



JAMES HALLIDAY'S TOP 100

Australia's best white, red and sparkling wines



100

BEST WHITE, RED & SPARKLING WINES

James Halliday gives his annual verdict on an industry that's under siege on several fronts, yet delivering ever higher quality.

PRIMO ESTATE LA BIONDINA COLOMBARD 2012

91 points
screwcap, 12% alcohol

Pale-straw green; a wine that has always delivered more flavour and attitude than theoretically possible; intense grapefruit spears through the length of the intensely focused palate. For an alternative to chardonnay (or other mainstream varieties), try this and leave the pinot gris on the shelf. Drink to 2024 with summer salads



WIRRA WIRRA MRS WIGLEY GRENACHE ROSÉ

93 points
screwcap, 13.5% alcohol

Vivid crimson-purple; this wine manages to bring intensity and depth to its array of red fruit flavours, but without any hint of sweetness or inappropriate extract; the dry finish lingers long in the mouth, bringing back the red fruits of the mid-palate. Drink to 2014 with paella



FREYCINET PINOT NOIR 2010

96 points
screwcap, 14.5% alcohol

Purple-crimson; a perfect demonstration of the value of fully mature 31-year-old vines; the fragrance of the bouquet has intensified since late 2011; multiple layers of fruit with a silky sweetness to the flavours; tannins are there, as is oak, but the integrity of the fruit makes all the difference to a superb Tasmanian pinot. Drink to 2015 with venison



POL ROGER BRUT BLANC DE BLANCS 2000

97 points

This utterly beautiful wine is made from 100% grand cru Cote des Blancs vineyards in Cramant, Le Mesnil, Oger, Avize and Oiry. Tasted in August and again a month later, it was on each occasion incredibly fresh, vibrant and long, the bouquet and palate with every possible facet of lemon; its acidity is a sunbeam of crystalline purity.



THE BEST OF THE REST

O'Leary Walker
Adelaide Hills
Sauvignon Blanc
2012

92 points

Wirra Scrubby Rise
Shiraz Cabernet Petit
Verdot from Adelaide
2011

92 points

Wirra Wirra Hiding
Champion Adelaide
Hills Sauvignon Blanc
2012

95 points

Primo Estate Joseph
Sparkling Red NV

96 points