



THE DECODED WINE AWARDS

BY Dan Murphy's

THE WINE AWARDS FOR LOVERS NOT EXPERTS

We reveal this
year's top drops

Behind the scenes
with our expert judges

Confusing wine
jargon, busted!



There's always more to discover



WELCOME TO DAN MURPHY'S INAUGURAL DECODED WINE AWARDS

For wine lovers, not experts

The aim is in the name: we're *decoding* wine by stripping it back to basics and giving you permission to simply enjoy it.

The 73 winning wines in this issue were found to be the best (or the best value) of their category styles during the judging process, which saw our expert panel (see right) blind-taste more than 1000 wines over several days. Every single wine, including the honourable mentions, is beautifully balanced but you won't hear about it from us. Unlike other wine awards, we won't talk about acidity or appellations or whether the wine went through malolactic fermentation.

Instead, we'll talk about why you'll love these wines, when you should drink them (spoiler alert: now!) and what you should drink them with. Enjoy!

OUR AWARDS EXPLAINED

These badges are your key to navigating the following pages.



THE WINE THE JUDGING PANEL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED WAS THE BEST IN ITS CATEGORY.



BEST IN ITS CATEGORY FOR THE PRICE. THESE WINES PUNCH WELL ABOVE THEIR WEIGHT.



WINES THE JUDGES LOVED BUT JUST MISSED OUT ON THE TOP SPOTS. LOOK FOR THIS BADGE IN-STORE.



RECEIVE 10% OFF WHEN YOU BUY 6 OR MORE DECODED WINES AND USE YOUR MY DAN'S CARD.[^]

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MEET THE JUDGES

We brought together our top experts from the Wine Panel, who make sure the wines we stock stay in peak condition – Wine Buyers, who get our wines from vineyards into stores, and Wine Merchants, who are our in-store sommeliers. Each category was judged by all 12 experts with different captains taking the lead, as listed below.



WINNING WINES under \$20

LIGHTER WHITE

KATHY GERTAU

Wine Merchant, Dan Murphy's Norwood SA

Kathy joined the Dan Murphy's team as a Wine Merchant in 2018 off the back of more than 15 years in the wine industry, which included running her own business.

📍 @danmurphys_kathy



FULLER WHITE

MALISA CAROSELLI

Wine Merchant, Dan Murphy's Carine WA

Malisa joined Dan Murphy's from a career as a twice Emmy nominated Hollywood producer, where she worked on TV programs including *Bob's Burgers* and *King of the Hill*. While living in LA, she hosted a Women in Business wine group for 10 years.



LIGHTER RED

ANDREW SHEDDEN

Head of Dan Murphy's Fine Wine Buying Team

Andrew is the Head of Fine Wine and a recent graduate of the prestigious WSET Level 4 program. Just over 10,000 wine professionals in the world have passed the examination since the diploma commenced in 1969, so it's a huge achievement.



FULLER RED

IAN WOLFE

Dan Murphy's Wine Buyer, Western Region

Ian has been with Dan Murphy's since 2002, working as Fine Wine Manager across multiple stores, including managing Prahlan's impressive cellar. Currently, he's part of the Fine Wine buying team.



WINNING WINES over \$20

LIGHTER WHITE

NICK ROSE

Dan Murphy's Wine Buyer, Eastern Region

Nick has held many roles within Dan Murphy's, including Fine Wine Manager, wine trainer, wine judge and on the Wine Panel. Currently he is part of the Fine Wine buying team.



FULLER WHITE

TAMARA GRISCHY

Dan Murphy's Wine Panel Member

Tamara is Head of Auctions at Langton's. A highlight during her 20 years with the business would be two record-breaking sales of 1951 Penfolds Grange Hermitage that she sold for more than \$80,000 a bottle. She was also awarded Woman of Inspiration at the 2018 Women in Wine Awards.



LIGHTER RED

PETER NIXON

Head of Dan Murphy's Wine Panel

As Head of the Dan Murphy's Wine Panel, Peter assesses between 50 and 100 wines during each weekly meeting. Part of the Dan Murphy's team since 2008, he has judged numerous wine shows and has over 30 years experience in the industry.



FULLER RED

GARY BRAIDNER

Dan Murphy's Wine Panel Member

Gary joined Dan Murphy's in 1993. Currently he's the Wine Panel Coordinator, as well as a WSET (Wine & Spirit Education Trust) accredited trainer and wine judge. He has also worked vintages at some of the world's best wineries in Australia and Europe.



OTHER AWARD winners

ROSÉ

MARK SAMAHA

Dan Murphy's Wine Buyer, Western Region

Mark's career in wine has taken him everywhere from the United Kingdom to Japan. He spent five years with Langton's, has spent more than 10 years with Dan Murphy's, and has been a regular associate judge at the Royal Melbourne Wine Show.



SPARKLING

NICK VEANES

Wine Merchant, Dan Murphy's Ascot Vale VIC

Nick joined the Dan Murphy's team as a Wine Merchant a year ago. His long career in hospitality has seen him head up the beverage program at Port Melbourne's Railway Club Hotel, among others.

📍 @danmurphys_nick



FORTIFIED

CHRIS GOLLOGLY

Wine Merchant, Dan Murphy's Hobart TAS

After 10 years with Dan Murphy's, in both fine wine and customer experience roles, Chris is now a Wine Merchant in our Hobart store. His Dan Murphy's career comes off the back of 14 years in hospitality.

📍 @danmurphys_chris



PRESERVATIVE-FREE

BEN MORONEY

Wine Merchant, Dan Murphy's Hornsby NSW

For more than eight years, Ben worked in communications for Wine Australia, earning his WSET Level 3 within that time. He joined the Dan Murphy's Hornsby team as a Wine Merchant a year ago, bringing a wealth of industry knowledge to the role.

📍 @danmurphys_ben



HERE ARE OUR 1000+ WINES - BLIND TASTED



UNDER \$20 AWARD WINNERS

LIGHTER WHITE

Grand Winner:
KNAPPSTEIN
RIESLING

MORE ON PAGE 6

FULLER WHITE

Grand Winner:
DEVIL'S LAIR
THE HIDDEN CAVE
MARGARET RIVER
CHARDONNAY

MORE ON PAGE 8

LIGHTER RED

Grand Winner:
Z WINE RUSTICA
GRENACHE

MORE ON PAGE 10

FULLER RED

Grand Winner:
LANGMEIL
THREE GARDENS
GRENACHE
SHIRAZ MATARO

MORE ON PAGE 12

AWARD WINNER ROSE

Grand Winner:
BLUE PYRENEES
BONE DRY ROSÉ

MORE ON PAGE 14

AWARD WINNER SPARKLING

Grand Winner:
JANSZ TASMANIA
VINTAGE CUVÉE
2014

MORE ON PAGE 15

OUR WINNERS

73 FINALISTS - 12 JUDGES



OVER \$20 AWARD WINNERS

LIGHTER WHITE

Grand Winner:
CRAGGY RANGE
SAUVIGNON
BLANC 2019

MORE ON PAGE 16

FULLER WHITE

Grand Winner:
XANADU ESTATE
CHARDONNAY
2018

MORE ON PAGE 18

LIGHTER RED

Grand Winner:
SEPELT
DRUMBORG
VINEYARD
PINOT MEUNIER
2018

MORE ON PAGE 20

FULLER RED

Grand Winner:
XANADU ESTATE
CABERNET
SAUVIGNON
2018

MORE ON PAGE 22

AWARD WINNER FORTIFIED

Grand Winner:
MORRIS OLD
RARE LIQUEUR
TOPAQUE

MORE ON PAGE 24

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

PRESERVATIVE-
FREE WINE

MORE ON PAGE 25

YOUR
LOCAL HEROES

MORE ON PAGE 26

LIGHTER WHITE under \$20

Wine Merchant **Kathy Gertau** looks at the refreshing, food-friendly styles that came out on top in this category.

This was one of the most diverse categories in the Decoded Wine Awards, which challenged our palates during the blind tasting!

In the end we were unanimous about our preferred styles because we were looking for wines that were fresh and approachable without being overly sweet or fruity. As a Wine Merchant, I find that when customers are shopping for white wines under \$20, they're looking for styles that are vibrant enough to go with a meal, and I think our seven finalists are perfect examples of that.

The fact that we tasted so many different styles also reflects what I see in store every day – people are interested in exploring less familiar European varieties like grüner veltliner, and Australian winemakers are happy to meet that demand. It was lovely to see a riesling and a pinot gris take out the two top spots because I've noticed people are starting to come back to these old favourites. It really is amazing how many different light white styles you can try for under \$20.

*Kathy Gertau, Wine Merchant,
Dan Murphy's Norwood SA*



Knappstein
Riesling,
Clare Valley SA

**A DELICIOUSLY
FRESH, LIGHT AND
DRY RIESLING. THE
PERFECT WINE TO
ENJOY WITH YOUR
FAVOURITE ASIAN
CUISINE.**

16.90 each

LEAST FAVOURITE WINE TASTING WORD?

Kerosene

"People often say aged riesling has 'an aroma of kerosene' because it smells strong like petrol. But there has to be a better description!"





WE SAW SOME LOVELY PREMIUM LIGHT WINES. THEY SHOWED BEAUTIFUL PURITY OF FRUIT, LOVELY TEXTURE AND MOUTHFEEL, BRIGHT ACIDITY. THEY WILL GO GREAT WITH SPICY FOODS.

-DECODED BY KATHY

LIGHTER WHITE under \$20



THE FINALISTS

VALUE PICK

Noble Fellows Baron Betsy
Pinot Gris,
Marlborough NZ

**JUICY
DRY
GREAT VALUE**

13.90 each

Brokenwood
Semillon, Hunter Valley NSW

**CLASSIC HUNTER SEMILLON
AGE FOR RICHNESS
PEAR AND LEMON**

17.90 each

Sit Stay Society Violet's
Grüner Veltliner,
Clare Valley SA
375mL

**AROMATIC
MOUTH-WATERING
GOES WITH THAI
FOOD**

7.90 each

Franklin Tate Estates TATE
Sauvignon Blanc
Semillon, Margaret
River WA

**CLASSIC MARGARET RIVER BLEND
REFRESHING
GREAT WITH
SEAFOOD**

12.90 each

Tar & Roses
Pinot Grigio,
Central VIC

**CRISP
MEDIUM-BODIED
DRINK WITH FISH
AND CHIPS**

18.90 each

Yealands
Sauvignon Blanc,
Marlborough NZ

**ZINGY
CRISP
ENJOY WITH
CHEESE**

12.90 each



FULLER WHITE *under \$20*

As a chardy girl who worked in Margaret River for years, Malisa Caroselli might be biased, but her fellow judges had to agree – Margaret River chardonnay was the hero in this category.

I think Margaret River was our standout because the region is just incredibly well suited to chardonnay. Grapes thrive there during the warm, dry summers, but the region's position on a peninsula allows ocean breezes to flow through the vineyards when they're needed, cooling the grapes and preserving their rich fruit flavours.

We found our palates leaning towards big fruit characters during our blind tasting, and that, of course, is something that Margaret River winemakers do so well. The wines that we selected as our finalists resemble a generous style of chardonnay that is making its way back in with people who don't want to drink the sauvignon blanc their parents are drinking.

What we looked for above all else was balance – was the fruit (those stone fruits and nectarines), the vanilla flavours, the weight, finish and length all working in balance? These bottles really hit the spot.

Malisa Caroselli, *Wine Merchant,*
Dan Murphy's Carine WA



**Devil's Lair
The Hidden Cave**
Chardonnay, Margaret
River WA

**A SUPERB
CHARDONNAY.
THIS IS AN
IMPRESSIVE,
AFFORDABLE
OPTION FOR
YOUR NEXT
DINNER PARTY.**

17.90 each



LEAST FAVOURITE WINE TASTING WORD?

Quintessential

"I hear this all the time, but it doesn't actually mean anything to me. There are great examples of different styles, but there is no definitive or 'quintessential' wine in any style because everyone has a different preference."



WE'VE HAD SOME EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY IN THIS YEAR'S BRACKET. ~~REALLY TEXTURED,~~ REALLY APPROACHABLE. ~~THAT'S ALL DRIVEN BY THAT MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION.~~ FANTASTIC MID-WEEK TIPPLE.

-DECODED BY MALISA

FULLER WHITE under \$20



THE FINALISTS

VALUE PICK

Fowles Wine Farm to Table
Chardonnay,
Victoria

GENEROUS HINT OF OAK CROWD-PLEASER

13.90 each

Devil's Corner
Chardonnay,
Tasmania

CRISP ZESTY MADE FOR ROAST CHICKEN

15.90 each

Robert Oatley Signature Series
Chardonnay,
Margaret River WA

PREMIUM ELEGANT GREAT VALUE

18.90 each

Xanadu Fusion
Chardonnay,
Margaret River WA

MEDIUM-BODIED CREAMY MOUTHFEEL DELICIOUS WITH SHELLFISH

17.90 each

Franklin Tate Estates
Chardonnay,
Margaret River WA

BUTTERY OAKED FOR A COOL SUMMER NIGHT

17.90 each

Innocent Bystander
Pinot Gris,
Victoria

CRISP PEAR AND APPLE PERFECT FOR PICNICS

18.90 each

LIGHTER RED under \$20

Wine Buyer **Andrew Shedden** reveals the lighter red wines that sparked joy in the judging panel.

There were two interesting things we noticed when we were judging the lighter reds under \$20 category. The first was how diverse the range was in that price bracket. The breadth of varieties was awesome. Where once Australia focused much more on big, ballsy styles of red wine, the availability of these lighter, fresher styles points to our changing tastes, which I think is really exciting.

There's a real versatility to these lighter styles (you can even serve them chilled) and they're made to drink now and just enjoy. That's what we were looking for during the judging – is this wine fresh, vibrant, delicious and, to borrow from Marie Kondo, does it spark joy? If a wine is under \$20, it's not supposed to make you think about it too hard. It's designed to drink now, when it's warm outside, with your friends... that's what we were looking for.

The other thing we noticed was that although pinot noir is still the leading light-bodied red varietal in the over \$20 bracket, if you want to spend less, you'll get more value exploring varietals like touriga, tempranillo or grenache. The exception, of course, is the Tasmanian Hill Pinot Noir, which was our value winner.

Andrew Shedden, Head of Dan Murphy's Fine Wine Buying Team

Z Wine Rustica
Grenache,
Barossa Valley SA

**THIS JUICY, FRESH
AND VIBRANT
GRENACHE IS
PERFECT TO
DRINK NOW.**

14.90 each



THE FINALISTS

VALUE PICK

Tasmanian Hill
Pinot Noir, Tasmania

MEDIUM-BODIED
AFFORDABLE PINOT
PERFECT FOR
A DINNER PARTY

14.90 each

De Bortoli Villages
Tempranillo Touriga,
Heathcote VIC

JUICY
SAVOURY
PAIR WITH PAELLA

17.90 each

Château Tanunda Dahlitz
Single Vineyard
Merlot, Barossa
Valley SA

FOR MERLOT
LOVERS
FRUIT AND VANILLA
DELICIOUS WITH
ROAST PORK

18.90 each

Mix Tape
Tempranillo,
Limestone Coast SA

FRESH
SPICY
PAIRS WELL
WITH LAMB

10.00 each

Red Knot by Shingleback
Grenache Shiraz
Mourvèdre,
McLaren Vale SA

BRIGHT
RED FRUIT
CHILL IN THE
WARMER MONTHS

17.90 each

Paxton AAA
Shiraz Grenache,
McLaren Vale SA

BRIGHT
SILKY
WILL MAKE YOU
LOVE GRENACHE

18.90 each



THE DECODED
WINE AWARDS
VALUE PICK



Online
& SELECTED
STORES



Limited
STOCK



Online
& SELECTED
STORES



**OVERALL, WE HAD SOME
EXCELLENT LIGHT RED WINES
UNDER \$20 THIS YEAR, ~~ALL ON THE~~
~~RED BERRY SPECTRUM.~~ CLEAN,
BRIGHT, ~~FRUIT FORWARD.~~ CAN
DRINK THEM ALL YEAR ROUND.**

-DECODED BY ANDREW



FULLER RED under \$20

While straight shiraz will always be popular, blending is a trend Wine Buyer **Ian Wolfe** can get behind.

Full-bodied red wines have come a long way in Australia in the past 10 years. While cabernet sauvignon and shiraz are still being made with lots of weight and flavour, they're a bit brighter and fresher than they used to be, as we discovered during judging.

Often, it's the addition of grenache that brings that smoothness and extra drinkability to a wine – this was backed up by how well the grenache blends performed. Cabernet and malbec, particularly from the Clare Valley, is another magic combination – like getting John Lennon and Paul McCartney together. It just sings. When done well, combining two or more grape varieties can produce a wine that's better than the sum of its parts. Although, it's hard to go past straight shiraz in Australia – we do it so well, as this category also shows.

You'll love these wines, and if you put them on the table at a dinner party, or bring them to a mate's backyard barbecue, everyone will love them just as much.

Ian Wolfe,
Dan Murphy's Wine Buyer,
Western Region



**Langmeil
Three Gardens**
Grenache Shiraz
Mataro, Barossa SA

**A SAVOURY,
MEDIUM-BODIED
BAROSSA BLEND
WITH RIPE RED
FRUIT, IT'LL
COMPLETE YOUR
SUNDAY ROAST.**

17.90 each



LEAST FAVOURITE WINE TASTING WORD?

Variety

"We get hung up on variety, but I'd much rather talk about occasion. Are you in a celebratory mood? Pull out some nice sparkling. Watching the footy? Tennis? Occasion is a great way to direct yourself to a certain type of wine."

THE FINALISTS

<p>VALUE PICK</p> <p>Kirrihill Regional Selection Shiraz, Clare Valley SA</p> <p>LIVELY RICH GENEROUS</p> <p>13.90 each</p>	<p>Château Tanunda Chorus Grenache Mourvèdre Shiraz, Barossa Valley SA</p> <p>DARK BOLD SMOOTH</p> <p>16.90 each</p>	<p>Smith & Hooper Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot, Wattonbully SA</p> <p>RICH SMOOTH PAIR WITH BEEF</p> <p>15.90 each</p>	<p>Red Knot by Shingleback Shiraz, McLaren Vale SA</p> <p>GREAT VALUE SPICY A SHIRAZ LOVER'S DELIGHT</p> <p>11.90 each</p>	<p>Sit Stay Society Max's Cabernet Malbec, Clare Valley SA 375ml</p> <p>HANDY HALF-BOTTLE SIZE PERFECT WITH SAUSAGES CLASSIC BLEND</p> <p>7.90 each</p>	<p>De Bortoli Woodfired Shiraz, Heathcote VIC</p> <p>BIG POWERFUL FOR ROASTS AND BARBECUES</p> <p>18.90 each</p>
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I LOVE THESE WINES. THEY'RE RICH, STRUCTURED AND BROODING. THEY'VE GOT SOME BEAUTIFUL FLAVOUR AND INTENSITY. PERFECT FOR ENTERTAINING AROUND THE FIRE.

-DECODED BY IAN

RECEIVE 10% OFF WHEN YOU BUY 6 OR MORE DECODED WINES AND USE YOUR MY DAN'S CARD. 

Online & Selected Stores

THE DECODED WINE AWARDS WINNER

ROSÉ

Pale, dry styles are all the rage in Australian rosé this year, as judge Mark Samaha discovered.



Blue Pyrenees Estate Bone Dry
Rosé, Pyrenees VIC

THIS SALMON-PINK ROSÉ HAS DELICIOUS FLAVOURS OF STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM. DRY AND CRISP, IT'S THE PERFECT PICNIC DROP.

16.90 each



These five bottles are a great snapshot of the styles of rosé Australians love to drink right now: they're all pale and very dry, really refreshing with lots of summer fruit flavours.

It's interesting to note how rosé has changed in just a short period of time. Only five years ago it was common to see a rosé made from grenache or shiraz that was rich in colour and body. Now, as you'll see here, lighter, drier pinot noir is by far the most popular option, and we're seeing more Italian varieties coming through, particularly sangiovese.

One of my favourite things about rosé is its versatility. It's great for picnics and dinner parties and just about everyone will enjoy it: white wine drinkers will be drawn to the chilled serving temperature and refreshing nature, while red wine lovers will appreciate its dryness.

Mark Samaha, Dan Murphy's Wine Buyer, Western Region



THE DECODED WINE AWARDS VALUE PICK

VALUE PICK

De Bortoli Wines
Pale & Dry Rosé, King Valley VIC

DRY FRESH GREAT VALUE

14.90 each



Marlborough Sounds
Pinot Rosé, Marlborough NZ

BRIGHT ORANGE-PINK COLOUR CREAMING SODA

13.90 each



De Bortoli Wines La Bohème Act Two
Pinot Noir Rosé, Yarra Valley VIC

VIBRANT REFRESHING GENEROUS

17.90 each



Chapel Hill
Sangiovese Rosé, Adelaide Hills SA

TEXTURED DRY SOUR CHERRY FLAVOURS

14.90 each



WE HAD SOME REALLY REFRESHING WINES THIS YEAR. ENERGETIC, PALE IN COLOUR, SAVOURY IN STYLE, LEAN AND PERFECT FOR A PICNIC.

-DECODED BY MARK



SPARKLING

There's plenty to celebrate when it comes to Aussie sparkling, says Wine Merchant **Nick Veanes**.



It's fitting that there's so much to celebrate about a category that's designed for celebration.

Tasmania was a standout region, with both the Jansz and Clover Hill performing brilliantly. It's got a really cool climate, which is essential for making sparkling wines that are fresh and vibrant, as the lower temperatures stop the grapes from ripening too quickly and developing too much sweetness. Tassie winemakers tend to pick their fruit a bit earlier too, which is another way to keep sugar in check. This shift towards drier styles of sparkling is in line with what we're seeing around the world.

You'll notice there's no prosecco on this list. That's not a reflection on the quality of Australian prosecco, it just shows we were naturally drawn to more complex styles during the blind tasting – styles that are perfect for celebrating something special. If you're after prosecco, visit me or another of our Wine Merchants or knowledgeable in-store staff and we'll help you out.

Nick Veanes,
Wine Merchant, Dan Murphy's Ascot Vale VIC

WHAT A FUN CATEGORY THIS YEAR, SPARKLING WINE. WE LOVE THE BRIOCHE NOTES, THE DELICATE MOUSSE AND THE PERSISTENT PALATE LENGTH ACROSS THE BRACKET. PERFECT FOR CELEBRATING.

-DECODED BY NICK

Jansz
Vintage Cuvée 2014, Tasmania

A WORLD-CLASS SPARKLING THAT IS ELEGANT AND PERFECT FOR A CELEBRATION.

37.90 each



Online & Selected Stores



Brown Brothers
Méthode Traditionelle NV, VIC

CITRUS NOTES FINE BUBBLE REFRESHING

18.90 each

VALUE PICK



Howard Park
Blanc de Blanc NV, WA

RICH FULL-FLAVOURED 100% CHARDONNAY

26.90 each



Clover Hill
Méthode Traditionelle NV, Tasmania

APPLES AND CITRUS FRESH COOL-CLIMATE

31.90 each

Online & Selected Stores



Brown Brothers
Sparkling Brut Rosé NV, VIC

SALMON-PINK STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM GREAT FOR A PARTY

18.90 each

Online & Selected Stores



De Bortoli Wines La Bohème
Cuvée Blanc NV, VIC

APERITIF-STYLE TANGY GREAT WITH OYSTERS

17.90 each

LIGHTER WHITE *over \$20*

Classic, food-friendly varietals were the winners in this category, as judge **Nick Rose** reveals.

Despite the vast range of varietals and regions here, these wines have a lot in common: they are light in body with plenty of freshness and flavours that jump out of the glass.

The real star is New Zealand. If you think Marlborough sauvignon blanc is old news, then think again – we're in agreement the Craggy Range is as good as it gets. If you put it in the context of the best chardonnay, which can go for hundreds of dollars, it's an absolute bargain.

In Australia, the classics came out on top – region/varietal pairings like Clare Valley riesling and Hunter Valley semillon are so great because they're fully established and there's a wealth of expertise to draw on. We also saw an emergence of alternative varietals, like the Serafino Fiano, which suits McLaren Vale's climate because the conditions are similar to its native Campania, Italy.

There's a lot of fun to be had with these wines, particularly when matched to Japanese, Korean and Thai cuisines – they enhance dishes with lots of flavour and lots of spices, so feel free to have some fun with it.

Nick Rose, Dan Murphy's Wine Buyer, Eastern Region

Craggy Range
Sauvignon Blanc 2019,
Marlborough NZ

**THIS CRAGGY RANGE
IS AS GOOD AS NZ
SAUVIGNON BLANC GETS.**

27.90 each

**THE DECODED
WINE AWARDS**

WINNER





WE SAW SOME LOVELY PREMIUM LIGHT WINES. THEY SHOWED ~~BEAUTIFUL PURITY OF FRUIT. LOVELY TEXTURE AND MOUTHFEEL. BRIGHT ACIDITY.~~ THEY WILL GO GREAT WITH SPICY FOODS.

-DECODED BY NICK



THE DECODED WINE AWARDS
VALUE PICK



Online & SELECTED STORES



Online & SELECTED STORES



Limited STOCK



THE FINALISTS

VALUE PICK

Jim Barry Jim's Garden
Riesling 2019,
Clare Valley SA

MOUTH-PUCKERING LEMON AND LIME GENEROUS FLAVOUR

20.90 each

Tyrrell's Vat 1
Semillon 2014,
Hunter Valley NSW

JUICY CITRUS POWERFUL EVEN BETTER WITH AGE

69.90 each

Serafino
Fiano 2019,
McLaren Vale SA

CRISP CITRUS AND FLORAL GREAT WITH SHELLFISH

20.90 each

Kumeu River
Pinot Gris 2018,
Auckland NZ

REFRESHING RICH TROPICAL FRUITS PAIR IT WITH CHILLI

22.90 each

Hardys HRB
Riesling 2018,
Clare Valley SA

JUICY FLAVOURS PINK GRAPEFRUIT AND LIME PALATE CLEANSING

29.90 each

Lark Hill
Riesling 2019,
Canberra NSW

INTENSE AROMAS GREEN APPLE NOTES DELICIOUS AND DRY

22.90 each

FULLER WHITE over \$20

Find out why chardonnay was the champion in this category with **Tamara Grischy** from the Dan Murphy's Wine Panel.

And the winner is... chardonnay! The varietal took out six of seven spots in this category. During our blind judging it was obvious that Aussie winemakers are really understanding what people like to drink and the quality was terrific.

Across the board we found exceptional balance and the idea of "less is more" as a trend for 2020, particularly with chardonnay, which can be lean and restrained, or buttery and oaky (which is the case with our under \$20 winners on page 8).

This category also represents what's ready to drink now, which is why you'll find a riesling on this list. Peter Lehmann releases its Wigan riesling five years after bottling, and the extra maturation time gives it a fuller body and more flavour development than a younger release.

Whichever style you choose, you don't need a special meal or event as an excuse to open one of these bottles. White wine at this price point is an occasion in itself.

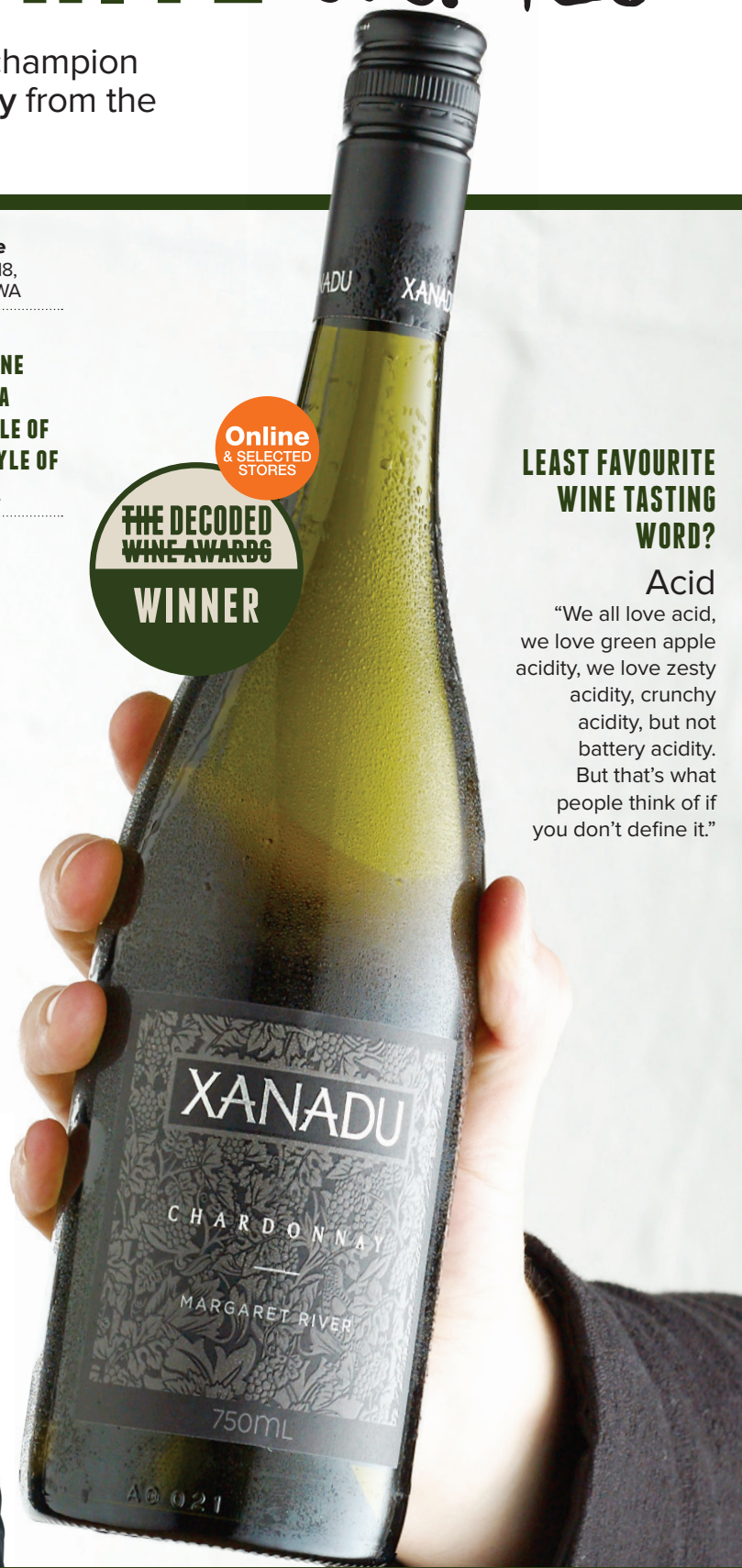
Tamara Grischy,
Dan Murphy's
Wine Panel Member



Xanadu Estate
Chardonnay 2018,
Margaret River WA

**THIS MOUTH-
WATERING WINE
IS CRISP AND A
PRIME EXAMPLE OF
A LIGHTER STYLE OF
CHARDONNAY.**

31.90 each



LEAST FAVOURITE WINE TASTING WORD?

Acid

"We all love acid, we love green apple acidity, we love zesty acidity, crunchy acidity, but not battery acidity. But that's what people think of if you don't define it."



THE FULL-BODIED WHITE SECTION WAS DELICIOUS. INTENSE, ~~BALANCED~~ ~~AND LOTS OF WELL-INTEGRATED~~ ~~TOASTY OAK~~. THESE WINES ARE FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION.

-DECODED BY TAMARA

FULLER WHITE over \$20



THE DECODED WINE AWARDS
VALUE PICK

Limited STOCK

Online & SELECTED STORES

THE FINALISTS

VALUE PICK

Franklin Tate Estates Alexanders Vineyard
Chardonnay 2018, Margaret River WA

RICH TEXTURE
SUBTLE CITRUS
TASTES LIKE A PREMIUM WINE

20.90 each

Peter Lehmann Wigan
Riesling 2013, Eden Valley SA

LIME AND FLORAL AROMAS
CRISP AND DRY
INCREDIBLE WHEN CELLARED

37.90 each

Kooyong Estate
Chardonnay 2018, Mornington Peninsula VIC

LIGHTER BODIED
LEMON AND GRAPEFRUIT
ENJOY WITH RISOTTO

35.90 each

Hardys Eileen Hardy
Chardonnay 2017, Tasmania & Yarra Valley VIC

FIG AND TOASTED HAZELNUT
RICH TEXTURE
WORLD CLASS

74.90 each

Penfolds Bin 311
Chardonnay 2018, Adelaide Hills SA, Tumbarumba NSW & Tasmania

CREAMY AND GENEROUS
CITRUS AND WHITE PEACH
DREAMY CHARDONNAY

38.90 each

Coldstream Hills
Chardonnay 2018, Yarra Valley VIC

CITRUS AND QUINCE
STONE FRUIT
GREAT WITH CHEESE

24.90 each

LIGHTER RED *over \$20*

Our judges explored the changing world of light red varietals. **Peter Nixon** shares his report.

Lighter red is an interesting category to define: “light” could mean light in tannins, or light in colour, but shouldn’t mean light in flavour, so it’s also helpful to describe these wines as “elegant” or “subtle”.

It was great to find pinot meunier on top, especially as the Seppelt Drumborg was the only one in the competition. Pinot meunier, which is generally blended in sparkling wines, is underrated on its own. It’s so deliciously different, incredibly light in colour but with an unexpected level of aroma and concentration.

Pinot noir has long been the go-to for lighter-style reds, and you’ll find plenty here, but the presence of shiraz is an exciting development. These days winemakers are pulling back on the oak and growing fruit in cooler climates to produce more restrained, fresh wines, which reflects what we want to drink.

One of the things I love about these wines is how varied they are across the spectrum of “light” red wine. Whether that’s a richer-style pinot from Central Otago or a Barossa GSM (grenache, shiraz, and mourvèdre) we think you’ll find something to enjoy.

Peter Nixon,
Head of the Dan Murphy’s
Wine Panel



**Seppelt
Drumborg
Vineyard**
Pinot Meunier 2018,
Henty VIC

**ALTHOUGH
COMMONLY USED
AS A COMPONENT
IN SPARKLING,
THIS WINE
PROVES THAT
PINOT MEUNIER
MORE THAN
STANDS UP
ON ITS OWN.**

31.90 each



THE FINALISTS

VALUE PICK

**De Bortoli
The Estate
Vineyard**

Pinot Noir 2018,
Yarra Valley VIC

**FRUITY AND SPICY
JUICY
A RARE FIND**

21.90 each

**Devil's Corner
Resolution**

Pinot Noir 2018,
Tasmania

**FULLER BODIED
CRISP AND
SAVOURY
BLACKBERRY AND
SOUR CHERRY**

32.90 each

**Hancock &
Hancock
Home Vineyard**

Shiraz Grenache
2017,
McLaren Vale SA

**DARK PLUM
PEPPER AND SPICE
LIGHTER STYLE**

23.90 each

**Teusner
Joshua**

Grenache Shiraz
Mourvèdre 2019,
Barossa Valley SA

**SUMMERY FRUITS
SPICY NOTES
EXCELLENT WITH
LAMB STEW**

28.90 each

Rockburn

Pinot Noir 2017,
Central Otago NZ

**RIPE FRUITS
PERFECT FOR
DATE NIGHT
SILKY TEXTURE**

37.90 each

**Mt Difficulty
Roaring Meg**

Pinot Noir 2018,
Central Otago NZ

**SWEET BERRY
HINT OF SPICE
RICHER STYLE**

29.90 each



THIS YEAR'S LIGHT REDS WERE ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS. THEY'RE NOT JUST LIGHT IN COLOUR, BUT THEY'RE VELVETY, THEY'RE MULOHY, THEY'RE COMPLEX. AND THEY'RE JUST TERRIFIC WITH SEAFOOD.

-DECODED BY PETER

FULLER RED *over \$20*

Though big and oaky wines are traditionally popular in this category, **Gary Braidner** and his fellow judges found themselves leaning towards juicier styles.

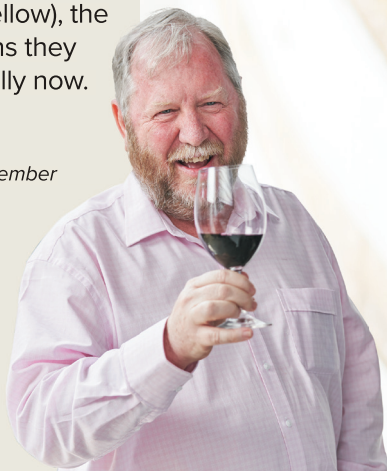
As a long-time lover of full-bodied reds, it was great to see shiraz and cabernet sauvignon come out on top in this category, especially given Australia's long history of expertise with the varietals.

A lot of wine experts are saying that 2018 was the best Margaret River vintage in 25 years, so it's no surprise that Xanadu is the winner here – our score sheets read: “youthful, exciting, vibrant, intensely flavoured.”

The Ringbolt Cabernet Sauvignon is also worth stocking up on. We've had it in our range for at least 10 years now; I remember the early versions being just as terrific, and it has always offered a lot of sophisticated flavour for your dollar.

While big reds like these are ideal for cellaring (letting them sit in the bottle for a few years allows the tannins to soften and the flavours to mellow), the purity of the fruit means they will also drink beautifully now.

Gary Braidner,
Dan Murphy's Wine Panel Member



Xanadu Estate
Cabernet Sauvignon
2018, Margaret River
WA

**A GENEROUS WINE
THAT SHOWCASES
THE BEST OF
MARGARET
RIVER CABERNET
SAUVIGNON.
A PERFECT
ADDITION TO
YOUR NEXT
DINNER PARTY.**

32.90 each



Limited
STOCK

THE DECODED
WINE AWARDS

WINNER

THE FINALISTS

VALUE PICK

Ringbolt
Cabernet Sauvignon 2018,
Margaret River
WA

**RICH FRUIT
SUBTLE OAK
THE PERFECT
PRICE**

20.90 each

Chapel Hill
Shiraz 2018,
McLaren Vale SA

**FRAGRANT
AND SPICY
PLUSH DARK
FRUITS
PAIR IT WITH
A RACK OF LAMB**

26.90 each

**Kellermeister
Wild Witch**
Shiraz 2016,
Barossa SA

**AWARD-WINNING
CONCENTRATED
A POWERHOUSE**

70.90 each

**Cat Amongst
the Pigeons
Fat Cat**
Shiraz 2018,
Barossa SA

**CLASSIC
BAROSSA
INTENSE
SOFT TANNINS**

22.90 each

**Stonyfell
The Baton**
Shiraz Cabernet
2018, Langhorne
Creek SA

**ULTIMATE BLEND
MADE FOR
BEEFY STEWS
RICH AND
CHOCOLATEY**

22.90 each

**Leeuwin Estate
Art Series**
Shiraz 2017,
Margaret River
WA

**BLACKBERRIES
AND MULBERRIES
TOASTED SPICES
FOR A SPECIAL
OCCASION**

36.90 each

**Wynns Black
Label**
Cabernet 2017,
Coonawarra SA

**OPULENT DARK
CHERRIES
ICONIC
A TRUE
COLLECTABLE**

31.90 each



THIS BRACKET PRODUCED SOME AUSTRALIAN CLASSICS. PLUSH, OPULENT, BEAUTIFUL, VARIETAL PURITY. THESE ARE THE WINES THAT YOU CELLAR FOR YOUR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

-DECODED BY GARY

FORTIFIED

This diverse category included everything from muscat to aged tawny, but as judge **Chris Gollogly** discovered, one region – and winery – rose above the rest.

Morris Old Premium Rare Liqueur
Topaque, Rutherglen VIC 500mL

HEADY AND CONCENTRATED, IT'S A GREAT WINE WITH CHEESE OR DESSERT.

74.90 each



THE DECODED WINE AWARDS
WINNER

Online & SELECTED STORES **500 mL**

We weren't surprised when it was revealed we had voted for two Rutherglen wines as our winners in this category. The region is world-famous for its fortified wine styles, especially muscat, a rich style known for its raisin flavours, and tawny, a deep red style generally made from shiraz and cabernet sauvignon. The same families have been the winemakers in the region since the 1850s, and the Morris family's experience shone through in our ultimate winner, the Morris Old Rare Liqueur Topaque, which takes rich and vibrant to another level.

When blind tasting these wines, we scored them based on their texture, depth of colour and how dense the flavours were. We were also looking for wines that can be served over ice, in cocktails or with mixers, which is a really popular way to enjoy fortified wines. Give them a try; they really do represent the best of this style in Australia.

Chris Gollogly, Wine Merchant,
Dan Murphy's Hobart TAS



500 mL

THE DECODED WINE AWARDS
VALUE PICK



375 mL

Morris Classic
Muscat, Rutherglen VIC 500mL

DRIER THAN EXPECTED
RICH
SPICY

20.90 each

Penfolds Father Grand
Tawny, South Australia

SMOKE AND LEATHER
DRY FINISH
COMPLEX

32.90 each

Saltram Wine Estate Mr Pickwick's Particular
Tawny, South Australia

CLASSIC TAWNY
NUTS AND DRIED FRUIT
OVER 20 YEARS OLD

55.90 each

Kalleske JMK
Shiraz VP, Barossa Valley SA 375mL

SYRUPY
RIPE SHIRAZ FRUIT
BRIGHT PURPLE

24.90 each



THIS YEAR'S FORTIFIED WINES WERE AMAZING. THEY WERE DENSE, THEY WERE VISCERAL, THEY WERE GLYCEROL, THEY WERE TIMELESS. ABSOLUTELY PERFECT WITH CHEESE.

-DECODED BY CHRIS



PRESERVATIVE-FREE

Wine Merchant **Ben Moroney** on what preservative-free really means.

As people become more conscious about what they're consuming, we're seeing more customers ask for wines that are preservative-free.

Wines that are described as preservative-free have no added sulphur dioxide (so2). This is sometimes labelled as preservative 220, or just sulphites.

It's almost impossible for a wine to be 100% sulphite-free as trace amounts are produced during fermentation, but some winemakers argue that adding more stops a wine from developing new and interesting flavours. Others believe that, because of their antimicrobial properties, adding sulphites is necessary to defend a wine against bad bacteria and keep it stable for longer.

Despite popular opinion, unless you are allergic to or intolerant of sulphites, consuming them in wine won't cause you any harm, and they definitely won't cause

headaches! In fact, you'll find there is much more of them in certain foods including canned tuna, sausages and dried fruit.

Winemakers who don't add preservatives also tend to focus less on making sure shiraz tastes like shiraz, and more on letting the fruit and the vineyard tell a story.

Take Woods Crampton Shiraz – it's from the Barossa, but unlike the big, ripe wines we often see from this region, this one is a bit brighter and more fun.

These wines are generally vibrant, a little wild and jam-packed with flavour.

Ben Moroney, Wine Merchant,
Dan Murphy's Hornsby NSW



~~THESE PRESERVATIVE-FREE WINES ARE VIBRANT, EXPRESSIVE AND LINGERING WINES. THEY ARE PERFECTLY SUITED TO OUR LIFESTYLE.~~

-DECODED BY BEN



Paxton The Pollinator
Shiraz, McLaren Vale SA

ORGANIC PRESERVATIVE-FREE

22.90 each



Yangarra PF
Grenache, McLaren Vale SA

BIODYNAMIC PRESERVATIVE-FREE

24.90 each



Temple Bruer
Cabernet Merlot, Langhorne Creek SA

ORGANIC PRESERVATIVE-FREE

18.90 each



The Natural Wine Co
Shiraz, Orange NSW

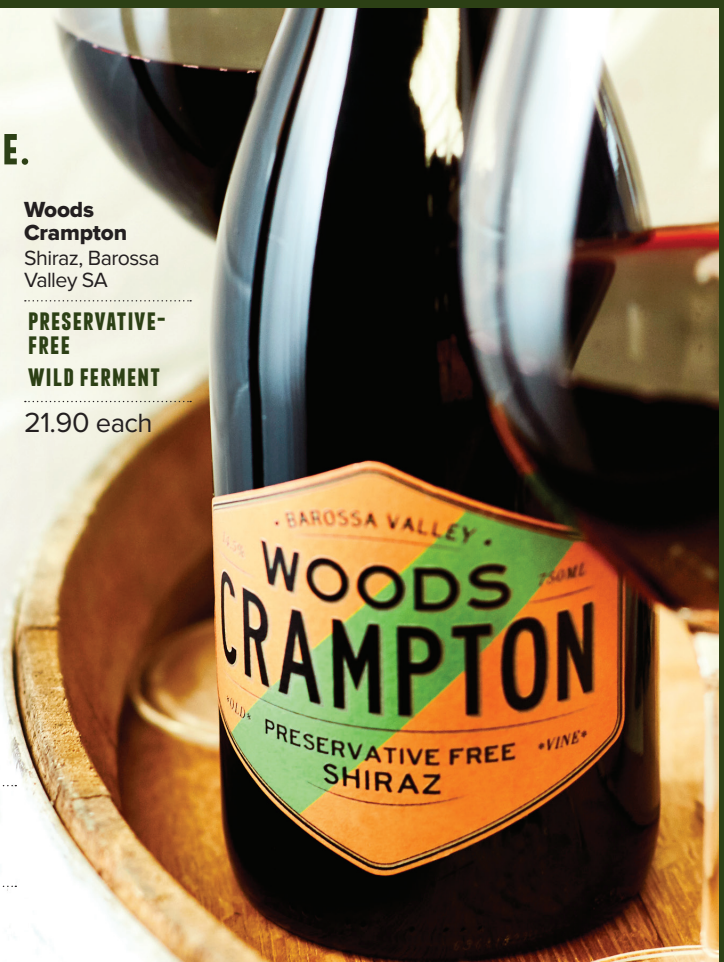
ORGANIC PRESERVATIVE-FREE

15.90 each

Woods Crampton
Shiraz, Barossa Valley SA

PRESERVATIVE-FREE WILD FERMENT

21.90 each



HEROES OF NSW WINE

Wine Merchant **Ben Moroney** explores the icons of his home state.

If you need proof that New South Wales is full of passionate, innovative winemakers, look at Philip Shaw. At just 12 years old, the two-time Winemaker of the Year was already playing around with winemaking by mixing raisins, water and baker's yeast in old lemonade bottles.

Then, in 1988, he spotted Orange from the windows of a plane and rightly assumed the abundance of apple and cherry trees meant it had potential as a wine region. Since Shaw planted in Orange, a lot of other winemakers have done the same.

Then, there's David Hook, who has been making wine at Pokolbin in the Hunter Valley since 1984. Hook's wines absolutely overdeliver for their price. His pinot grigio, which he has been making for over 20 vintages now, is juicy and citrusy and it's delightful with food. Like all Hook's wines, it's really accessible.

And of course, there's Andrew Margan. Margan also made wine at Tyrrell's before setting up his own label with his wife Lisa in 1996. All the wines Margan produces are made from single vineyards, and although they're all delicious, being a Hunter Valley specialty, the semillon is a must-try.

As well as winemaking, Margan has a degree in Environmental Health, and is incredibly concerned with sustainability and climate change. He's leading the charge not just in New South Wales, but in all of Australia, by planting varieties like albariño and barbera that do well in a warmer climate.

Because of winemakers like Shaw, Hook and Margan, people are starting to pay a lot more attention to New South Wales wine, which is exciting for the state and the regions, too.



Philip Shaw
No 8 Pinot Noir,
Orange NSW

DINNER PARTY FAVOURITE
DARK CHERRY SAVOURY

35.90 each

David Hook
Pinot Grigio,
Hunter Valley NSW

BALANCED FOR FOOD LOVERS
GREAT WITH SEAFOOD

16.90 each



“NEW SOUTH WALES IS ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING STATES FOR WINE”

Ben Moroney

Margan
Semillon,
Hunter Valley NSW

RIPE JUICY ZESTY

14.90 each



JARGON BUSTER

~~WE~~ ~~DECODE~~ ~~SOME~~ ~~COMMON~~ WINEMAKING AND TASTING NOTE TERMINOLOGY.

ACIDITY

A wine that tastes tart or zesty or that leaves the inside of your mouth tingly and watering **has high acidity**. Other words for acidity include bright, crisp, crunchy and racy.

AGE

How long a wine has been in its bottle for. When a wine is described as young, it means it's only been in its bottle for a year or so. Old wine, on the other hand, can mean anything from five to 50 years in bottle.

AROMA/BOUQUET

Pour a bit of wine into a glass, stick your nose in and give it a good, long sniff. In wine terms, **those smells you're getting are known as either "aromas"** (if the wine is young) or the "bouquet" (if the wine has been aged).

BODY

Imagine your tongue is a set of scales, then take a sip of wine. How heavy does it feel in your mouth? When we talk body, we're talking **about a wine's weight and fullness**. Shiraz is an example of a full-bodied red, and chardonnay is an example of a full-bodied white.

COMPLEXITY

Like people, wines can be complex. An easy way to tell is to monitor **whether your wine changes in aroma and flavour the more you sniff and sip it**. The more it changes, the more complex it is.

DRY/SWEET

In the wine world, sweet, not wet, is the opposite of dry. If a wine is

dry, it means all the grape sugar was converted into alcohol during fermentation. **If it's sweet, it means there was some grape sugar left over.** This is why sweet wines are often lower in alcohol.

FRUIT

Fruit is sometimes used as another word for grapes, but it's also used to describe the flavours in a wine. **"Fruit-forward" wines smell and taste like sweet fruits,** and "savoury" wines smell like bitter or tart fruits, herbs or veggies like oregano or capsicum.

MINERALITY

If you imagine **what it would taste and feel like to lick wet stones,** you get an idea of what it means when a wine is described as minerally. Other words might be chalk, flint, slate, gunpowder or oyster shells.

MOUTHFEEL

Mouthfeel is, perhaps obviously, **how a wine feels in your mouth.** If you're left with a furry sensation, then that wine's mouthfeel could be described as furry. Other descriptors could be rough, smooth or velvety.

OAK

Wine that is aged in oak barrels absorbs the flavours and aromas of the oak barrel itself. Depending on the age and the type of oak, the flavours can be toasty, vanilla, baking spices, caramel or woody.

SKIN CONTACT

The process where **grape juice is left to steep in grape skins** to absorb their colour and flavours.

STRUCTURE

A super vague term that implies **the fruit, alcohol, acidity and tannins** in a wine are nice and balanced.

SULPHITES

Also called preservative 220, sulphites (or sulphur dioxide) are what's **added to a wine to keep it fresh.** Check out Ben Moroney's article on page 25 for a deep dive on what preservatives mean to wine.

TANNINS

If you've ever let a black teabag steep for too long, you'll have an idea of what tannins taste like. **Tannins are bitter-tasting compounds** that come from grape skins, seeds and stems. Red wines generally have more tannins because of their extended contact with skins and seeds during maceration.

TERROIR

A pompous French term that refers to **the characteristics of a vineyard site and how they affect the development and flavour of grapes.** This includes climate, soil types, the direction of the sun, whether there's a sea breeze, and so on.

VINTAGE

The **year grapes were grown** to make a wine. Wines that are made with a blend of grapes from different seasons are called non-vintage wines. Vintage can also refer to a winemaking season.

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