

MARION

DEADMAN'S DOZEN

JUNE 2019

NV Stewart & Prentice 'Paradise Garage' Gippsland vic

If you are looking for something to open with your next seafood feast then look no further than the 'Paradise Garage' méthode traditionnelle sparkling from Gippsland. Generous on the palate, it is dry and full of driving acidity with pear, nectarine and baked-bread lees characters.

2017 Brash Higgins 'Derailer' Fiano/Vermentino/Chenin Blanc Multi-regional SA

Brad Hickey AKA Brash Higgins has lived many lives [including bread baker, beer brewer, food writer and sommelier] before settling in the McLaren Vale and becoming a winemaker. With the 'Derailer' he has made a wine that is dangerously drinkable - dry, with white stone fruit, mixed citrus, dried oregano and a saline finish.

2017 Pfeiffer 'Carson' Gewürztraminer King Valley vic

Winemaking father and daughter Chris and Jen Pfeiffer aim to highlight the heady and aromatic qualities of cool-climate Gewürztraminer. Lovely purity, balanced acidity and the classic lychee and rose flavours so typical of the variety. Drink this with your next Thai feast!

2018 Chèvre 'Henty Field Blend' Savagnin blend Henty vic

Natural wunderkind and cool wine guy Jordy Kay is drawing his ambitious Chèvre project to a close. With this, his final release, he has fermented Savagnin, Grüner Veltliner, Fiano, Gewürztraminer and Riesling together and aged the wine in stainless steel tanks. It sees no sulphur additions and is textural, fruit-driven and aromatic - a damn good wine.

2017 Frankland Estate Chardonnay Frankland River WA

Frankland Estate's organically farmed vineyard produces Chardonnay grapes that are low yielding, resulting in a concentrated wine. In the winery the family aim to produce wine that reflects terroir more than the hand of the winemaker. This wine has a purity of fruit flavour with fresh lemon juice, white peach and green melon that is elegantly supported by acidity and oak.

2016 Saint André de Figuière 'Magali' Cinsault blend Provence FRA

As wine lovers in this country become ever more sophisticated, we've noticed that a generous glass of rosé is no longer restricted to the summer months. The 'Magali' from Saint André de Figuière, however, will remind you of the sun and put a smile on your dial, even if you open it in the depths of winter. Dry and utterly thirst-quenching, with notes of strawberry and grapefruit.

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2018 Dormilona 'Skinnie' Sauvignon Blanc Margaret River WA

This is Sauvignon Blanc, but not as you know it. The wine sees a spontaneous fermentation and the juice spends time on grape skins for up to five weeks. The resulting wine has the typical varietal characters of gooseberry and passionfruit but they are supported by savoury herb and burnt orange as well as a little grip on the palate.

2018 Stargazer 'Rada' Pinot Meunier/Pinot Noir Multi-regional TAS

In just the second vintage of this wine, Stargazer 'Rada' has established itself as a firm favourite of the Marion team. Named for early Australian wine identity Rada Penfold-Collins, winemaking superstar Samantha Connew has crafted a wine that skims effortlessly across a wide range of flavours - the perfect pairing for a table of shared dishes. This blend of structured Pinot Noir and supple Pinot Meunier has juicy, crunchy red berry fruit and a little earth-and-spice savoury note.

2018 Bink Wines Zinfandel Clare Valley SA

When Koen Janssens first moved to Australia from Belgium in 2012 all he knew of our wine industry was Yellow Tail. Now he is at the forefront of our low-intervention wine movement and has a passion for experimentation. This Zinfandel isn't as bold as its US cousins - instead it is light yet plush, with wild strawberry, red plum and soft spice.

2016 A. Rodda 'Aquila Audax' Tempranillo Beechworth VIC

Could Beechworth Tempranillo be one of Australia's hidden gems? We think so! The 'Aquila Audax' vineyard has the right elevation to ripen the grapes fully while maintaining freshness. This is a seductive wine with blueberry and black cherry, liquorice and grippy tannins.

2017 Thymiopoulos 'Young Vines' Xinomavro Naoussa GR

Naoussa in the north of Greece is the home of the Xinomavro variety, a grape that creates a wine sometimes compared to Nebbiolo. This particular expression is sourced from the estate's younger vines from the villages of Fyteia and Trilofos. Unoaked and vibrant, it's bursting with red cherries and plums, with silky tannin and a savoury note of mountain herbs.

2017 Foxey's Hangout Shiraz Mornington Peninsula VIC

Brothers Michael and Tony Lee like to make structured, fruit driven and elegant wines as is evident with this Shiraz. This is an intense wine right from the first drop, with violets, white pepper and spice bursting from the glass. On the palate it has brooding dark fruit, fennel and pomegranate all backed up by fine-grained tannins.