

## 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](http://www.winespectator.com).

WINE	SCORE	PRICE	WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>BAROSSA VALLEY ESTATE Shiraz Barossa Valley E&amp;E Black Pepper 2003</b> 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	<b>JASPER HILL Shiraz Heathcote Georgia's Paddock 2005</b> 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
<b>JIM BARRY Shiraz Clare Valley The Armagh 2004</b> 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	<b>KAESLER Old Bastard Barossa Valley 2004</b> A big but graceful Shiraz, with ripe cherry, blackberry, pomegranate and cardamom mingling beautifully on the rich, expressive finish.	95	\$135
<b>BETTS &amp; SCHOLL Grenache Barossa Valley The Chronique 2005</b> 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	<b>LEEUWIN Chardonnay Margaret River Art Series 2003</b> 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
<b>ROLF BINDER Shiraz Barossa Valley Hanisch 2005</b> 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	<b>MOUNT HORROCKS Cordon Cut Clare Valley 2005</b> Sweet and rich, yet beautifully lifted with lacy acidity. Passion fruit, lime and green plum weave through the Riesling fruit.	94	\$30 350ml
<b>BINDI Chardonnay Macedon Ranges Quartz 2005</b> Lithe and focused, with pure nectarine, grapefruit and lime flavors that sail over a layer of vibrant acidity with finesse and grace.	92	\$55	<b>PENFOLDS Shiraz South Australia Grange 2002</b> 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
<b>WOLF BLASS Shiraz Barossa Platinum Label 2004</b> 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	<b>PETALUMA Chardonnay Piccadilly Valley Tiers 2002</b> Elegant, almost delicate, then the flavors kick in with melon, quince, citrus and a touch of hazelnut against judicious acidity.	95	\$64
<b>CLARENDON HILLS Astralis Clarendon 2005</b> 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	<b>ROCKFORD Shiraz Barossa Valley Basket Press 2002</b> 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
<b>DEVIL'S LAIR Chardonnay Margaret River 2005</b> Bright and effusive. Generous with its nectarine-scented apple and mineral flavors, lingering beautifully on the fine-textured finish.	91	\$23	<b>ROSEMOUNT Syrah McLaren Vale Balmoral 2002</b> Smooth, with lively acidity to balance the expressive cherry and blueberry fruit, Toasty, spicy notes add interest. Has depth and focus.	92	\$50
<b>DOMAINE TERLATO &amp; CHAPOUTIER Shiraz Pyrenees Malakoff 2005</b> 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	<b>SHAW &amp; SMITH Chardonnay Adelaide Hills M3 Vineyard 2005</b> Bright and juicy, a lively mouthful of lemon, star fruit and subtle spices, lingering on the exuberant finish.	91	\$29
<b>ELDERTON Shiraz Barossa Command Single Vineyard 2003</b> Big, ripe and generous. Cherry, spice and mineral flavors rush on the finish yet stay in perfect balance. Has depth and grace.	94	\$78	<b>TAPANAPPA Cabernet-Shiraz Wrattenbully Whalebone Vineyard 2004</b> Distinctively spicy, with warm, earthy overtones to currant, black cherry and nutmeg aromas and flavors. Generous finish, with firm tannins.	93	\$65
<b>GROSSET Riesling Clare Valley Polish Hill 2006</b> Vibrant and steely, with a ramrod backbone supporting its floral pear, apple and melon flavors, lingering on the citrusy finish.	92	\$33	<b>TORBRECK RunRig Barossa Valley 2004</b> Firm in texture, raw around the edges but juicy underneath, brimming with blueberry, blackberry and a distinct floral note. Shiraz and Viognier.	94	\$220
<b>HENSCHKE Shiraz Eden Valley Hill of Grace 2001</b> 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	<b>TWO HANDS Ares Barossa Valley 2005</b> 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
			<b>YALUMBA Grenache Barossa Valley Hand Picked Tricentenary Vines 2005</b> Lithe, open-textured and appealing for its ripe cherry and blackberry flavors, hinting at guava as the finish lingers softly.	90	\$30