

100

TOP NEW RELEASE WINES



Australian wines reviewed by *WINE* contributing editor **HUON HOOKE**.
New Zealand wines reviewed by *WINE* New Zealand editor **BOB CAMPBELL MW**.

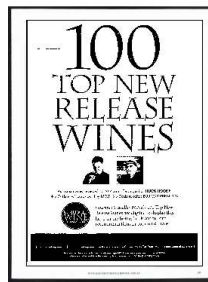


Gourmet Traveller WINE's 100 Top New Release Wines are eligible to display this label on the bottle. Look out for our recommendations in your retail store.

Cellaring Guide

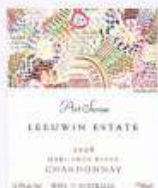
[] Good drinking now [] Good drinking now or in the next seven years [] 7-9 Cellar from seven to a maximum of nine years

To see how wines are tasted and rated, see page 147. Prices are approximate; where unlisted, wines are not available in that country. To source wines in this story, see page 171.



AUSTRALIAN WHITES

96*****
2006 Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay, Margaret River, A\$96/NZ\$100
 From a top chardonnay vintage, this is an essay in power with restraint. Grapefruity nose with oaky aromas, young for its age. The 14.5 per cent alcohol is not evident, but the palate is concentrated and emphatic. **8**



91****
2008 Belgravia The Apex Chardonnay, Orange, A\$30
 This is a fine, seamless chardonnay with nutty fruit and barrel-influenced bouquet, but not overtly oaky at all. The palate has subtlety and taut intensity, finesse and length with good acidity that's so well integrated it's barely noticeable. Lovely drink. **3+**



96*****
2006 Penfolds Yattarna Chardonnay, Derwent Valley, Adelaide Hills & Henty, A\$130
 Seamless harmony, refinement, line and length are the hallmarks of this superb chardonnay. It is also ageing slowly and should have a long life. Light yellow hue; nut, toast, melon and citrus aromas and flavours are impeccably balanced. **8+**



91****
2007 Geoff Hardy K1 Chardonnay, Adelaide Hills, A\$35
 Lovely softy texture distinguishes this smart chardonnay. A touch of reductive meatiness to sniff, over nicely balanced fruit, oak and winemaking inputs. The palate is long and stylish with smooth richness and some potential to improve with age. **4**



94*****
2007 Penfolds Reserve Bin 07A Chardonnay, Adelaide Hills, A\$90
 A slightly softer, less reserved style than Yattarna, this is still remarkably fine for the Hills, while the fruit is slightly richer and sweeter. Citrusy flavours; oak barely evident; taut and undeveloped in the mouth. Impressive wine. **5+**



91****
2008 Seppelt Jaluka Drumborg Vineyard Chardonnay, Henty, A\$27
 Another high-acid, cool-grown chardonnay that will go better with food. Stone-fruit aromas with attractive barrel fermented character, the oak is in balance. Low 12.5 per cent alcohol and high acid point towards early picking. **6**



93*****
2007 Oakdene Elizabeth Chardonnay, Geelong, A\$30
 Made by Ray Nadeson of Lethbridge, this is a most interesting left-field style. It has a Chablis-like minerally, straw, honey and malt bouquet. The mouthfeel is unusual: lively, lean and long, with an intriguing balance of lightness and intensity. This is different! **4+**



90****
2007 Balnaves of Coonawarra Chardonnay, Coonawarra, A\$28
 Toasty barrel-ferment oak introduces this classy, intense chardonnay. The palate is rich, with a subtle impression of sweetness, while it's light yet intense and has an easygoing balance that makes it hard to resist now. **4+**



93*****
2008 Penfolds Bin 311 Chardonnay, Tumbarumba, A\$43
 This is a racy, high-acid, cool-climate chardonnay that's as close as Australia ever gets to Chablis. A whisper of toasty oak; some low-level sulfide adds interest. Lemony in the mouth; fine, crisp, tangy and lingering. A truly minerally chardonnay. **7**



90****
2008 Larry Cherubino The Yard 24 Road Vineyard Chardonnay, Margaret River, A\$32
 A stylish, elegant barrel-fermented chardonnay that doesn't skimp on oak-derived complexity. It has nutty, toasty aromas, while the palate has tightness and refinement, good line and length. **4**

