



**Robert Parker's**  
**Wine Advocate**

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**The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine**  
**RATING SYSTEM**

Robert Parker's rating system employs a 50-100 point quality scale. It is my belief that the various twenty (20) point rating systems do not provide enough flexibility and often result in compressed and inflated wine ratings. THE WINE ADVOCATE takes a hard, very critical look at wine, since I would prefer to underestimate the wine's quality than to overestimate it. The numerical ratings are utilized only to enhance and complement the thorough tasting notes, which are my primary means of communicating my judgments to you.

- 96-100** An extraordinary wine of profound and complex character displaying all the attributes expected of a classic wine of its variety. Wines of this caliber are worth a special effort to find, purchase, and consume.
- 90-95** An outstanding wine of exceptional complexity and character. In short, these are terrific wines.
- 80-89** A barely above average to very good wine displaying various degrees of finesse and flavor as well as character with no noticeable flaws.
- 70-79** An average wine with little distinction except that it is soundly made. In essence, a straightforward, innocuous wine.
- 60-69** A below average wine containing noticeable deficiencies, such as excessive acidity and/or tannin, an absence of flavor, or possibly dirty aromas or flavors.
- 50-59** A wine deemed to be unacceptable.

**TASTING NOTES AND RATINGS**

When possible all of my tastings are done in peer-group, single-blind conditions, (meaning that the same types of wines are tasted against each other and the producers' names are not known). The ratings reflect an independent, critical look at the wines. Neither price nor the reputation of the producer/grower affect the rating in any manner. I spend three months of every year tasting in vineyards. During the other nine months of the year, six and sometimes seven-day workweeks are devoted solely to tasting and writing. I do not participate in wine judgments or trade tastings for many reasons, but principal among these are the following: (1) I prefer to taste from an entire bottle of wine, (2) I find it essential to have properly sized and cleaned professional tasting glasses, (3) the temperature of the wine must be correct, and (4) I prefer to determine the time allocated to the number of wines to be critiqued.

The numerical rating given is a guide to what I think of the wine vis-à-vis its peer group. Certainly, wines rated above 85 are very good to excellent, and any wine rated 90 or above will be outstanding for its particular type. While some have suggested that scoring is not well suited to a beverage that has been romantically extolled for centuries, wine is no different from any consumer product. There are specific standards of quality that full-time wine professionals recognize, and there are benchmark wines against which others can be judged. I know of no one with three or four different glasses of wine in front of him or her, regardless of how good or bad the wines might be, who cannot say, "I prefer this one to that one." Scoring wines is simply taking a professional's opinion and applying some sort of numerical system to it on a consistent basis. Scoring permits rapid communication of information to expert and novice alike.

The score given for a specific wine reflects the quality of the wine at its best. I often tell people that evaluating a wine and assigning a score to a beverage that will change and evolve in many cases for up to 10 or more years is analogous to taking a photograph of a marathon runner. Much can be ascertained but, like a picture of a moving object, the wine will also evolve and change. Wines from obviously badly corked or defective bottles are retasted, since a wine from a single bad bottle does not indicate an entirely spoiled batch. Many of the wines reviewed have been tasted many times, and the score represents a cumulative average of the wine's performance in tastings to date. Scores, however, do not reveal the important facts about a wine. The written commentary that accompanies the ratings is a better source of information regarding the wine's style and personality, its relative quality vis-à-vis its peers, and its value and aging potential than any score could ever indicate.

Here then is a general guide to interpreting the numerical ratings:

**90-100** is equivalent to an **A** and is given only for an outstanding or special effort. Wines in this category are the very best produced of their type. There is a big difference between a **90** and **99**, but both are top marks. As you will note through the text, there are few wines that actually make it into this top category because there are not many great wines.

**80-89** is equivalent to a **B** in school and such a wine, particularly in the **85-89** range, is very, very good; many of the wines that fall into this range often are great values as well. I have many of these wines in my personal collection.

**70-79** represents a **C**, or average mark, but obviously **79** is a much more desirable score than **70**. Wines that receive scores between **75** and **79** are generally pleasant, straightforward wines that lack complexity, character, or depth. If inexpensive, they may be ideal for uncritical quaffing.

Below **70** is a **D** or **F**, depending on where you went to school. For wine, it is a sign of an imbalanced, flawed, or terribly dull or diluted product that will be of little interest to the discriminating consumer.

In terms of awarding points, my scoring system gives every wine a base of 50 points. The wine's general color and appearance merit up to 5 points. Since most wines today are well made, thanks to modern technology and the increased use of professional oenologists, they tend to receive at least 4, often 5 points. The aroma and bouquet merit up to 15 points, depending on the intensity level and dimension of the aroma and bouquet as well as the cleanliness of the wine. The flavor and finish merit up to 20 points, and again, intensity of flavor, balance, cleanliness, and depth and length on the palate are all important considerations when giving out points. Finally, the overall quality level or potential for further evolution and improvement-aging merits up to 10 points.

Scores are important for the reader to gauge a professional critic's overall qualitative placement of a wine vis-à-vis its peer group. However, it is also vital to consider the description of the wine's style, personality, and potential. No scoring system is perfect, but a system that provides for flexibility in scores, if applied by the same taster without prejudice, can quantify different levels of wine quality and provide the reader with one professional's judgment. However, there can never be any substitute for your own palate nor any better education than tasting the wine yourself.

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<b>CAPE D'ESTAING</b>	<b>2004 SHIRAZ</b>	<b>KANGAROO ISLAND</b>	<b>(\$45.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>CAPE D'ESTAING</b>	<b>2004 SHIRAZ "ADMIRAL'S RESERVE"</b>	<b>KANGAROO ISLAND</b>	<b>(\$125.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>93</b>
Cape d'Estaing rates 100 points for its breathtaking location on Kangaroo Island south of Adelaide. The fruit is entirely sourced from a 25-acre estate vineyard located on the north coast of the island. The 2004 Shiraz was aged for 24 months in 84% new oak, predominantly French. Purple-colored, it has an alluring perfume of toasty oak, smoky bacon, violets, blueberry, and plum. This is followed by a medium-bodied wine exhibiting some elegance. It offers spicy blue and black fruit flavors, excellent depth,					
<b>CASCABEL</b>	<b>2005 MONASTRELL</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$30.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>CASCABEL</b>	<b>2005 SHIRAZ</b>	<b>FLEURIEU PENINSULA</b>	<b>(\$32.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>CASCABEL</b>	<b>2005 TEMPRANILLO - GRACIANO</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$30.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>CASCABEL</b>	<b>2005 TIPICO</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$23.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>92</b>
Cascabel is a 5 hectare estate, 4 of which are planted to nine varieties. It is the project of Duncan Ferguson and Susana Fernandez, a native of Madrid. The goal is to put a Spanish face on McLaren Vale wines. The 2005 Tipico is composed of 40% Grenache, 40% Monastrell, and 20% Shiraz produced entirely from estate-grown fruit. It was barrel-fermented and aged for 15 months in used French oak puncheons. Opaque purple-colored, it exhibits a complex bouquet of cedar, Asian spice, damp earth, white pepper, kirsch, and blueberry compote. This leads to a full-bodied wine with a velvety texture, complex cherry and dark fruit flavors, ripe tannin, and a long, pure finish. Drink this value-priced wine over the next 6-8 years. The 2005 Monastrell is super-fragrant with notes of smoke, earth, mushroom, blackberry, and blueberry. Supple and sweet in the mouth, with gobs of black cherry, plum, and spicy black fruit flavors, this hedonistic effort has a 60+ second, fruit-filled finish. Difficult to resist now, it has the stuffing to evolve for 5-7 years and will drink well through 2025. By the way, Susana Fernandez says that her model for this wine is Finca Luzon in Jumilla, the Spanish D.O. known for its superb					
<b>CAT AMONGST THE PIGEONS</b>	<b>2006 CABERNET SAUVIGNON</b>	<b>BAROSSA VALLEY</b>	<b>(\$15.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>CAT AMONGST THE PIGEONS</b>	<b>2006 SHIRAZ</b>	<b>BAROSSA VALLEY</b>	<b>(\$15.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>CAT AMONGST THE PIGEONS</b>	<b>2006 SHIRAZ - CABERNET SAUVIGNON</b>	<b>BAROSSA VALLEY</b>	<b>(\$15.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>CAT AMONGST THE PIGEONS</b>	<b>2006 SHIRAZ - GRENACHE</b>	<b>BAROSSA VALLEY</b>	<b>(\$15.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>91</b>
Cat Amongst the Pigeons is a new label owned by Rosedale Wines, a subsidiary of Barossa Vines Ltd. The fruit is 100% estate grown from a single vineyard in Rosedale, a small village in the center of Barossa. It is surrounded by Torbreck, Two Hands, Greenock Creek, Rolf Binder, and Kalleske, hence the name cat amongst pigeons. The wines offer a serious challenge to the Marquis-Philips and Mollydooker "The Lefty Series" in the under \$20 category. The winemaker for the project is Mark Jamieson, a classmate of Sparky Marquis' at Roseworthy, Australia's equivalent of U.C. Davis. The wines receive only modest oak treatment, 30% aging in a combination of new and second use barrels. The 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon is purple/black colored with an expressive bouquet of spice box, black raspberry, black cherry, and black currant that jumps from the glass. This leads to a full-bodied, rich Cabernet with loads of sweet fruit and a long finish. It will evolve for 2-3 years but who will want to wait? The 2006 Shiraz (75%) - Cabernet Sauvignon (25%) has a nearly impenetrable color. The aromatics offer brooding black fruits, tar, espresso, and licorice. On the palate it borders on opulent with gobs of sweet fruit, ripe flavors, and a remarkably long, pure finish. The 2006 Shiraz (70%) - Grenache (30%), a portion of which came from 120-year-old Grenache vines, is deeply colored with a complex array of scorched earth, kirsch, black cherry and blueberry aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, supple-textured, and built for pleasure, this tasty wine has terrific depth and length. Drink it over the next 4-6 years. The 2006 Shiraz is opaque purple with an alluring nose of spice box, pepper, blueberry, and blackberry. Opulent on the palate, this full-bodied wine has layers of flavor, ripe fruit, excellent balance, and enough structure to evolve for a few years. However, only masochists will want to defer their gratification for more than a few minutes after purchase. All four of the Cat Amongst the Pigeon wines offer phenomenal value. Importer: Bacchus Imports, Dundalk, MD; Tel (410) 633-0400					
<b>CHAMBERS ROSEWOOD VINEYARDS</b>	<b>N.V. GRAND MUSCADELLE</b>	<b>RUTHERGLEN</b>	<b>(\$140.00; 375 ml)</b>	<b>FORTIFIED</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>CHAMBERS ROSEWOOD VINEYARDS</b>	<b>N.V. GRAND MUSCAT</b>	<b>RUTHERGLEN</b>	<b>(\$140.00; 375 ml)</b>	<b>FORTIFIED</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>CHAMBERS ROSEWOOD VINEYARDS</b>	<b>N.V. MUSCADELLE</b>	<b>RUTHERGLEN</b>	<b>(\$15.00; 375 ml)</b>	<b>FORTIFIED</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>CHAMBERS ROSEWOOD VINEYARDS</b>	<b>N.V. MUSCAT</b>	<b>RUTHERGLEN</b>	<b>(\$15.00; 375 ml)</b>	<b>FORTIFIED</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>CHAMBERS ROSEWOOD VINEYARDS</b>	<b>N.V. RARE MUSCADELLE</b>	<b>RUTHERGLEN</b>	<b>(\$300.00; 375 ml)</b>	<b>FORTIFIED</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>CHAMBERS ROSEWOOD VINEYARDS</b>	<b>N.V. RARE MUSCAT</b>	<b>RUTHERGLEN</b>	<b>(\$300.00; 375 ml)</b>	<b>FORTIFIED</b>	<b>100</b>
Chambers Rosewood Vineyards makes my short list of greatest fortified wine producers. The winery was started in 1858 and continues to be owned by the Chambers family. Some of the material for these blends is over 100 years old. As Robert Parker noted in Issue 168, these wines are the product of solera systems so there is very little, if any, difference from release to release. The two entry level wines are fantastic values. The Non-Vintage Muscadelle is light amber-colored with aromas and flavors of orange peel, tangerine, and marmalade. The Non-Vintage Muscat is darker amber. It offers fragrant floral, honey, caramel, and raisin notes and is slightly fuller in body. The Non-Vintage Grand Muscadelle is amber/brown with aromas and flavors of toasted coconut, almonds, and chocolate (reminiscent of an Almond Joy candy bar), graham cracker, and fig. Remarkably, the wine comes off as elegant because of its superb acid balance. The Non-Vintage Grand Muscat is dark amber with aromas and flavors of mocha, molasses, fig, and spice box. It, too, is beautifully balanced and exceptionally long. The Rare series has achieved perfection frequently in these pages. Happily nothing has changed. The Non-Vintage Rare Muscadelle is amber/brown approaching black. It offers an ethereal perfume of fig, graham cracker, coconut, caramel, and spice box. Thick, rich, and concentrated, it goes on and on in the finish. The Non-Vintage Rare Muscat is brown/black in color with an awesome bouquet of fig, dates, brown sugar, molasses, and chocolate. Layered, amazingly rich, and concentrated, it is a tour de force in winemaking as are all of these Chambers gems. Importer: Gavin Speight, Old Bridge Cellars, Napa, CA; tel. (707) 258-9552					
<b>CHAPEL HILL</b>	<b>2007 ANGELICA VERDELHO</b>	<b>FLEURIEU</b>	<b>(\$17.00)</b>	<b>WHITE</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>CHAPEL HILL</b>	<b>2006 BUSH VINE GRENACHE "ABBOTT"</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$30.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>CHAPEL HILL</b>	<b>2006 SHIRAZ</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$19.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>CHAPEL HILL</b>	<b>2005 SHIRAZ "THE PROPHET"</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$30.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>CHAPEL HILL</b>	<b>2006 SHIRAZ - GRENACHE</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$19.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>CHAPEL HILL</b>	<b>N.V. TAWNY PORT "THE DRIVE"</b>	<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>(\$30.00; 500 ml)</b>	<b>FORTIFIED</b>	<b>91</b>
Chapel Hill Winery, located in McLaren Vale, produces 50,000 cases of wine. Michael Fragos is Chief Winemaker. The 2007 Angelica Verdelho is light straw-colored with an attractive bouquet of mineral, lemon-grass, honeysuckle, and tropical fruits. Crisp and fruity on the palate, this nicely balanced wine offers good depth and a refreshing finish. Drink it over the next 1-2 years. The 2006 Shiraz (90%) - Grenache (10%) offers an alluring perfume of cedar, wood smoke, blueberry, and black cherry liqueur. This leads to a					

is a single vineyard offering which spent 13 months in French and American oak, 90% new. It delivers a splendid nose of smoke, pencil lead, violets, blueberry, and blackberry. Supple textured and seamless, it has loads of flavor, terrific depth, and a long, pure finish. Allow 3-4 years for the wine to unfold and drink it through 2024. The **2004 Shiraz "RWT"** was barrel-fermented and aged for 14 months in 69% new French oak. Opaque purple-colored, it delivers an expressive nose of smoke, leather, grilled bacon, game, blueberry, and licorice. Full-bodied, it is dense, ripe, and layered as well as opulent. More forward than the Magill Estate, this hedonistic Shiraz can be enjoyed now but will continue to evolve for another 8-10 years. Last but not least is Australia's most famous wine, the

**2002 Shiraz "Grange"**. The 2002 version was sourced from 77.5% Barossa Valley and 22.5% from McLaren Vale. Included in the blend is 1.5% Cabernet Sauvignon. It spent 17 months in 100% new American oak. Opaque purple, it gives off an ethereal bouquet of violets, saddle leather, blueberry, blackberry, pencil lead, and chocolate. This is followed by a full-bodied wine with tremendous concentration, multiple layers of flavor, ripe tannins, and great balance. Thick and rich, with a 60-second finish, it will slowly blossom over the next 15-20 years and provide pleasure through 2050. It is a legend in the making! Importer: Southcorp Wines USA; [www.penfolds.com.au](http://www.penfolds.com.au) Also tasted: **2006 Chardonnay "Thomas Hyland" (84)**, **2004 Shiraz "Bin 128" Coonawarra (84)**

<b>PENLEY ESTATE</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>CABERNET SAUVIGNON "PHOENIX"</b>	<b>COONAWARRA</b>	<b>(\$20.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>PENLEY ESTATE</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>CABERNET SAUVIGNON RESERVE</b>	<b>COONAWARRA</b>	<b>(\$50.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>PENLEY ESTATE</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>CHARDONNAY</b>	<b>COONAWARRA</b>	<b>(\$20.00)</b>	<b>WHITE</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>PENLEY ESTATE</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>CHERTSEY</b>	<b>COONAWARRA</b>	<b>(\$50.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>PENLEY ESTATE</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>MERLOT "GRYPHON"</b>	<b>COONAWARRA</b>	<b>(\$20.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>PENLEY ESTATE</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>SHIRAZ "HYLAND"</b>	<b>COONAWARRA</b>	<b>(\$20.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>PENLEY ESTATE</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>SHIRAZ "SPECIAL SELECT"</b>	<b>COONAWARRA</b>	<b>(\$50.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>91+</b>
<b>PENLEY ESTATE</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>SHIRAZ - CABERNET SAUVIGNON "CONDOR"</b>	<b>COONAWARRA</b>	<b>(\$20.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>86</b>

Penley Estate, established in 1988, is one of Coonawarra's leading producers. The current portfolio includes one white wine, the **2005 Chardonnay** which did not go through malolactic fermentation. Medium straw-colored, it exhibits aromas of butter, pineapple, and other tropical scents. Lacking complexity but pure, with good flavors, it should be drunk over the next 2-3 years.

The red wines begin with the **2005 Merlot "Gryphon,"** aged in 20% new French oak. It offers toasty, cassis, black currant, and olive aromas which lead to a supple, medium to full-bodied wine with sweet fruit, light tannin, and a moderately long finish. Drink it over the next 4-6 years. The **2005 Cabernet Sauvignon "Phoenix"** was aged in 25% new French and American oak. Purple-colored, it has a perfume of *pain grillé*, spice box, and black fruits. Full-bodied and fat, it has ample spicy black fruits, light tannin, and good length. Drink it over the next 6-8 years. It is a very good value. The **2004 Chertsey** is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, and 12% Cabernet Franc. Saturated purple-colored, it delivers a perfume of smoky oak, pencil lead, earth, clove, black currants and blackberry. This leads to an intense, layered wine with tons of sweet fruit, well-integrated tannins, and a long finish. It has enough stuffing to evolve for 4-6 years and should drink well through 2020. The **2004 Cabernet**

**Sauvignon Reserve** was aged in 100% new oak, 80% French and 20% American. It has a splendid aromatic array of toast, spice box, pencil lead, licorice, black currant, and blackberry liqueur. This is followed by a full-bodied, opulent, layered Cabernet with well-integrated tannins, and a long, pure finish. It will continue to evolve with 3-4 years in the cellar and drink well through 2024.

The Shiraz offerings include the **2005 Shiraz (65%) - Cabernet Sauvignon (35%) "Condor"** which was aged in 32% new French and American oak. It exhibits cassis, blueberry, and blackberry scents leading to a straightforward, restrained wine meant for near-term consumption. The **2005 Shiraz "Hyland"** is 100% Shiraz. It also offers an uncomplicated, reticent style with tasty blue and black fruits of moderate depth and length. Drink it over the next 4-6 years. The **2004 Shiraz Special Select** raises the bar considerably. It was barrel-fermented in 100% new oak, mostly American. It reveals an alluring bouquet of cedar, earth, pencil lead, smoked meat and game, licorice, blueberry, and blackberry. Full-bodied, it is still tightly wound but very well-balanced. It is full-flavored, spicy, and succulent with 6-8 years of aging potential. It should drink well through 2024. Importer: Gavin Speight, Old Bridge Cellars, Napa, CA; tel. (707) 258-9552; [www.penley.com.au](http://www.penley.com.au)

<b>PENNY'S HILL</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>FORTIFIED VINTAGE SHIRAZ</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$60.00; 500ml)</b>	<b>FORTIFIED</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>PENNY'S HILL</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>SHIRAZ</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$35.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>PENNY'S HILL</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>SHIRAZ "FOOTPRINT"</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$65.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>94</b>

Penny's Hill is another Ben Riggs winery. The **2006 Shiraz** was aged for 18 months in a mix of new and used French and American casks and was produced from estate vineyards. It exhibits a purple color along with an attractive perfume of spice box, smoke, pepper, blueberry and blackberry. This leads to a full-bodied, mouth-filling Shiraz with lots of breadth on the palate, layers of sweet fruit, and a firm structure. Give it 4-6 years to evolve and drink it through 2020. The **2005 "Footprint" Shiraz** is a barrel selection of the best estate Shiraz produced only in top vintages. It was aged for 24 months in a mix of new and used French and American oak. Opaque purple-colored, it offers an enticing bouquet

of smoke, bacon, Asian spices, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur. Made in a slightly lean, elegant, structured style, this Shiraz has a big core of fruit, excellent balance, and a long, pure finish. It demands 8-10 years of cellaring and will drink well through 2030.

The **2005 Fortified Vintage Shiraz** was aged for 9 months in large oak. Purple/black in color, it has aromas of coffee, mocha, fig, and blackberry liqueur that leap from the glass. At 18% alcohol the wine is full-bodied, sweet and rich. How it will age is anyone's guess but it can be enjoyed over the next 10-15 years with cashews, walnuts, and a Cuban stogie. Importer: Ben Hammerschlag, Epicurean Wines, Seattle, WA; tel. (206) 923-1376

<b>PERTARINGA</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>CABERNET "RIFLE &amp; HUNT"</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$28.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>PERTARINGA</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>CABERNET - PETIT VERDOT "UNDERSTUDY"</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$18.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>PERTARINGA</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>SAUVIGNON BLANC "SCARECROW"</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$15.00)</b>	<b>WHITE</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>PERTARINGA</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>SHIRAZ "OVER THE TOP"</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$30.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>PERTARINGA</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>SHIRAZ "UNDERCOVER"</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$20.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>91</b>

The Pertaringa Vineyard was planted in 1970 and subsequently purchased and expanded by Geoff Hardy and Ian Leask beginning in 1980. The vineyard now covers 77 acres, planted primarily to Shiraz with small plots of seven other varieties.

The **2007 Sauvignon Blanc "Scarecrow"** is medium straw-colored with a fragrant bouquet of fresh herbs, gooseberry, passion fruit, and citrus. This leads to a creamy-textured, lush wine in which tropical flavors make an appearance. It is balanced by crisp acidity, and has a long, refreshing finish. Drink it over the next 12-18 months.

The **2005 Cabernet (70%) - Petit Verdot (30%) "Understudy"** was aged in French and American oak. Crimson-colored, it exhibits aromas of earth, espresso, violets, black currant and blackberry. This is followed by a medium to full-bodied, structured wine with black and blue fruit flavors and a hint of rhubarb. It narrows out slightly in the finish. It is an excellent value in serious red wine. The **2005 Cabernet "Rifle & Hunt"**

is a blend of fruit from Adelaide Hills and McLaren Vale. Purple-colored, it offers up aromas of cedar, mint, pencil lead, black currant, and blackberry. In the mouth it has superior depth, layers of black fruit flavor, and excellent balance leading to a long finish. It has 6-8 years of cellaring potential and should drink well through 2025.

The **2005 Shiraz "Undercover"** is opaque purple-colored. It reveals a nose of smoky oak, bacon, blueberry, blackberry, and a hint of chocolate. Medium to full-bodied, it has gobs of ripe, sweet fruit, soft tannins, and a long finish. Drink it over the next 8 years. It is a great value. The **2005 Shiraz "Over the Top"** was aged in French oak. Purple-colored, it is more fragrant and structured than its sibling. Aromas and flavors of spice box, pepper, blueberry, and blackberry permeate this full-bodied Shiraz. Layered and very long, it has enough stuffing to evolve for another 4-6 years and drink well through 2020. Importer: Bacchus Importers, Dundalk, MD; [www.pertaringa.com.au](http://www.pertaringa.com.au)

<b>PEWSEY VALE</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>RIESLING</b>	<b>EDEN VALLEY</b>	<b>(\$16.00)</b>	<b>WHITE</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>PEWSEY VALE</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>RIESLING "CONTOURS"</b>	<b>EDEN VALLEY</b>	<b>(\$25.00)</b>	<b>WHITE</b>	<b>91</b>

Pewsey Vale was the first Australian wine to be sealed with a Stelvin screw cap in 1976. Aside from that factoid, the winery specializes in Riesling from their high elevation estate vineyard in the cool Eden Valley.

The **2007 Riesling** is medium straw-colored with an attractive perfume of slate/mineral, spring flowers, and citrus. Made in a fruit-

forward style with good flavors, this tasty Riesling can be enjoyed over the next 6 years. The **2002 Riesling "Contours"** is released 5 years after the vintage to demonstrate Riesling's ability to improve with age. It is a selection of the best parcels from a vineyard planted in 1961. Light gold-colored, the wine has developed significant bottle bouquet.

2020. The 2005 Cabernet (85%) – Malbec (15%) is opaque purple-colored with aromas of *pain grillé*, tar, black cherry, and blackberry which jump from the glass. Rich and full on the palate, the wine is nicely structured, tasty, and long. Drink it over the next 8-10 years. The 2005 "Barking Mad" Malbec has enticing aromas of earth, smoke, spice box,

and black cherry. This leads to a full-flavored, structured, concentrated wine with lots of spicy black fruits and a long, pure finish. Drink it over the next 8-10 years. Importer: Ronnie Sanders, Vine Street Imports, Philadelphia, PA; [www.killibinbin.com.au](http://www.killibinbin.com.au); Also tasted: 2005 Shiraz "Sandtrap" (84)

**KOLTZ 2005 "PAGAN" SHIRAZ**  
Koltz began as a small wine label in 1995, and now has a winery under construction located near a vineyard in the Blewitt Springs region of McLaren Vale. The 2005 "Pagan" Shiraz is purple/opaque with a super-fragrant Amarone-style perfume with notes of Allspice, licorice, blackberry,

and blueberry. Ultra intense, sweet, yet dry, this big, structured, lengthy wine promises to evolve for a decade and last through 2035. It is a *tour de force* in winemaking. Total production is 340 cases, 25 of which will make it to the USA. Importer: CLD Imports, Barrington, IL; [www.koltzwines.com.au](http://www.koltzwines.com.au)

K1	2005	CABERNET SAUVIGNON	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$25.00)	RED	91+
K1	2005	CHARDONNAY	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$25.00)	WHITE	89
K1	2005	MERLOT	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$25.00)	RED	90
K1	2007	SAUVIGNON BLANC	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$20.00)	WHITE	89
K1	2005	SHIRAZ	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$25.00)	RED	90
K1	2005	TZIMMUKIN	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$70.00)	RED	92

K1 winery was founded by Geoff Hardy in 1987 when he began planting a 75-acre vineyard in the Adelaide Hills now known as Kuitpo Vineyard. The wines are all produced from 100% estate fruit, organically grown, in the southern-most vineyard in Adelaide Hills. The winemaker is the renowned Ben Riggs.

The white wines begin with the 2007 Sauvignon Blanc. Light straw-colored, it has a vibrant perfume of fresh herbs, citrus, and gooseberry which jumps from the glass. This leads to a crisp, dry, intensely flavored Sauvignon that will pair well with shellfish. Drink it over the next 12-18 months. The 2005 Chardonnay is light gold-colored with aromas of mineral, butterscotch, and green apple. Creamy-textured, with very good concentration, this medium-long Chardonnay is uncomplicated but tasty. Drink it over the next 1-2 years.

The first red is the 2005 Merlot. Crimson-colored, it offers a bouquet of toasty oak (the wine was matured for 24 months in French and American casks, 40% new), smoke, black cherry, and blackberry. This leads to a full-bodied, substantial Merlot with layered flavors that keep building on the palate. Befitting its cool-climate origin, it manages to retain an elegant

personality straight through its lengthy finish. The 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon received the same oak treatment as the Merlot. Purple-colored, it delivers a complex amalgam of earth, tar, espresso, black currant, and blackberry. The wine has a firm entry followed by intensely flavored fruit and a racy, elegant personality. It will evolve for 3-5 years and drink well through 2020. The 2005 Tzimmukin is composed of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Shiraz. The fruit was slightly raisined by air-drying it in baskets. Dark ruby-colored, it exhibits toasty black currants, blueberry and blackberry. More structured and full-bodied (15.3% alcohol) than the two previous wines, it offers serious depth, layered flavors, and 8-10 years of cellaring potential. Drink it through 2030.

The 2005 Shiraz contains 4% Vioigner. Crimson/purple-colored, it has a fragrant perfume of smoke, black pepper, bacon, black cherry, and blueberry which jumps from the glass. Medium to full-bodied, the wine has gobs of flavor in an elegant style. There is enough structure to permit 2-4 years of further development in the bottle. Drink it through 2020. Importer: Bacchus Imports, Dundalk, MD; [www.K1.com.au](http://www.K1.com.au). Also tasted: 2006 Pinot Noir (83)

KURTZ FAMILY VINEYARDS	2005	BOUNDARY ROW GSM	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$20.00)	RED	89
KURTZ FAMILY VINEYARDS	2005	BOUNDARY ROW SHIRAZ	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$20.00)	RED	92
KURTZ FAMILY VINEYARDS	2005	SEVEN SLEEPERS	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$17.00)	RED	91

The 2005 Seven Sleepers is a sensational bargain worth buying by the case. Composed of 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Shiraz, 14% Petit Verdot, and the balance Grenache, Merlot, and Malbec, the wine was aged for 22 months in used French and American oak. Purple/black in color, it has a brooding bouquet of smoke, spice box, blueberry, blackberry and chocolate. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is remarkably opulent for its humble price, with thick, ripe black fruit flavors, admirable balance, and a 40-second finish. This hedonistic effort can be savored over the next 6-8 years. The 2005 Boundary Row GSM is 60% Grenache, 25% Shiraz, and 15% Mataro aged for 18 months in used French and American oak. Purple-colored, the wine offers lots of spice, forest floor, truffle, and kirsch in its

expressive aromatics. Supple and sweet on the palate, the wine is seamless and easy to drink. With good balance and a pure finish, the wine should effortlessly provide pleasure over the next 8-10 years. It is also a terrific value. The 2005 Boundary Row Shiraz comes from five parcels with the best one aged in new American oak. The balance of the wine is aged in a mix of new and used French and American oak for a total of 24 months. Purple-colored, it exhibits an attractive perfume of violets, lavender, pepper, smoked meat, and blueberry. Plush on the palate and medium to full-bodied, the wine has gobs of savory flavor and well integrated components. It will evolve for several more years and drink well through 2020. Importer: Ken Onish and John Gorman, Southern Starz; tel. (714) 892-3030

LANGMEIL	2005	CABERNET "BLACKSMITH"	BAROSSA VLY.	(\$25.00)	RED	89
LANGMEIL	2005	GRENACHE "FIFTH WAVE"	BAROSSA VLY.	(\$40.00)	RED	91
LANGMEIL	2005	SHIRAZ "1843 FREEDOM"	BAROSSA VLY.	(\$100.00)	RED	94
LANGMEIL	2005	SHIRAZ "ORPHAN BANK"	BAROSSA VLY.	(not yet det.)	RED (90-92)	
LANGMEIL	2006	SHIRAZ "VALLEY FLOOR"	BAROSSA VLY.	(\$25.00)	RED	87
LANGMEIL	2006	SHIRAZ - GRENACHE - MOURVEDRE "THREE GARDENS"	BAROSSA VLY.	(\$22.00)	RED (89-91)	
LANGMEIL	2006	SHIRAZ - VIOIGNIER "HANGIN' SNAKES"	BAROSSA VLY.	(\$22.00)	RED	87

The 2006 Shiraz (44%) – Grenache (35%) – Mourvèdre (21%) "Three Gardens" was aged for 12 months in seasoned French and American oak. It offers a lovely perfume of cedar, tobacco, plums, and black cherry. Medium-bodied, the wines has ample spicy blue and black fruit flavors but narrows slightly in the finish. Drink it over the next 6-8 years. The 2005 Grenache "Fifth Wave" comes from a vineyard planted in 1953 with small yields of 1.0 to 1.5 tons per acre. The wine was aged for 24 months in new and used French oak. Dark ruby/crimson in color, it delivers an aromatic array of earth, *garrigue*, lavender, sage, and black cherry. Full-bodied, velvety-textured, and layered, this ripe, sweet Grenache has outstanding depth and length. Drink it over the next 8-10 years.

The 2005 Blacksmith Cabernet spent 18 months in 25% new French oak hogsheads. Opaque purple-colored, it offers notes of cedar, pencil lead, damp earth, olives, black currant and blackberry. Medium-bodied and structured, the wine delivers generous black fruit flavors and some tannin in the finish. Give it 4-6 years to evolve and drink it through 2025.

The 2006 Shiraz "Valley Floor" spent 12 months in 25% new American oak. Crimson-colored, it emits aromas of pencil lead, pepper, Asian spice, and blueberry. Medium-bodied, the wine has some structure but narrows out leading to a slightly compact finish. The 2006

Shiraz – Vioigner (5%) "Hangin' Snakes" spent 8 months in used French and American oak. It exhibits alluring notes of violets, lavender, blueberry, and blackberry with a hint of olives in the background. Medium-bodied and made in a lean, compact style, the wine offers tasty fruit but the finish is somewhat attenuated. Drink it over the next 3-5 years. The 2005 Shiraz "Orphan Bank" was sourced from 100- to 140-year-old vines and aged for 17 months in 60% new American oak. Crimson-colored, it has a fragrant bouquet of cedar, tobacco, pencil lead, leather, and wild blueberry. This leads to a full-bodied, supple-textured, nicely-integrated, full-flavored Shiraz with enough structure to evolve for 3-5 years. Drink it through 2020. The 2005 Shiraz "1843 Freedom" comes from a dry-grown vineyard planted in 1843 which is believed to be the oldest surviving pre-phyloxera Shiraz vines in Australia. The wine was aged for 24 months in 70% new French oak and bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. Purple-colored, it gives up a sexy perfume of *pain grillé*, smoke, violets, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur. Surprisingly light on its feet, the wine is full-flavored, opulent, and very long. Give it 5-7 years to blossom fully and drink this hedonistic effort through 2025. Importer: Ben Hammerschlag, Epicurean Wines, Seattle, WA; [www.langmeilwinery.com.au](http://www.langmeilwinery.com.au)

LEEUWIN ESTATE	2003	CABERNET SAUVIGNON "ART SERIES"	MARGARET RIVER	(\$45.00)	RED	88
LEEUWIN ESTATE	2004	CHARDONNAY "ART SERIES"	MARGARET RIVER	(\$79.00)	WHITE	93
LEEUWIN ESTATE	2005	CHARDONNAY "PRELUDE VINEYARD"	MARGARET RIVER	(\$29.00)	WHITE	90

Supple-textured and full-bodied, the wine has gobs of ripe fruit, layered flavors and excellent balance in its forward personality. Drink it over the next 6-8 years. The **2006 Shiraz - Viognier (5%)** is made predominantly from McLaren Vale fruit with a small portion coming from Langhome Creek. Most of the wine was aged for 15 months in used French and American oak while 20% was fermented and aged in large casks. The wine is a glass-coating purple with aromas of violets, spice box, pepper, plum, blueberry, and blackberry. Full-bodied, it offers layers

of spicy blue and black fruits, ripe tannin, and a long, pure finish. Give it 2-3 years to evolve and drink it through 2020. The **2006 Shiraz** was aged for 18 months in 40% new French and American oak. It is deep crimson-colored with a bouquet of spice box, black cherry, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur leading to a structured, intense, savory Shiraz with serious length and 6-8 years of aging potential. Drink it through 2030. Importer: Ben Hammerschlag, Epicurean Wines, Seattle, WA; tel. (206) 923-1376

<b>MITOLO</b>	<b>2006 CABERNET SAUVIGNON "JESTER"</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$20.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>MITOLO</b>	<b>2006 SHIRAZ "G.A.M."</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$49.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>MITOLO</b>	<b>2006 SHIRAZ "JESTER"</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$20.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>MITOLO</b>	<b>2006 SHIRAZ "REIVER"</b>	<b>BAROSSA VALLEY</b>	<b>(\$49.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>MITOLO</b>	<b>2006 SHIRAZ "SAVITAR"</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$65.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>94+</b>

Mitolo, which began operations in 1999, is a partnership of the Mitolo family and winemaker Ben Glaetzer. The focus is on McLaren Vale fruit from Willunga, the most southern part of the district. All of the wines below are from the 2006 vintage which Glaetzer characterizes as "...a mild growing season with no problems. It ranks with 2002 as my favorite vintage".

The **2006 Cabernet Sauvignon "Jester"** includes 20% dried grapes in the style of Amarone. Purple-colored, it has a fragrant bouquet of black fruits, tar, and violets. This leads to a smooth-textured, layered, dense wine with enough structure to evolve for 4-6 years. It has a long, pure finish and can be enjoyed over the next 15-20 years. It is a superb value in Cabernet Sauvignon.

The Shiraz lineup begins with **2006 Shiraz "Jester"** which was aged for 12 months in French and American oak. Like the Cabernet, 20% dried grapes were included in the blend. Purple-colored, it offers up an expressive nose of cedar, spice box, smoke, pepper, and blueberry. Medium to full-bodied and supple-textured, the wine has a forward personality with layers of spicy fruit and some elegance. It is for drinking over the next 10 years. It, too, is an outstanding value. The **2006 Shiraz "Reiver"** is sourced from a single vineyard in the Greenock region of the Barossa Valley. The average age of the vines is 60 years. Opaque purple

in color, it has a enthralling perfume of saddle leather, truffle, violets, pepper, blueberry, toast, and blackberry. This leads to a full-bodied wine which manages to retain elegance. Opulent, ripe, and layered with spicy blue and black fruits, the wine has enough underlying structure for extended cellaring. Nicely integrated and long in the finish, it can be enjoyed over the next 12-15 years. The **2006 Shiraz "G.A.M."** (the initials of the Mitolo children) was aged in French and American oak, 60% new. Opaque purple in color, it has an aromatic array of roasted coffee, violets, lavender, pepper, Asian spices, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur. In the mouth it is velvety-textured, deep, concentrated, opulent, and altogether hedonistic. It will evolve for 5-7 years and drink well through 2026. The **2006 Shiraz "Savitar"** was aged in 100% new oak, predominantly French. Purple-colored, the aromatics are a bit reticent initially, but soon scents of toasty oak, tar, licorice, scorched earth, and blueberry emerge. This leads to a wine which is more structured and less opulent than its peers. It will evolve for a minimum of 8-10 years and drink well through 2040. As a point of reference, the 2002 Savitar (95 points) was presented. It is considerably more developed aromatically but still has a significant distance to travel prior to reaching its peak. Importer: Vintus LLC, Pleasantville, NY; [www.mitolowines.com.au](http://www.mitolowines.com.au)

<b>MOLLYDOOKER</b>	<b>2006 CABERNET SAUVIGNON "GIGGLEPOT"</b>	<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>(\$50.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>MOLLYDOOKER</b>	<b>2006 CABERNET SAUVIGNON "THE MAITRE D'"</b>	<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>(\$20.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>MOLLYDOOKER</b>	<b>2006 MERLOT "THE SCOOTER"</b>	<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>(\$20.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>MOLLYDOOKER</b>	<b>2006 SHIRAZ "BLUE EYED BOY"</b>	<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>(\$50.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>MOLLYDOOKER</b>	<b>2006 SHIRAZ "THE BOXER"</b>	<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>(\$20.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>MOLLYDOOKER</b>	<b>2006 SHIRAZ "CARNIVAL OF LOVE"</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$80.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>MOLLYDOOKER</b>	<b>2006 SHIRAZ "THE VELVET GLOVE"</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$175.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>MOLLYDOOKER</b>	<b>2006 SHIRAZ - CABERNET SAUV. "ENCHANTED PATH"</b>	<b>McLAREN VALE</b>	<b>(\$80.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>MOLLYDOOKER</b>	<b>2006 SHIRAZ - MERLOT - CAB.SAUV. "TWO LEFT FEET"</b>	<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>(\$20.00)</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>MOLLYDOOKER</b>	<b>2006 SPARKLING SHIRAZ "GOOSEBUMPS"</b>	<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>(\$50.00)</b>	<b>SPARKLING</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>MOLLYDOOKER</b>	<b>2007 VERDELHO "THE VIOLINIST"</b>	<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>(\$20.00)</b>	<b>WHITE</b>	<b>90</b>

Mollydooker (the Australian equivalent of "Southpaw" - both Sparky and Sarah Marquis are left-handed) is the label of the renowned winemaking team of Sparky and Sarah Marquis. This is their second vintage following the schism with The Grateful Palate and the end of their involvement in the hugely successful Marquis Phillips project. Total case production is 72,000, down from the 120,000 cases produced under the Marquis Phillips label. They have also set up their own importing company in the United States.

Mollydooker has been divided into four tiers beginning with "The Lefty Series." These five wines are line-priced at \$20. Next up the ladder is "The Party Series" priced at \$50 a bottle, followed by two wines comprising "The Love Series" priced at \$80. At the top of the pyramid is one wine, "The Velvet Glove" Shiraz priced at \$175.

#### The Lefty Series

There is one white wine in the Mollydooker portfolio, the **2007 Verdelho "The Violinist"**. It is medium straw-colored with an expressive perfume of lemon-lime and tropical aromas including mango and banana. This is followed by a creamy-textured wine balanced by crisp acidity. Medium-bodied, the wine has excellent depth, bright citrus and tropical fruit flavors, and a long, clean finish. Drink it over the next 12-18 months.

The red wines begin with the **2006 Merlot "The Scooter"**. Dark ruby-colored, it exhibits a fragrant bouquet of smoke, toast, cassis, plum, and blackberry. Velvety-textured (a trademark of the Marquis team) with ripe, sweet fruit, this full-bodied Merlot is layered and seamless with no hard edges. It is what Merlot used to be all about. Drink it now and over the next 4 years. The **2006 Cabernet Sauvignon "The Maitre D'"** is purple-colored with a toasty, heady nose of black currants, blackberry liqueur, and licorice. This leads to a full-bodied wine with a plush texture, intense black fruit flavors, soft tannins and a finish which becomes slightly narrow. Drink this tasty Cabernet now and over the next 6 years. The **2006 Shiraz (68%) - Merlot (17%) - Cabernet Sauvignon (15%) "Two Left Feet"** is a glass-coating opaque purple color. The brooding nose reveals plummy dark fruits, blueberry, licorice, and a hint of chocolate. On the palate it is thick, layered, and voluptuous. The structure is well-concealed and the wine is seamless and very long. It will reward a few years of cellaring but

delaying gratification will be difficult. It is a great value. The **2006 Shiraz "The Boxer"** is also opaque purple. The compelling nose exhibits aromas of scorched earth, smoke, grilled bacon, blueberry compote, and blackberry liqueur. Full-bodied, thick and rich, this layered Shiraz is velvety-textured and opulent. The finish lasts for nearly a minute. It is a sensational value. It can be enjoyed now but will evolve for several years.

#### The Party Series

The **2006 Cabernet Sauvignon "Gigglepot"** is composed of 92% McLaren Vale fruit and 8% Langhome Creek fruit. Opaque purple-colored, the wine coats the glass with glycerin. It offers alluring aromas of smoke, toast, pencil lead, black currants, and blackberry. On the palate this sleek, lustrous wine is more structured than the Maitre D'. It has deeper and more intense fruit and the finish is lengthy and pure. Give it 3-4 years of additional bottle age and drink it through 2027. The **2006 Shiraz "Blue Eyed Boy"** is predominantly Padthaway fruit. Purple-colored, it has an intense aromatic display of smoke, violets, mulberry, blueberry, and chocolate. This leads to a full-bodied, plush, wine with layers of ripe, spicy black fruits, excellent focus and delineation. The tannins are well-concealed but this wine has enough stuffing to evolve for 6-8 years. Drink it through 2025.

#### The Love Series

The **2006 Shiraz (66%) - Cabernet Sauvignon (34%) "Enchanted Path"** was made entirely from McLaren Vale fruit. Opaque purple-colored, the wine has a fragrant bouquet of *pain grillé*, leather, smoked meat, game, blueberry, and blackberry. This is followed by a structured wine with intense, spicy black fruit flavors, full-body, and superb balance. It is still tightly wound and will benefit from 6-8 years of cellaring. This promising effort should drink well through 2030. The **2006 Shiraz "Carnival of Love"** was sourced from a single vineyard. The sensational nose, consisting of violets, lilacs, meat, game, leather, blueberry, and chocolate, leaps from the glass. On the palate this full-bodied wine somehow manages to combine power with elegance. The sweet tannins are well-concealed and the finish lasts for at least one minute. It will provide pleasure for 25 years but who will be that patient?

The Velvet Glove and a Postscript

The 2006 Shiraz "The Velvet Glove" has an awesome nose bordering on ethereal. Aromas of smoke, violets, grilled meat, game, saddle leather, blueberry and chocolate leap from the glass. This full-bodied wine is packed and dense, layered with ripe black fruits, has superb delineation, great focus, and a super-long finish. It is still tightly wound and will benefit

from a decade in the cellar. This hedonistic behemoth will drink well through 2040.

As a postscript, Mollydooker produced a 2006 Sparkling Shiraz "Goosebumps". Made by the transfer method (not methode champenoise), it is a good but over-priced sparkling wine. There are better examples for considerably less money. Importer: Mollydooker International, [www.mollydookerwines.com.au](http://www.mollydookerwines.com.au)

MOSS WOOD	2005	CABERNET SAUVIGNON "AMY'S"	MARGARET RIVER	(\$42.00)	RED	88
MOSS WOOD	2004	CABERNET SAUVIGNON ESTATE	MARGARET RIVER	(\$125.00)	RED	91
MOSS WOOD	2005	CABERNET SAUVIGNON "MOSS WOOD VINEYARD"	MARGARET RIVER	(\$125.00)	RED	89+
MOSS WOOD	2005	CHARDONNAY	MARGARET RIVER	(\$75.00)	WHITE	87?
MOSS WOOD	2007	SEMILLON - SAUVIGNON BLANC "RIBBON VALE VYD."	MARGARET RIVER	(\$32.00)	WHITE	89

Moss Wood Winery, located in the Margaret River GI in Western Australia, is owned by Keith and Clare Mugford. Fruit is sourced from their estate vineyards and purchased from selected individual vineyards but never intermingled. Total production ranges from 12,000 to 15,000 cases.

The white wines begin with the 2007 Semillon - Sauvignon Blanc "Ribbon Vale Vineyard". This unoaked wine has a fragrant perfume of new cut grass, fresh herbs, citrus, and lanolin. This is followed by a medium-bodied, smooth-textured wine in which tropical flavors emerge. The wine has bright acidity and a lengthy finish. Drink it over the next 2-3 years. The 2005 Chardonnay was produced entirely from estate vineyards. It was barrel-fermented and spent 10 months in 100% new French oak. Thirty percent of the wine went through malolactic fermentation. Medium gold-colored, the wine exhibits an overtly oaky nose along with butterscotch and lemon meringue aromas. On the palate the wine has zingy acidity and good length but is disjointed, and it remains to be seen whether the oak will become better integrated.

The red wines begin with the 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon "Amy's," a wine sourced from younger vineyards and which was aged in French oak, 25% new, for 14 months. Purple-colored, it exhibits an enticing bouquet of

smoky oak, toast, cassis, and black currant. This leads to a medium-bodied, elegant wine with a solid core of red and black fruits, good depth and balance, enough structure to evolve for 2-4 years, and a medium-long finish. Drink this stylish Cabernet through 2020. The 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate spent 24 months in 50% new French oak. There is a small quantity of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot included in the blend. Deep crimson-colored, it gives up an alluring perfume of *pain grillé*, spice box, tar, black currant, and blackberry liqueur. This is followed by a harmonious, well-integrated wine reminiscent of a classified growth Saint-Julien from a good vintage. This elegantly rendered wine will develop in bottle for 8-10 years and provide pleasure through 2030. The 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon "Moss Wood Vineyard" received the same oak treatment. Although excellent, it comes off as being more structured, firmer, and less generous. There are excellent flavors but the finish is slightly compact. Perhaps extended cellaring will round out the 2005 but the 2004 is a much safer bet. Importer: Michael Opdahl, Joshua Tree Imports, Duarte, CA; [www.mosswood.com.au](http://www.mosswood.com.au); Also tasted: 2005 Chardonnay "Moss Wood Vineyard" (82), 2005 Merlot "Ribbon Vale Vineyard" (82), 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon - Merlot "Ribbon Vale Vineyard" (83)

MOUNT HORROCKS	2006	RIESLING	CLARE VALLEY	(\$28.00)	WHITE	88
MOUNT HORROCKS	2006	RIESLING "CORDON CUT"	CLARE VALLEY	(\$33.00; 375 ml)	SWEET WHITE	90

The 2006 Riesling is light straw-colored with an attractive nose of mineral, spring flowers, grapefruit, lemon-lime, and orange peel. Crisp and flavorful, this lively wine is dry and nicely balanced. It should drink well for several years. The 2006 Riesling "Cordon Cut" is sweet but

has no botrytis. Gold-colored, it has a lovely floral and tropical fruit perfume, mango and kiwi flavors, and vibrant acidity. Drink it with fruit tarts and cheese cake. Importer: John Larchet, Australian Premium Wine Collection; [www.mounthorrock.com](http://www.mounthorrock.com)

NEPENTHE	2004	PINOT NOIR "THE GOOD DOCTOR"	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$32.00)	RED	86
NEPENTHE	2005	PINOT NOIR "CHARLESTON"	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$20.00)	RED	85
NEPENTHE	2006	RIESLING "HAND PICKED"	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$21.00)	WHITE	86
NEPENTHE	2004	THE ROGUE	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$21.00)	RED	85
NEPENTHE	2006	SAUVIGNON BLANC	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$19.00)	WHITE	85
NEPENTHE	2005	TEMPRANILLO	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$29.00)	RED	85
NEPENTHE	2005	TRYST RED	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$15.00)	RED	87
NEPENTHE	2006	TRYST WHITE	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$15.00)	WHITE	86
NEPENTHE	2006	UNWOODED CHARDONNAY	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$16.00)	WHITE	86

Nepenthe, owned by the Tweddell Family, began as a viticulture management company before starting their own winery, located in Lenswood, Adelaide Hills, in 1994.

The white wines begin with the 2006 Riesling "Hand Picked". Medium straw-colored, it offers attractive mineral, floral, and citrus aromas. This leads to a medium-bodied, dry, crisp Riesling with good concentration and length. Serve it as an aperitif or with seafood. The 2006 Sauvignon Blanc is light straw colored. The nose is muted but the wine is better on the palate with medium-bodied, dry, ripe flavors, crisp acidity, and moderate length. Drink it over the next 12-18 months. The 2006 Unwooded Chardonnay offers mineral, pear and apple aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied and dry, the wine has a good quantity of ripe fruit balanced by lively acidity. It is reminiscent of a solid quality Macon-Villages. The 2006 Tryst White is composed of 75% Sauvignon Blanc, 20% Semillon, and 5% Pinot Gris. It exhibits aromas of melon and citrus with a hint of passion fruit in the background. Medium-bodied, with good focus, and tasty fruit flavors, this is a wine to enjoy with fresh seafood over the next 12-18 months.

A number of wineries are attempting to establish Pinot Noir in the Adelaide Hills GI with mixed results. Nepenthe's 2005 "Charleston" Pinot Noir was aged in French oak for 10 months. It is medium ruby-colored with an

unmistakably Pinot Noir nose of raspberry and rhubarb. This leads to a medium-bodied, supple-textured wine with correct flavors but in need of more depth and concentration. Drink it over the next 3-4 years. The 2004 "The Good Doctor" Pinot Noir is a bit darker in color and more substantial on the palate with tasty cherry and raspberry fruit and some structure. The wine reveals tannin in the finish which time may not resolve. The 2005 Tryst Red is composed of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Tempranillo, and 7% Zinfandel. Medium/dark ruby-colored, the aromatics are restrained but with coaxing cassis, cherry, and blackberry notes come forward. This leads to a medium-bodied wine made in a racy style with enough structure to hold the wine together. Drink it over the next 3-4 years. The 2004 The Rogue is 100% Tempranillo and spent 15-18 months in used French oak. Aromas of scorched earth, black cherry, and blackberry are followed by a medium-bodied, lean Tempranillo in a racy, elegant style. Drink it over the next 3-4 years. The 2005 Tempranillo offers aromas and flavors of sage, rosemary, black cherry and blackberry. Lean but with some elegance, the wine has ample spicy flavors, good balance, and a moderately long finish. Drink it over the next several years with barbecued chicken and couscous. Importer: Click Wine Group, Seattle, WA; [www.nepenthe.com.au](http://www.nepenthe.com.au); Also tasted: 2006 Pinot Gris (82)

NOON WINERY	2005	CABERNET SAUVIGNON RESERVE	LANGHORNE CREEK	(\$75.00)	RED	97
NOON WINERY	2005	ECLIPSE	McLAREN VALE & LANGHORNE	(\$75.00)	RED	95
NOON WINERY	2005	SHIRAZ RESERVE	LANGHORNE CREEK	(\$75.00)	RED	99

Noon Winery is owned and operated by Drew and Rae Noon. It continues to be one of Australia's benchmarks. The 2005 Eclipse was aged in a mix of French and American oak, small and large, for 18 months. Composed of 65% Grenache and 35% Shiraz ranging in age from 40-70 years, it offers up a sublime perfume of *garrigue*, scorched earth, lavender, licorice, black cherry, and black raspberry. Full-bodied yet elegant, this succulent, sweet, layered blend has gobs of spicy blueberry, kirsch, and black fruit flavors, great balance, and a 60-second finish. Drink it now and over the next 15-20 years. The 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve is sourced from a vineyard planted in 1972. It was aged in small French and

American oak for 18 months. Opaque purple in color, it offers up classic Cabernet Sauvignon aromas of smoky oak, pencil lead, scorched earth, black currants, and blackberry liqueur. This leads to a sumptuous, savory, opulent, full-bodied wine which amazingly combines great power with elegance. Although there is plenty of structure and aging potential, the wine is seamless, sexy, and very enticing. Those able to delay gratification can safely cellar this great Cabernet for 10-20 years but it is hard to resist now. The 2005 Shiraz Reserve was sourced from a 45-year-old vineyard and aged for 18 months American and French oak of various sizes. A saturated purple color, it presents an array of otherworldly