

WINE COMPANION

LAUNCH ISSUE

ROSÉ

New styles to love

ROAD TRIP

THE INDULGENT ROUTE FROM SAN FRAN TO LA

Meet James Halliday
65 BOOKS AND COUNTING

Food & fizz
A CLASSY MATCH

+200

wine reviews inside

DEC/JAN
2011/2012
AUS \$9.95
NZ \$10.95



WINE AUTHORITY
JAMES HALLIDAY

When to drink cellared wine



CHEF & RESTAURATEUR
BEN O'DONOGHUE

Asian-inspired barbecue ideas



FOOD WRITER
GAY BILSON

Lab-made meat on the menu?



FORMER CRICKETER
STUART MACGILL

Best-loved wine and why





**WINE
AUTHORITY**
Ben Edwards

International TASTING NOTES

Current
releases

The world of wine is vast and varied, often difficult to navigate when you step beyond Australian shores. European labelling can sometimes cloud our understanding of what's in the bottle by assuming we understand the patch of dirt in which the vines were grown, rather than identifying the varieties that lie within. Each issue, we will present an eclectic range of international wine so we can cover an interesting array of styles and prices. Much like a wine list, the wines are presented in terms of their style, and move upwards in price.

How we rate them

94

94 - 100 POINTS

Outstanding / Wines of the highest quality, often with a distinguished pedigree

90

90 - 93 POINTS

Highly recommended / Wines of great quality, style and character, worthy of a place in any cellar

87

87 - 89 POINTS

Recommended / Wines of above-average quality, fault-free, and with clear varietal expression

84

84 - 86 POINTS

Acceptable / Wines of good commercial quality, free of any significant fault.

81

80 - 83 POINTS

Over to you / Everyday wines, usually cheap and with little or no future, needing more character and flavour



2020 CELLARING

While intended to be used as a guide only, each wine has been given a suggested year that indicates the length of time a wine should drink at its best.



GREAT VALUE

While the aim is to present as many great value wines as possible, this icon has been placed on those examples that stood out as particularly great buys.



91 *Ata Rangi Chardonnay 'The Petrie' 2009*
Wairarapa, New Zealand,

Vivid green hue; aromas of bacon bones and ripe nectarine fruits are framed by spicy, toasty oak; the palate is generous on entry, yet reveals racy acidity and freshness on the finish; long, complex and well handled, the wine is a good introduction to a Chardonnay of the Wairarapa, located just outside of Martinborough.

RRP \$30 / 2016



92 *Gerard Tremblay 'Chablis AC' 2009, Chardonnay*
Chablis AC, Burgundy, France

Pale with a vibrant green hue; under screwcap (hallelujah), this wine straddles the boundary of traditional chalk, lemon and fennel interest on the bouquet, wrapped in an ultra fresh setting; the palate is surprisingly zesty and focused for the forward nature of 2009 Chablis, and the slight grip and texture with taut acidity is long and very even; incredible value too.

RRP \$37 / 2016



91 *Dutton-Goldfield Chardonnay 'Dutton Ranch' 2008*

Russian River Valley, California, USA

Mid gold, vibrant green hue; a rich, ripe, warm and inviting bouquet of honeysuckle, peach and cinnamon; the palate is ample, and while at the bigger and frankly toastier end of town, retains freshness and a sense of light and shade; old-fashioned to some I am sure, yet the depth and length of flavour is undeniable, as always with Californian Chardonnay, it will come down to a matter of taste.

RRP \$50 / 2015



91 *Remi Jobard Meursault AC 'Les Chevalieres' 2009, Chardonnay*

Meursault AC, Burgundy, France

The bouquet here displays true Meursault generosity, with ample levels of sweet fruits, grilled cashews, charcuterie complexity and a touch of toast; the palate is ample, rich and generous, yet stays light and zesty, long and ultimately luscious; very good and a textbook example of Meursault terroir.

RRP \$110 / 2018

ROSÉ



91 *Chateau de Sours 'Bordeaux Rosé' 2010*
Bordeaux, France

Made from Merlot and Cabernet Franc, this wine exhibits a vibrant and floral accented red fruit bouquet; the palate is focused, fresh and generous, and the finish taut and dry; the use of a screwcap is a welcome sign to keep the inherent freshness of the wine in tact.

RRP \$28 / 2014



92 *Chateau du Roquefort 'Corail Rosé Cotes de Provence' 2010*

Cotes de Provence, Provence, France

A fresh and wild strawberry accented bouquet offset by a touch of fennel and ginger; the palate is fresh, focused and thoroughly engaging, with enough generosity, freshness and crunch to be brilliant spring and summer drinking; do not be put off by the price tag if you love rose.

RRP \$35 / 2013

LIGHT-BODIED, FRAGRANT & SILKY REDS



92 *Chateau Thivin 'Cote de Brouilly Les Sept Vignes' 2010, Gamay Noir*

Cote de Brouilly Cru, Beaujolais, France

Vivid purple hue; super crunchy red apple, cranberry and cherry bouquet; the palate delivers more of the same with racy acidity, and while flesh is not the driving force, the refreshing nature of the wine is simply a winner; enjoy, and not necessarily in moderation.

RRP \$37 / 2013



91 *Chateau Thivin 'Brouilly' 2009, Gamay Noir*
Brouilly Cru, Beaujolais, France

Pretty serious Gamay, with ironstone and blue fruits in abundance; the palate is taut and direct, and showing plenty of meat on the bones; savoury and firm to conclude, only slowly giving way to florals and fresh blue fruits that give away the origins of this wine.

RRP \$35 / 2016



92 *EsseNZe Pinot Noir 2010*
Central Otago, New Zealand

Bright mid crimson; an immediately appealing and distinctly savoury bouquet, with red and black cherry combining with an attractive graphite note; the palate is lively, loaded with ripe fruits and a touch of roasted meat; fresh and accessible, there is a true sense of Central Otago terroir and the wine is a great introduction to the region for the price; in fact it is quite hard to resist.

RRP \$20 / 2015