

# MARION

## DEADMAN'S DOZEN

MAY 2018

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2014 Dal Zotto 'L'Immigrante' Prosecco King Valley [Vic]

Mouth-filling, creamy and racy, the L'Immigrante is perfect start to any meal. The Dal Zotto family in the King Valley are pioneers of Australian Prosecco, being one of the first wineries grow to a commercial crop. This wine shows crunchy apples and pears with crème fraîche and an almost sherbet-like finish.

2017 Crawford River 'Young Vine' Riesling Henty [Vic]

Belinda Thompson continues to raise the bar when it comes to Australian Riesling. Like all of Crawford River's wines, the Young Vine Riesling is handpicked and organically grown. It is fermented in stainless steel tanks and, to promote complexity, spends some time on lees. It is bone-dry with a touch of spice and racy citrus, a perfect match with oysters.

2016 Cullen 'Mangan Vineyard' Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Margaret River [WA]

Vanya Cullen is a champion of biodynamic farming in Margaret River and her family's wines are a benchmark for vinous expression of that soil. The Mangan vineyard Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon blend is aromatic, with subtle white flowers, tropical fruit and freshly cut grass on the nose. Elegant and balanced with flavour that appears to never end.

2016 Ten Minutes by Tractor '10X' Pinot Gris Mornington [Vic]

With the 10X label, Ten Minutes by Tractor are showing off the best of the Mornington Peninsula. Here they have created a Pinot Gris that is stylistically bold through the use of old oak, whole bunch pressing and lees stirring. This wine tastes of nashi pear and baked lemon with a slight phenolic (white wine tannin) grip that freshens the finish.

2017 Kerri Greens 'Pigface' Chardonnay Mornington [Vic]

Tom McCarthy and Lucas Blanck, both young men from established winemaking families, are forging their own path and have started their own label, Kerri Greens. This single vineyard Chardonnay has enough power go with a roast chook but still has enough drive to leave you wanting more. For those wondering, it is named after the sea-succulent that grows around the vineyard.

2014 Rafa Bernabé 'Beni maquia Tinajas' Moscatel blend Alicante [ESP]

Rafa Bernabé passionately makes wines using natural and ancestral methods. With this wine made from Moscatel and the obscure Merseguera he has allowed skin contact for six months giving it a deep orange colour and some tannin. This is a savoury wine with mandarin, honey without the sweetness, salinity and umami complexity for days.

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2016 Saint André de Figuière 'Signature' Cinsault blend Rosé Provence [FRA]

As wine lovers in this country get even more sophisticated we are seeing that drinking rosé is no longer restricted to the summer months. The 'Signature' 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. It is very dry, thirst-quenching, with wild strawberries, grapefruit and watermelon.

2016 Quartier Pinot Noir Mornington Peninsula [Vic]

2016 in Mornington was an early vintage in terms of harvest date as well as style. Here the onus is on the seductive fruit to tell the story. These are wines for sheer drinking pleasure not for cellaring for decades. Mostly older oak is used, creating a vibrant wine with fine tannins, raspberry and red cherry, a hint of salinity and even some blood orange.

2016 Coriole Sangiovese McLaren Vale [SA]

Our collective love for Sangiovese could almost be attributed to Coriole who planted the first Australian vines in 1985. 2016, their 30<sup>th</sup> vintage, proved to be excellent, creating a wine that is lively and aromatic with sour cherry and bay leaf, grippy tannins and a long seductive finish. We want to drink this with pasta and a pine mushroom ragu.

2016 Legado del Moncayo Garnacha Campo de Borja [Esp]

This Grenache truly embodies the rugged and wild environment from which it was grown. These are bush-vines planted on the slopes of a now-extinct volcano that struggle through drought and a freezing continental climate. It is medium-bodied, earthy and savoury with cherry, liquorice and dried herbs. This wine is crying out for a char-grilled rib-eye.

2014 Château Penin Bordeaux Supérieur Cabernets Bordeaux [FRA]

The historic Château Penin, owned and operated by five generations of the same family has made a wine to savour during the longer, dark nights to come. This Merlot-dominant blend is full-bodied, has gravelly, savoury tannins, with dark plums and blueberries contributing to a fleshiness on the palate.

2014 Spini fex 'Esprit' Mataro blend Barossa Valley [SA]

The Esprit is deceptively delicate for a wine that was born and bred in the Barossa Valley. Aromatically floral, with lilies and lavender resting on top of darker berries and dried spice, offering something new with every sip. Despite its elegant nature it retains the Barossa regional signature of power and concentration.