

THE AUSTRALIAN WINE ANNUAL 2011

BY JEREMY OLIVER

Noble One

93 Points

Botrytis Semillon

Long, very luscious and concentrated, with a spicy, almost varnishy bouquet of apricot, peach, and honey with spicy undertones of cinnamon, cloves and ginger, a hint of creme caramel and tightly integrated fresh vanilla oak. Unusually oily and viscous - even by the standard of this wine - its unctuous presence of stonefruit, tangerine and tropical fruits extends with pleasing length, finishing with fresh, zesty acids and a lingering core of flavour.



Melba

93 Points

Reserve 2007

Firm tight-knit and astringent, with a briary, smoky bouquet of dark plums and cassis, cedar and vanilla. Supported by a drying spine of kernelly tannins, its youthful and a little raw, with a deep, palate-staining presence of dark berries and plums finishing tight, focused, and with a lingering core of fruit. Remarkably, no smoke taint at time of tasting!



Reserve Release

96 Points

Syrah 2008

Classy, Rhone-inspired shiraz with a floral, musky and meaty bouquet of blackberries, dark plums and blueberries with earthy, herbal undertones. Medium in weight, its fine-grained and finely crafted, presenting an harmonious interplay between deep, dark fruit, savoury oak and fine, dusty tannins. It finishes long and elegant, with a genuinely persistent core of fruit and a fresh acidity.



94 Points

Sauvignon 2008

Scented with lychees, gooseberries and lavender, with dusty, mineral and lightly grassy undertones of lemon blossom. Long and smoky, this dusty, chalky sauvignon blanc has a very dry and elegant palate whose persistent core of lemon, grapefruit and gooseberries is coupled with emphatic meaty, creamy and leesy complexity. It has a pronounced mid palate richness and fattiness, but finishes very savoury with lingering briney notes.



88 Points

Pinot Noir 2007

Meaty, savoury and smoky, with a floral, menthol-like perfume, its initially intense core of black and red cherries and plums is backed by earthy, herbal and prune-like characters. Its wild and funky, with the distinctive stamp of typical De Bortoli complexity, but due to some underlying smoke taint issues, finishes quite flat and smoky, with a rather overt bitterness across the back of the palate.



(Continued)

DE BORTOLI
WINES



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87 Points

Chardonnay 2007

Rather overworked for its depth of fruit, this very complex, savoury and particularly funky young chardonnay lacks its usual length and brightness. Its waxy aromas of delicate melon and nutty fruit, sweetcorn and leesy, cheesy notes precede a somewhat forward and oily palate that finishes rather dull and short, simple and candied. Simply a reflection of a challenging vintage.



Estate Grown

93 Points

Pinot Noir 2008

Reminiscent of an older styled-Burgundy, its likely to age well over the medium term. Its spicy aromas of rose petals, cherries, plum kernels, dried herbs and baked earthy undertones reveal some charcuterie-like influences. Medium weight, supple and fine-grained, its meaty, sappy and marginally herbal presence of cherries, plums and redcurrants is lingering, dark and savoury, finishing with length and freshness. Great complexity and attitude.



90 Points

Cabernet Sauvignon 2007

A deeply layered bouquet of dark plums, berries, minerals and savoury oak backed by nuances of dried herbs is lifted by a floral perfume. Long, firm and tight-knit, its chalky palate reveals pure dark plum and berry fruits, slightly meaty, older oak and a fine-grained chassis of bony tannins. Persistent and harmonious, it finishes rustic and savoury.



89 Points

Chardonnay 2008

Perhaps slightly overdone, with pungent, meaty and cheesy aromas over dull scents of grapefruit and melon. Rather broad and oily, bordering flabby and syrupy, the palate of generous melon and grapefruit flavour needs some tightening. It finishes mineral and savoury.



86 Points

Shiraz Viognier 2007

Moderately smoke tainted, a factor that is becoming more obvious with time in the bottle. Dull, ashtray-like aromas with some spicy red and black plum/berry fruit precedes a smooth, reasonably long and savoury palate that is becoming more bitter, metallic and smoky as it ages.

