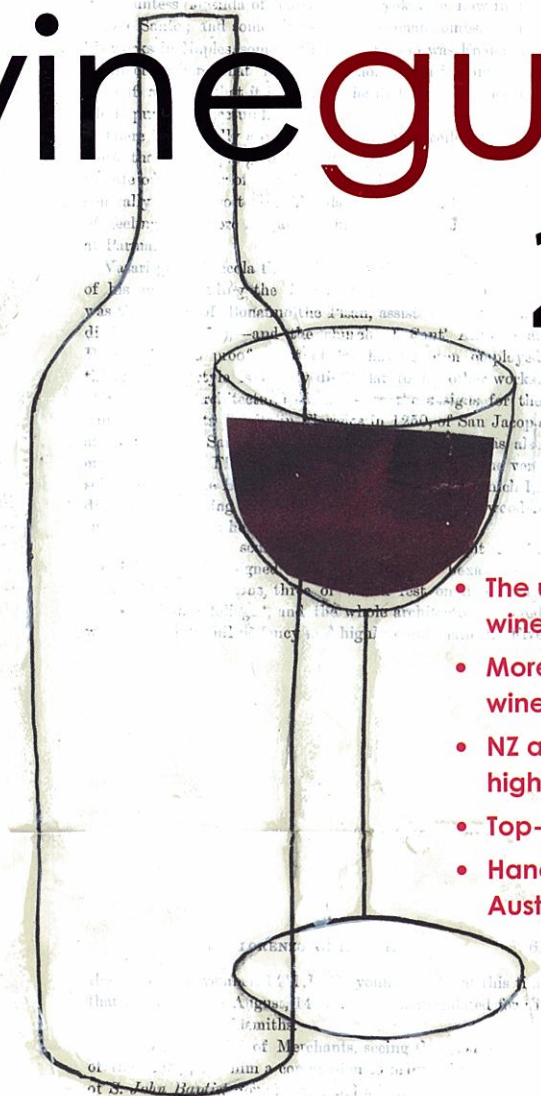




the **penguin** good australian

# wineguide

# 2009



- The ultimate Australian wine-lover's guide
- More than 1200 latest-release wines recommended
- NZ and other imported highlights
- Top-value wines under \$25
- Handy guide to the best of Australia's wine regions

## GRENACHE, SHIRAZ, MATARO AND BLENDS

### 2006 Massena The Moonlight Run

Score 92

#### BAROSSA VALLEY

Price \$25.00 ✓

Quality ★★★★★

Alc./Vol. 14.5%

Drink 2010

Closure Cork

An impressive follow-up to the '05, this GSM gets a slice of cinsault too. Very fragrant with purple florals and spicy mataro notes poking through mixed berry fruits. Attractive savoury and earthy, the middle palate is super compact, showing skilled blending; it rolls through all charming, balanced and slick, with a chirpy acid finish.

### 2007 Maverick Greenock Rise GSM

Score 93

#### BAROSSA VALLEY

Price \$30.00 ✓

Quality ★★★★★

Alc./Vol. 15%

Drink 2013

Closure Cork

Grenache takes the lion's share, a mix of late-1800s bush vines and some 1950s plantings, around 30% shiraz and a hatful of mourvèdre, all from out Greenock way. Bright red fruits and some gently meaty/earthy notes in behind, has the Greenock resolve, sweetly spiced too. Fine and svelte on the palate, red fruits and plenty of sweet spice, gently creamy oak. Very compact, very good.

### 2006 McHenry Hohnen 3 Amigos Shiraz Grenache Mourvèdre

Score 91

#### MARGARET RIVER

Price \$22.00 ✓

Quality ★★★★★

Alc./Vol. 14%

Drink Now

Closure Screwcap

A distinctly peppery expression; lead by cool spicy Margaret River shiraz, some sweet berries in behind and really attractive complexity. Grenache lifts the palate and mourvèdre keeps it anchored, letting the cool spicy/berry shiraz work away through the middle. Nice blend, well made.

### 2006 McPherson Basilisk Shiraz Mourvèdre

Score 90

#### CENTRAL VICTORIA

Price \$18.00 ✓

Quality ★★★★★

Alc./Vol. 14%

Drink 2013

Closure Screwcap

Sourced from a range of Central Victorian vineyards, this cool spicy shiraz has been gently dosed with a splash of savoury mourvèdre. Bright, fragrant berry aromas, some peppery Rhône-ish characters, chocolate and earthy complexity. The palate is well strung with supple tannin and fine spiced plum flavours – all integrated and balanced.

### 2005 Mitchelton Crescent Mourvèdre Shiraz Grenache

Score 90

#### CENTRAL VICTORIA

Price \$26.00

Quality ★★★★★

Alc./Vol. 14.5%

Drink 2012

Closure Screwcap

Original vineyard plantings at Mitchelton from 1969, this takes its name from the bend in this riverside Goulburn Valley vineyard. Some earthy/savoury notes, the fruit is ripe yet has its measure, spicy plums and some rich berry aromas. The palate has a savoury spice of gravelly tannin, building berry fruit through the sides, firm but balanced finish; decent oak impact too.

## SHIRAZ

### 2006 Marius Simpatico Shiraz

Score 91

McLAREN VALE

Price \$24.00 ✓

Quality ★★★★★

Alc./Vol. 14.5%

Drink Now

Closure Screwcap

The name says it all – this is about easy drinking and it shows, well, *simpatico* between the region and the variety. Ripe dark berries and plum fruits, gently supportive tannins that don't interrupt the flow of flavour or compromise the soft mouth-feel.

### 2005 Marius Symphony Shiraz

Score 93

McLAREN VALE

Price \$34.00 ✓

Quality ★★★★★

Alc./Vol. 15%

Drink 2011

Closure Screwcap

This is the upper deck of the Marius shiraz range and offers plenty of value – a real gem. Ripe dark berry fruits, plums and liquorice; charming juicy smooth tannins from start to finish – a wine with style and grace, eminently balanced and beautifully delivered.

### 2006 Maverick Greenock Rise Shiraz

Score 94

BAROSSA VALLEY

Price \$55.00 ✓

Quality ★★★★★

Alc./Vol. 15%

Drink 2014

Closure Cork

This dark, brooding Greenock shiraz hails from vines planted in the 1950s and has superb depth. It pushes the ripeness envelope with dark berry and plum fruits, toasted spices dress it up nicely and the oak is cast in a supporting role of structure and texture, adding toast through the finish. This juicy Barossa shiraz will cellar like a champ!

### 2005 Maverick Trial Hill Eden Valley Shiraz

Score 94

EDEN VALLEY

Price \$60.00

Quality ★★★★★

Alc./Vol. 14.5%

Drink 2015

Closure Cork

Impressive colour – really vibrant; it packs a dense whack of bright red and dark berry fruits, dusted with fine spices, some plum in there too. The palate balances density with grace, tannins run deep and savoury, building weight towards the finish – the balance is spot-on. This is still very much on the ascent and deserves time in the cellar to reach its lofty best.

### 2007 Mayer Big Betty Shiraz

Score 91

YARRA VALLEY

Price \$35.00

Quality ★★★★★

Alc./Vol. 14%

Drink 2011

Closure Diam

This clever Yarra shiraz is more on the beautiful side of big. It has ripe confected fruit aromas, black fruits and superb fragrant lift, cranberry and fine spice too; cleverly constructed. The palate travels on fine tannins delivering meaty barrel-derived complexity and light berry flavour. Easy and approachable.

**2006 Maverick Twins Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Petit Verdot  
Cabernet Franc**

Score 91

BAROSSA VALLEY

Price \$28.00  
Quality \*\*\*\*  
Alc./Vol. 14.5%  
Drink 2011  
Closure Screwcap

A raw, youthful myriad blend of varieties presents as a rich regionally driven red, plenty of earthy berry fruits and some oak punch. Terrific palate texture and density, ripe berries in all directions here, supple tannins bundle out the finish in youthful form.

**2006 Mount Trio Cabernet Merlot**

Score 89

GREAT SOUTHERN

Price \$16.00  
Quality \*\*\*\*  
Alc./Vol. 13.5%  
Drink 2010  
Closure Screwcap

Gavin and Gill Berry's home vineyard near Mount Barker delivers cool dark berries and a nutty/savoury oak overlay; some mulberry, meats and chocolate too. A direct and compact palate structure: the tannins are fine-cut and wrapped tight around plum fruits, pencil-shaving oak to close.

**2005 Over The Shoulder Cabernet Merlot**

Score 92

YARRA VALLEY

Price \$20.00 ✓  
Quality \*\*\*\*  
Alc./Vol. 14.5%  
Drink 2015  
Closure Screwcap

What a pleasant surprise this wine was when, following the tasting, I discovered it was a mere twenty bucks! Showing some bright fruit and stylishly applied oak, purple fruit flavours, liquorice and leafy edges; it has great depth, weight and balance, with a sweet oak spice aftertaste. Effortless, easy-drinking style.

**2004 Paracombe The Reuben**

Score 91

ADELAIDE HILLS

Price \$21.00 ✓  
Quality \*\*\*\*  
Alc./Vol. 15%  
Drink Now  
Closure Screwcap

This pitches cool-climate style, and some savoury bottle-derived maturity adds interest. Not exactly Rubenesque: rhubarb and dried cassis, liqueured fruits, leaves and mint. Very supple palate, more mint and berries here, subtle spices and a dense, resolute finish. Like a ripe luncheon claret!

**2005 Petaluma Coonawarra**

Score 95

COONAWARRA

Price \$60.00  
Quality \*\*\*\*  
Alc./Vol. 13.5%  
Drink 2014  
Closure Cork

This is a class act, smelling warm, soft and decidedly claret-like. Bright musky oak helps lift cabernet's purple florals, berries and merlot's blue fruits. It layers up nicely across the palate, flavours follow aromas; the tannins are supple and run in fine lines that stretch the length of the palate. Already settled and, cork willing, set to age with grace.