MALBEC

Bleasdale Generations Malbec 2016 Langhorne Creek

Our Generations Wines celebrate multiple generations of family involvement and grower relationships. Bleasdale has been producing Malbec table wine since 1961 and has multi-generational expertise with this tricky variety. Individual vineyard blocks are picked and crushed separately before maturation and blending.

This wine is dark purple with intense aromas of violets, blackberries, plums and clove spice held together with assertive but velvety tannins. A long, rich, opulent palate complemented and underscored by toasty oak.

SHIRAZ

Tokar Estate Shiraz 2017 Yarra Valley

Tokar Estate is undoubtedly one of the rising stars of the Yarra Valley and this winery continues to attract some high acclaim.

Tokar Estate wines are well structured but retain the elegance the Yarra Valley is renowned for. All our wines are single vineyard and estate grown. They are nurtured from vineyard to bottle by winemaker Martin Siebert and the Tokar family.

A Yarra Valley Shiraz "inspired more by Northern Rhone than Barossa", this is a wine of rare structure and fruit intensity. The palate has both volume and length; the abundance of fruit flavours are coated in spice with as juicy raspberries intermingle with cedar, myrtle and soft, subtle tannins on the finish. An exceptional cool-climate Shiraz that is deserving of the accolades it's already received.

Cool-climate to a tee, this is drenched with violets, pepperberries, spice, cedar and tar. The fruit is very much on the raspberry side at this early stage in its life, but it will certainly unfurl into something great with time in bottle. Classic Yarra Shiraz, and not dissimilar to the great wines of Yarra Yering.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Nugan Estate Alcira Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 Coonawarra

This wine is a classic Coonawarra all the way.

A nose of mint and blackcurrant, tastes of cassis and mocha. Over two years in wood, and time in bottle soften the tannins leaving just a gentle grip. Fine tannins ensure a smoother body and texture, with light fruity flavours and subtle notes of citrus delivering a beautifully balanced palate.

Winemaker Notes

Deep purple with vibrant hues. Enticing dark fruit aromas of blackcurrant and mulberry mixed with a hint of mint and eucalypt entwined gracefully with earthy tones and mixed spice. Intense flavours of dark berries, vibrant cassis fruit and velvety tannins beautifully melded with subtle oak accompaniment.