

# James Halliday Australian Wine Companion 2012

## De Bortoli Yarra Valley ★★★★★

The quality arm of the bustling De Bortoli group, run by Leanne De Bortoli and husband Steve Webber, ex Lindemans winemaker. The top label (De Bortoli), the second (Gulf Station) and the third label (Windy Peak) offer wines of consistently good quality and excellent value - the complex Chardonnay and the Pinot Noirs are usually of outstanding quality. The volume of production, by many times the largest in the Yarra Valley, simply underlines the quality / value for money ratio of the wines. This arm of the business has vineyards in the Yarra and King Valleys.



## Reserve Release

### Reserve Release Yarra Valley Chardonnay 2008

#### 96 Points + Best of the best by variety

Pale, vibrant colour, fine, fragrant, polished and poised, with pear, lemon, spice and fennel; the palate is soft on entry, showing some development, yet racy acidity draws in focus to a laser-like intensity; as the finish continues unabated; racy, modern and exciting at a lowly 12% alc.



### Reserve Release Yarra Valley Syrah 2008

#### 96 Points + Best of the best by variety

Retains bright crimson hue; both the complex bouquet and palate have nuances of the northern Rhone Valley, especially the spicy / savoury elements of the predominantly red fruit flavours: the tannins, too are admirable.



### Reserve Release Yarra Valley Riesling 2010

#### 94 Points

All the pressings were included to give the wine phenolic-derived texture, and to emphasise the impression of a dryness - impression, because the wine has 7.1g per litre of residual sugar. It is a dyed-in-the-wool food style, with a very distinctive herb / spice bouquet. From 27 year old vines; 250 dozen made.



### Reserve Release Yarra Valley EZ 2010

#### 93 Points

no review given, just rating.



### Reserve Release Yarra Valley Pinot Noir 2010

#### 93 Points

no review given, just rating.



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## Estate Grown

### Estate Grown Yarra Valley Pinot Noir Rosé 2010

**95 Points + Special value star rating + Best of the best by variety**

Salmon-pink; the quest for texture is obvious and successful, but not at the expense of the strawberry and spice fruit; immaculately balanced and bone dry; it is disarmingly delicious.



### Estate Grown Yarra Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2008

**95 Points + Best of the best by variety**

Clear red-purple; a fragrant cedary edge to the black fruits of the bouquet is followed by a supple, almost juicy, medium bodied with superfine, but persistent, tannins and a touch of cigar box all adding complexity to an elegant wine.



## Gulf Station

### Gulf Station Yarra Valley Sauvignon Blanc 2010

**94 Points + Best of the best by variety**

If you really love Marlborough sauvignon blanc, best give this a miss; there is no fountain of tropical fruits, but there is structure to an elegant, finely chiselled wine, with pea pod, grass and mineral notes, filled out by partial barrel ferment and lees stirring. The finish is long and clean, with a nod to white Bordeaux.



### Gulf Station Yarra Valley Pinot Noir 2010

**92 Points**

no review given, just rating.



### Gulf Station Yarra Valley Pinot Grigio 2010

**89 Points**

no review given, just rating.



## Riorret

### Riorret Merricks Grove Vineyard Pinot Noir 2008

**92 Points**

no review given, just rating.



### Riorret Viggers Vineyard Pinot Noir 2008

**92 Points**

no review given, just rating.



### Riorret The Abbey Pinot Noir 2008

**90 Points**

no review given, just rating.



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## Rococo

Rococo Yarra Valley Blanc de Blancs NV

**90 Points**

no review given, just rating.

Rococo Yarra Valley Sparkling Rosé NV

**87 Points**

no review given, just rating.



## La Bohème

La Bohème Yarra Valley Act Two Pale Rosé 2010

**92 Points**

no review given, just rating.

La Bohème Yarra Valley Act One Semillon Sauvignon Rollé 2010

**89 Points**

no review given, just rating.

La Bohème Yarra Valley Act Three Pinot Gris & Friends 2010

**89 Points**

no review given, just rating.



## Windy Peak

Windy Peak Yarra Valley Chardonnay 2009

**91 Points**

no review given, just rating.

Windy Peak Yarra Valley Dry Rosé 2010

**88 Points**

no review given, just rating.

Windy Peak King Valley Riesling 2010

**87 Points**

no review given, just rating.



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## De Bortoli Riverina ★★★★★

Famous amongst the cognoscenti for its superb Noble One, which in fact accounts for only a minute part of its total production, this winery turns around low-priced varietal and generic wines that are invariably competently made and equally invariably provide value for money. These come in part from estate vineyards, but also from contract-grown grapes. The rating is in part reflection of the exceptional value for money offered across the range.



## Noble One

### Noble One 2008

#### 95 Points + Best of the best by variety

Bright yellow-gold; the vast experience of De Bortoli with this style results in a wine with rich, opulent and sweet fruit balanced by the acidity missing from lesser wines; cumquat, mandarin, honey and vanilla are all part of the package.



## Deen Vat Series

### Deen Vat 2 Sauvignon Blanc 2010

#### 90 Points + Special value star rating

Punches way above its price point, with clear-cut and clean varietal character in a gently tropical fruit spectrum; citrus and mineral acidity drives the finish.



### Deen Vat 1 Durif 2009

#### 90 Points + Special value star rating

Bright colour; textbook dark chocolate and plummy fruit, with a fragrant violet perfume to the bouquet; ripe without taking on the least bit of heaviness, excellently put together, and terrific value for the price.



### Deen Vat 7 Chardonnay 2009

#### 89 Points

no review given; just rating



### Deen Vat 8 Shiraz 2008

#### 89 Points

no review given; just rating



## Sacred Hill

### Sacred Hill Riesling 2010

#### 89 Points + Special value star rating

A major surprise. Not only does the wine have clear-cut lime and lemon varietal flavour, but places no reliance on residual sugar, the finish dry. I'm not about to carp by questioning the phenolic notes.



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## De Bortoli Hunter Valley ★★★★★

De Bortoli extended its wine empire in 2002 with the purchase of the former Wilderness Estate, giving it an immediate and significant presence in the Hunter Valley courtesy of the 26ha of established vineyards, including semillon vines over 40 years old. The subsequent purchase of the adjoining 40 ha property increased the size of the business. The intention is to convert the vineyards to biological farming practices, with composting and mulching already used to reduce the need for irrigation.



## Hunter Valley

### Will's Hill Shiraz 2009

**92 Points**

Bright garnet; the bouquet exhibits a savoury personality of red fruits, fresh leather, bramble and spice; the medium-bodied and surprisingly chewy, with the toasty oak and red fruits combining with ease.

### DBHV Nouveau Shiraz 2010

**89 Points**

no review given, just rating

### DBHV Field Blend 2010

**88 Points**

no review given, just rating

### DBHV Vermentino 2010

**87 Points**

no review given, just rating

