



James Halliday nominates 10 great new Australian wineries from his just-released wine guide

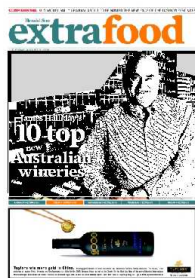
» cover story

The best new wineries

AS EVER, 10 of the best. Not the best 10, though this year the outcome was nearly the same thing. The Barossa Valley provided half of the wineries, perhaps a reflection of the storehouse it has of great shiraz.

» **allies wines**
Mornington Peninsula

Barney Flanders and David Chapman call Allies a collaboration. Both are originally from a restaurant background, Barney on the floor and David in the kitchen. One thing led to another as they followed separate paths into the wine industry, and then joined forces on the Mornington Peninsula, producing quite beautiful wines, albeit in limited quantities.



» **chapman grove wines**

Margaret River

Bruce Dukes is the contract winemaker for Chapman Grove, which has 30ha of high-quality vineyards. Top-label wines under the Atticus label are singularly impressive, led by (what else?) chardonnay; the 2005 and '06 vintages are both stunning.

» **first drop wines**

Barossa Valley

If nothing else, this shows what a virtual winery can achieve. The business is owned by Matt Gant and John Retsas. Matt was led away from his geography degree at the University of London by lecturer Tim Unwin, who took his students on a field trip to Burgundy and Champagne, leading Matt to Australia, where he won the Wine Society's Young Winemaker of the Year Award in 2004, and the Young Gun Wine Award in 2007. John learned his trade at St Hallett, Chain of Ponds, and is now general manager of Schild Estate.

» **larry cherubino wines**

Southwest Australia Zone

It should have come as no surprise to anyone that when Larry Cherubino set up his own business in 2005 he hit the ground running. His distinguished winemaking career started at Hardys Tintara, then Houghton for several years, and thereafter as a Flying Winemaker in demand in Australia, NZ, South Africa, the US and Italy. This, too, is a virtual winery.

» **maverick wines**

Barossa Valley

A perfectly timed exercise by four astute wine professionals who acquired four vineyards in the Eden Valley and Barossa Valley during the 2004-06 years of surplus. Their 30ha are the foundation for a singularly impressive portfolio.

» **rohrlach family wines**

Barossa Valley

Brothers Kevin, Graham and Wayne Rohrlach, with wives Lyn, Lynette and Kaylene, are third-generation growers of 95ha of prime vineyard land. Until 2000, the grapes were sold to two leading Barossa wineries, but in that year some of the grapes were held back for vinification under the Rohrlach label. In 2003, the family received the ultimate accolade when the Barons of the Barossa gave them the title Vignerons of the Year. It's not hard to see why.

» **russell wines**

Barossa Valley

John Russell and wife Rosalind came to the Barossa in 1990 to create the Barossa Music Festival (with great success). The wine bug bit and in 1994 they planted the first 14ha of vines, now increased to 32ha on three vineyards. Shawn Kalleske makes the wines, optimising the quality of grapes he receives for the label.

» **the old faithful estate**

McLaren Vale

This is a 50-50 joint venture between US specialist wine importer John Larchet (with one half), and a quartet of Nick Haselgrove, Warren Randall, Warren Ward

and Andrew Fletcher, all of whom know McLaren Vale like the back of their hands (with the other half). Focused on the US market, the venture pays top dollar for top grapes, and the wines are made by the equally skilful Nick Haselgrove.

» **the story wines**

Grampians

This is a story indeed, taking the varied backgrounds of people who have made their way into the wine industry one step further, for founder, owner and winemaker Rory Lane had as his qualification a degree in ancient Greek literature. Not wanting to put this to the test of real-world wealth creation, he enrolled in a post-graduate wine technology and marketing course at Monash University, and the rest is history.

» **yelland & papps**

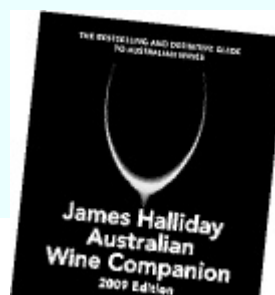
Barossa Valley

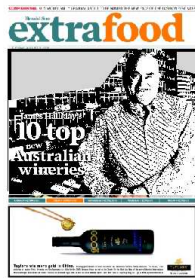
This is the venture of Michael and Susan Papps (nee Yelland), set up after their marriage, in 2005. Michael had lived in the Barossa Valley for 20 years working at local wineries, bottling facilities and wine-technology businesses. Susan worked in New York for a year, studying at the Windows of the World Wine School. Once again, this is a virtual winery, the production limited by the scarcity of the high-quality grapes they have managed to secure. The prices are a breath of fresh air.

■ **From James Halliday's *Australian Wine Companion 2009*, published by Hardie Grant. \$34.95. Companion website, www.winecompanion.com.au**



Allies: David Chapman (left) and Barney Flanders lead the field.





» 10 of their best to try

ALLIES WINES

Saone Mornington Peninsula Viognier 2006

Strong varietal expression throughout, with apricot blossom aromas and predominant, though not aggressive, palate impact. The 11 per cent chardonnay a seamless component. Will match a wide range of food. Screwcap. 13.5% alc. Rating 94/100. Best by: to 2011. \$24.

CHAPMAN GROVE WINES

Atticus Margaret River Chardonnay 2005

Very similar to the '06, and every bit as good, if not better. Silky fruit in a fine web of quality oak and mineral acidity. Screwcap. 14.2% alc. Rating 96. To: 2015. \$50.

FIRST DROP WINES

Fat of the Land Seppeltsfield Single Vineyard Barossa Valley Shiraz 2005

Slightly darker fruits and somewhat more compelling. There is a liveliness to this wine that races across the palate, and is brought to its ultimate conclusion with a core of vibrant red fruits. It totally belies the alcohol of 15. Cork. 15% alc. Rating 95. To: 2020. \$65.

LARRY CHERUBINO WINES

Riesling 2007
 Apple and citrus aromas lead into a palate of good intensity and length, with no sunburnt fruit characters to the lime and mineral flavours. Good acidity. Screwcap. 11.5% alc. Rating 94. To: 2015. \$35.

MAVERICK WINES

Trial Hill Eden Valley Riesling 2007

Lemon, lime, mineral and spice aromas; a very intense and long palate of ripe apple and citrus. Fresh citrusy acidity. Screwcap. 12.5% alc. Rating 94. To: 2017. \$33.

ROHRLACH FAMILY WINES

Barossa Shiraz 2005

Slightly unconvincing colour, but does have an interesting range of flavours from blackberry to spicy/herbal/savoury. A wine that grows on retasting, as its exceptional length becomes obvious. High-quality cork. 14.8% alc. Rating 94. To: 2015. \$18.

RUSSELL WINES

The Victor Greenock Farm Barossa Valley Shiraz 2005

An ultra-rich, ripe and velvety array of plum, prune and blackberry fruits. A touch of licorice manages to carry the formidable alcohol well. Cork. 15.5% alc. Rating 94. To: 2020. \$85.

THE OLD FAITHFUL ESTATE

Northern Exposure McLaren Vale Grenache 2006

Deep crimson, it has the power, texture and tannin grip that only comes from McLaren Vale. The fruit is a black, rather than red, spectrum. From 60-year-old dry-grown vines on terra rossa. Diam cork. 14.5% alc. Rating 94. To: 2021. \$75.

THE STORY WINES

Westgate Vineyard Grampians Shiraz 2006

A spotlessly clean bouquet, then a palate with perpetual movement as the lively, spicy flavours wash back and forth. A wonderful finish and aftertaste; more elegant, less power. Screwcap. 14% alc. Rating 96. To: 2026. \$36.

YELLAND AND PAPPS

Barossa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2006

Bright purple; quite luscious but perfectly ripened cassis and blackcurrant fruit. Fine, ripe tannins, perfectly judged French oak maturation. Delicious. Screwcap. 14.5% alc. Rating 94. To: 2020. \$30.