GOURMET TRAVELLER VOTED WORLD'S BEST DRINK MAGAZIN

WINES TO Celebrate Summer

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Top 30 Semillons The pick of 2005 Hunter Valley gold

Vineyard Trails Tasmania and Waipara

45 World Wine Lists Our wine sleuths reveal their secrets

SPARKLING

85 Champagnes tasted and rated + all the classic food matches



DEC/JAN 2006 AUST \$8.95

HUON HOOKE'S FAVOURITE NEW RELEASES

100 TOP NEW RELEASES

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AUSTRALIAN REDS

96 ***** Gladstones Cabernet Sauvignon, Margaret River, A\$65 Dusty, crushed-leaf, cedary,

developing cabernet bouquet; a statuesque red with profound cassis flavours and a serious tannin profile. A wine to cellar, or serve with hearty foods. 20+

962003 Whistling Eagle Eagle's Blood Shiraz, Heathcote, A\$40

Meaty, chocolatey, dry spices and blackberry. This is a benchmark Heathcote shiraz. Lovely sweet, ripe, succulent flavour and excellent balance. Tannins are soft and don't dominate. 10+

96***** Pinot Noir, Yarra Valley, A\$46

A ripper of a pinot! Bill Downie is De Bortoli's Yarra pinot specialist and this is his own wine. Dark cherry, spice, vanilla scents of great charm. Some new oak and very deep, complex, almost luscious flavour. Very satisfying. 5+

95^{*****} 2003 Heathcote II Shiraz, Heathcote, A\$39

A serious red from a new maker in Heathcote, and a big jump up from their 2002. A red of real richness, ripeness, weight and length. Plenty of smooth, ripe tannin; no excess of oak. 12+

95^{*****} Garden, Barossa Valley, A\$35

A stunning grenache, shiraz, mourvèdre blend. This has lashings of ultra-ripe, fruit-sweet grenache-dominant flavour. It's beautifully clean and fragrant, ripe and almost opulent in the mouth. 5+

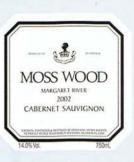


SCALL BY

05****

YD 2002 Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon, Margaret River, A\$98/NZ\$90

A much lighter, more elegant wine than the whopper '01, this is a beautiful, subtle, cool-year cabernet full of raspberry, mint and cassis flavours – ripe, intense and complete. 15+



95^{*****} 2004 Pirie Estate Pinot Noir, Tasmania, A\$34.90

This is an impressive debut for Pirie's new label: deep kirsch and black cherry flavours in a bold fruit-driven style of terrific depth and concentration. Solid wine with great potential.



95^{*****} 2004 Red Edge Shiraz, Heathcote, A\$45

Peter Dredge is making some of Heathcote's best reds, and this is one of them. Deep plummy, dark-berry fruit; ultra-ripe sweet fruit on palate; slightly raw and aggressive but will undoubtedly repay cellaring. Lush, dense, fruitcake-like. -2-12+

95^{*****} <u>Winemaker Selection Cabernet</u> Sauvignon, Barossa Valley, A\$65

A new super-duper red by Saltram's Nigel Dolan, from one of the best Darossa cabernet vintages. It's a big-boned, muscular cabernet with ripe dark-berry flavours and plenty of grip. - 2-12+

94^{*****} 2004 Glaetzer Shiraz, Barossa Valley, A\$50/NZ\$63.95

A classic Barossa shiraz. With its opulent, melted chocolate, lightly minty flavours, it's fleshy, fruit-sweet and loaded with supple tannin. A cedary, savoury style, and better balanced than many of its ilk. 12+





