

MARION

DEADMAN'S DOZEN

APRIL 2019

2018 Voyager Estate 'Project Sparkling' Chenin Blanc Margaret River WA

The 'Project' label allows Voyager Estate to make wines in small batches that highlight different expressions of their grapes. This Chenin Blanc takes inspiration from the wines of the Loire Valley, and is made in the traditional method as a sparkling wine. It is lively, with notes of lemon zest, apple and a hint of brioche on the palate - a showcase of complexity and elegance.

2016 Gaelic Cemetery 'Premium' Riesling Clare Valley SA

What makes this a 'premium' Riesling? Well, in the vineyard the grapes are unirrigated and treated to biodynamic preparations. They are hand-picked and yields are kept nice and low. This wine is textural and complex with acidity and salinity, which means it's just crying out for some freshly shucked oysters.

2017 Bengoetxe Txakoli Hondarrabi Zuri/Iskiritza Zuri Hadia Basque Country ESP

Txakoli [pronounced: cha-ko-lee] is a wine style that's hard to pin down - it isn't a grape variety and it can be made as a sparkling, white, skin contact or a red wine - the commonality is that it is always made with native Basque grapes grown on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. This particular example is a white wine that is light in body with citrus, stone fruit and has a fresh finish.

2015 Geyer Muscat of Alexandria Riverland SA

Muscat of Alexandria is a grape that is most commonly used to make sweet wines - but not this time. This example is a dry table wine that is highly perfumed, just bursting with flowers and musk. It has a chalky texture that is carried along nicely by a clean line of acidity - a perfect aperitif.

2018 Amrit 'Tuck's Road' Chardonnay Mornington VIC

This is a fantastic example of a fresh and vibrant Chardonnay from the Mornington Peninsula. Spontaneous fermentation and old oak ageing promotes a brightness of fruit and provides wonderful texture. 'Tuck's Road' flourishes with chamomile, lemon curd and finishes with an oxidative character.

2016 Eastern Peake 'Pinot Taché' Pinot Noir rosé Ballarat VIC

Owen Latta has been making wine since he was 15 years old and makes some of the most exciting lo-fi wines in Australia. His 'Pinot Taché' rosé spends one year on its lees in barrel making it a serious and savoury style that shows off its craftsmanship - graceful, concentrated and dangerously quaffable.

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2017 Little Ra Ra 'Noir' Nero d'Avola Heathcote vic

The Little Ra Ra 'Noir' has been a favourite here at Marion of late. Made from Nero d'Avola it is an easy drinking style without any influence from oak. Expressive yet light in body, fruit is the focus with fresh berries and cherries - incredibly moreish. We like to serve it slightly chilled.

2016 Clyde Park 'Locale' Pinot Noir Geelong vic

Established by Gary Farr in 1979, Clyde Park consistently prove to be at the forefront of quality winemaking in the Geelong region. 2016 proved to be a wonderful year with wines like the 'Locale' Pinot Noir showing a brightness of fruit that is immediately delicious. Expect a delicate wine with red cherry, spice and grainy tannins.

2015 Murdoch Hill 'Sulky' Syrah/Pinot Meunier/Merlot Adelaide Hills sa

The 'Sulky' [named after a horse-drawn buggy] is a Syrah dominant blend with Pinot Meunier and Merlot making up the balance. Paler in colour than previous vintages this wine is savoury, with black olive, charcuterie, bramble and black pepper. Drink with a rare beef salad.

2017 La Grange aux Belles 'La Chaussée Rouge' Cabernet Franc Loire Valley FRA

Winemaker Marc Houtin is considered a bit of a rebel in his approach to viticulture and winemaking by the neighbouring vineyards. Flying in the face of convention he converted to organics and uses no chemicals in the winery. This wine is bright with dark fresh fruits, spice and even some freshly turned earth - both humble and worldly at once.

2017 Ruggabellus 'Fluus' Grenache blend Eden Valley sa

Abel and Emma Gibson make some very smart and thrilling wines. Their aim is to make age-worthy wine that reflects the rugged terroir of the Barossa Valley. This wine [a blend of Grenache, Mataro, Syrah and Cinsault] is complex with rhubarb, dark cherries and a savoury finish.

2018 Sam Vinciullo 'Vintage Mix' Shiraz blend Margaret River wa

Sam Vinciullo is a one-man powerhouse in his role as both farmer and winemaker. All the grapes are organic and a dogmatic approach to minimal intervention continues from the vineyard to the winery. No oak is used in his wines as he is striving for freshness and elegance. As a result, this wine [Shiraz, Cabernet and Sauvignon Blanc] is energetic yet concentrated with blueberries and spice.