

EPICUREAN WINES
as featured in the 167th 2006 edition of

Robert M. Parker, Jr's



PART 1 - RECOMMENDED NEW RELEASES
(Primarily Barossa, McLaren Vale, and Clare Valley)

BAROSSA OLD VINE COMPANY (BOVC) 2004 SHIRAZ	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$105.00)	RED	(93-95)
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This 100% Shiraz, from three vineyards aged 109, 127, and 152 years, spent two years in a combination of new and old French and American oak. Tasted just before it was to be bottled unfinned and unfiltered, it offers up lovely aromas of blackberries, white flowers, graphite, and white chocolate.

This rich, full-bodied layered, powerful (14.5% alcohol) Shiraz cascades over the palate with great intensity, yet remains light on its feet. Possessing sweet tannin, with loads of richness and extract, it should evolve for 15-20 years. Langmeil's winemaker, Paul Lindner, is the force behind this brilliant wine.



THE BLACK CHOOK	2005 SHIRAZ/VOIGNIER	LANGHORNE CREEK	(\$18.00)	RED	91
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A bigger, richer version of the value-priced Woop Woop, this cuvee, which is made by the irrepressible Ben Riggs, is produced primarily from McLaren Vale and Langhorne Creek fruit. The result is a fabulous value composed of 95% Shiraz and 5% Viognier that is aged in mostly used

French oak for eight months. Its deep ruby/purple color is accompanied by serious blackberry and currant notes intermixed with pepper and spice. This wine offers high levels of seduction, lushness, and richness at a ridiculously low price. Enjoy it over the next 3-4 years.



CHARLES CIMICKY	2005 AUTOGRAPH	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$45.00)	RED	(91-93)
CHARLES CIMICKY	2005 PETITE SYRAH	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$50.00)	RED	(91-93)
CHARLES CIMICKY	2005 GRENACHE-SHIRAZ TRUMPS	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$19.00)	RED	89
CHARLES CIMICKY	2005 SHIRAZ TRUMPS	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$19.00)	RED	91

A brilliant effort, the **2005 Shiraz Autograph** was tasted just prior to bottling (which will be accomplished without any filtration). This opaque purple-hued Shiraz exhibits wonderfully sweet creme de cassis, tar, smoke, and wood spice in the nose. Fabulously fruity, rich, and structured with superb purity, length, and intensity, it should drink well for 10-15 years. An amazing offering from Australia, the **2005 Petite Syrah** (100% Petite Syrah aged in French wood of which 35% was new) reveals a black color, extraordinary intensity, and hints of blueberries, graphite, and acacia flowers, stunning texture, and massive concentration. While somewhat accessible, it should be even better in 3-4 years, and will last for 15 years. An Outstanding

bargain, the **2005 Grenache/Shiraz Trumps** (72% Grenache and 28% Shiraz aged 15 months in old French oak) possesses a deep ruby/purple color, copious fruit, superb purity, and a touch of background wood. It is a full-bodied, powerful, amazingly flavorful wine for the price. Enjoy it over the next 2-3 years. The **2005 Shiraz Trumps** (100% Shiraz from 10- to 60-year-old vines aged 16 months in used American wood) is one of the great values in South Australian Shiraz. This super-intense, mouth-staining, and mouth-filling cuvee is all about gorgeously pure black fruits kissed with sweet oak presented in a full-bodied, beautiful, multilayered, textural, hedonistic style. Consume it over the next 3-4 years.

De Lisio Wines

DE LISIO	2005 GRENACHE	MCLAREN VALE	(\$50.00)	RED	92
DE LISIO	2005 QUARTERBACK	MCLAREN VALE	(\$24.00)	RED	(90-92)
DE LISIO	2005 SHIRAZ KRYSTINA	MCLAREN VALE	(\$50.00)	RED	(92-94)
DE LISIO	2004 SHIRAZ/GRENACHE THE CATALYST	MCLAREN VALE	(\$38.00)	RED	96

The **2005 Grenache**, which I tasted just prior to bottling, comes from a 70-year-old Blewitt Springs vineyard planted with old bush vines. Aged 18 months in French oak (30% new), it exhibits a dense ruby/purple color in addition to a sweet bouquet of black raspberries, cherries, currants, and incense. Spicy and rich with supple tannin, this impressively endowed Grenache should drink well for 4-6 years. An intriguing blend of Shiraz, Grenache, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon aged in mostly old French wood, the deep ruby/purple-tinged **2005 Quarterback** reveals notions of new saddle leather, black currants, licorice, and spice box. Full-bodied as well as elegant, restrained, and Eurocentric in character, it should be consumed over the following 6-10 years. The **2005 Shiraz Krystina** (named after Tony De Lisio's wife) is a 100% Shiraz from relatively young vines planted on one of the limestone and slate.

sectors of McLaren Vale. Seventy percent new French oak was utilized, and the wine, which was going to be bottled unfiltered about one month after I tasted it, exhibits a sweet nose of blackberries, raspberries, smoke, camphor, and graphite. Full-bodied, rich, and intense with sweet but noticeable tannin, a firm structure, and an accessible style, it should age for 12-15 years. A blockbuster in the making, the **2004 Shiraz/Grenache The Catalyst** (80% Shiraz and 20% Grenache aged in primarily neutral French wood) boasts fabulous aromas of flowers, lead pencil shavings, blackberries, cassis, and subtle wood. This full-bodied, intensely packed and stacked effort possesses huge fruit extract, wonderful, mouth-coating glycerin, and a purity as well as seamlessness that must be tasted to be believed. Drink this undeniably profound Australian red over the next 10-15 years.



EARTHWORKS

EARTHWORKS	2005 SHIRAZ	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$14.00)	RED	89
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A superb value, this 2005 Shiraz was fashioned from 8- to 50-year-old vines and was aged mostly in tank, with about 30% of the cuvee seasoned in French wood for six months.

Dense ruby/purple-colored, full-bodied, and rich, with abundant fruit, spice, pepper, and earthy characteristics, this supple, juicy, classic Barossa Shiraz sells for a song. Enjoy it over the next 2-3 years.

Glaetzer

BAROSSA VALLEY

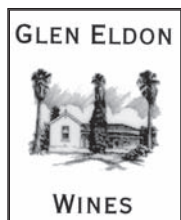
GLAETZER	2005 SHIRAZ BISHOP	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$40.00)	RED	(91-93)
GLAETZER	2004 SHIRAZ/GRENACHE WALLACE	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$22.00)	RED	93
BY BEN GLAETZER	2005 SHIRAZ AMON RA	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$75.00)	RED	98
BY BEN GLAETZER	2005 SHIRAZ/CABERNET GODOLPHIN	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$60.00)	RED	93

Readers should think of it as a French Vacqueyras on steroids. From 60-year-old vines in the Ebenezer district of Barossa, the **2005 Shiraz Bishop** sees mostly French oak. It reveals a dense ruby/purple hue, beautiful, attractive notes of pepper, spice box, blackberries, and currants, and amazing richness as well as surprising elegance and definition. It can be consumed over the next 10-15 years. A spectacular value from highly renowned winemaker Ben Glaetzer, the

2004 Shiraz/Grenache Wallace (70% Shiraz from 65-year-old vines and 30% Grenache from 90-year-old bush vines) was aged 12 months in neutral 300 liter barrels, primarily American. An expressive nose of ground pepper, sweet cherries, raspberries, currants, and loamy soil scents is followed by a wine of great intensity, power, elegance, and definition. This beautifully made, full-bodied, sexy, complex Australian red should drink well for 5-7 years.

The profound **2005 Shiraz Amon Ra** is fashioned from a dry grown, 100- to 110 year-old vineyard, and spends 14 months in a combination of 100% new French and American barrels as well as 300-liter hogsheads. A saturated purple color is followed by scents of creme de cassis, incense, licorice, black raspberries, graphite, and sweet wood. It unfolds beautifully on the palate to reveal terrific richness, full-bodied power, great definition, and lovely elegance. This exquisite Shiraz is still young, but it possesses a degree of accessibility. It should age for two decades. It is a superb example of cutting

edge winemaking being utilized on ancient Shiraz vines in the Barossa. The **2005 Godolphin**, a blend of 80% Shiraz (from 85-year-old vines) and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon (from 60-year-old vines), was aged in 100% new oak, primarily 300-liter French hogsheads. It represents a beautiful marriage of power and elegance, displaying an inky/blue/purple color as well as notions of black raspberries, blueberries, graphite, and sweet pain grille. Ripe, pure, and medium to full-bodied with sweet but noticeable tannin, it can be drunk now or cellared for 12-15 years.



GLEN ELDON	2005 RIESLING	EDEN VALLEY	(\$17.00)	WHITE	87
GLEN ELDON	2004 SHIRAZ DRY BORE	BAROSSA/EDEN VALLEY	(\$28.00)	RED	92
GLEN ELDON	2004 SHIRAZ/CABERNET KICKING BACK	BAROSSA/EDEN VALLEY	(\$17.00)	RED	87
GLEN ELDON	2006 VIOGNIER	BAROSSA VALLEY	TBD	WHITE	90

The **2005 Riesling** (from 45-year old vines) reveals citrus and flowery notes along with a dry, medium-bodied constitution, and a crisp finish. Drink it over the next year. The finest red in this portfolio is the **2004 Shiraz Dry Bore**, which was aged 24 months in a combination of new and old French and American 300 liter hogsheads. This full-bodied Shiraz exhibits a beautiful texture as well as loads of blackberry and cassis fruit with hints of pepper and chocolate. Dense and chewy, it is best consumed over the next 5-6 years.

Showing a lot of wood is the dark ruby/purple-colored **2004 Shiraz/Cabernet Kicking Back**. In addition to the wood component, it reveals plenty of earth, spice, and underbrush. A knock-out effort, the **2006 Viognier** offers honeyed peach and petroleum-like characteristics, a French-styled personality, full body, and plenty of texture and richness (the result of being aged on its lees in stainless steel tanks). This is a beauty to enjoy over the next 12 months.



HAAN

HAAN	2004 MERLOT PRESTIGE	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$45.00)	RED	(89-91)
HAAN	2004 SHIRAZ PRESTIGE	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$45.00)	RED	90
HAAN	2005 VIOGNIER PRESTIGE	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$30.00)	WHITE	91
HAAN	2004 WILHELMUS	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$48.00)	RED	91+
HANENHOF	2005 CABERNET FRANC	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$20.00)	RED	92
HANENHOF	2005 PROPRIETARY RED	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$20.00)	RED	90
HANENHOF	2005 VIOGNIER	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$18.00)	WHITE	89

The red wines include the outstanding **2004 Merlot Prestige**, which was bottled after spending 24 months in 100% new French oak. There is plenty of bad Merlot in the marketplace, but consumers should remember that when it's great, it's very great (i.e., Bordeaux's Petrus). Haan's 2004 exhibits a dense purple color along with a sumptuous perfume of plums, coffee, mocha, chocolate, and berries. Full-bodied with well-integrated oak and plenty of length, it will drink well for a decade. The **2004 Shiraz Prestige** borders on being too oaky, but there is so much richness, density, and headiness that the oak should

become better integrated with another 1-3 years of bottle age. It is interesting how this estate's Shiraz cuvees have too much oak, whereas the other wines balance the oak component beautifully. A steely/mineral component along with great definition, flavor intensity, and gout de petrol emerge from the exotic, full-bodied, beautifully precise **2005 Viognier Prestige**. A candidate for one of the finest Viogniers of Australia, part of it was aged in tank on its lees for three months, then blended with a percentage of barrel-aged Viognier. This brilliant, intense, character-filled Viognier will provide immense enjoyment over the next 1-2 years.

Bordeaux look-alike, the **2004 Wilhelmus**, is a proprietary blend of 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, 20% Merlot, and the rest Malbec and Petit Verdot, aged 24 months in French oak, of which 30% was new. It could easily be mistaken for a top-class Medoc. Complex, cedary, spice box, black currant, and vanillin scents jump from the glass of this dense ruby/purple-hued 2004. Full-bodied, powerful, and rich with copious tannin, it can be drunk now or cellared for 10-15 years. The **2005 Hanenhof Cabernet Franc** (85% Cabernet Franc and 15% Petit Verdot) could be compared with certain vintages of Cheval Blanc. An amazing perfume of violets, high-toned red currants, and sweet berries emerges

from this fresh, rich, pure, medium to full-bodied effort. It is a shockingly good, complex Cabernet Franc that should evolve for 10-15 years. The **2005 Hanenhof Proprietary Red** is a blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc. This elegant, Bordeaux-like red offers up hints of mocha, cherries, spice box, and cedar. While neither as aromatic nor complex as the Cabernet Franc, it is a well-made effort capable of a decade of cellaring. The **2005 Hanenhof Viognier**, which was aged on its lees in tank for three months, displays copious aromas of mangoes, melons, and tropical fruit in its medium-bodied, well-balanced, fresh, lively personality. It should be consumed over the next year.

KAESLER

ESTABLISHED 1896

KAESLER	2005 OLD VINE CABERNET SAUVIGNON	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$25.00)	RED	93
KAESLER	2005 GRENACHE THE FAVE	BAROSSA VALLEY	(44.00)	RED	89
KAESLER	2005 GSM AVIGNON	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$27.00)	RED	90
KAESLER	2005 GSM STONEHORSE	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$19.00)	RED	92
KAESLER	2005 SEMILLON OLD VINE	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$15.00)	WHITE	90
KAESLER	2005 SHIRAZ THE BOGAN	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$65.00)	RED	96
KAESLER	2004 SHIRAZ OLD BASTARD	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$135.00)	RED	95
KAESLER	2005 SHIRAZ OLD VINE	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$60.00)	RED	94
KAESLER	2005 SHIRAZ STONEHORSE	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$27.00)	RED	92
KAESLER	2004 CABERNET SHIRAZ WOMS	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$60.00)	RED	95
KAESLER	2005 VIOGNIER	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$27.00)	WHITE	90

A terrific value in Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon (perhaps that region's most underrated varietal), Kaesler's **2005 Old Vine Cabernet** (100% Cabernet Sauvignon from 35-year-old vines) spent 14 months in one and two-year-old French oak. It possesses toasty, subtle pain grille aromas interwoven with scents of black currants, minerals, cigar smoke, and spice box. Fabulous intensity and length, medium to full body, an opulent palate, and good structure as well as definition suggest it should drink well for 10-12 years. The **2005 Grenache The Fave** (100% Grenache from 45-year old vines aged over 12 months in neutral wood) exhibits a Mediterranean-styled personality with hints of Provencal herbs, kirsch, licorice, pepper, and a resinous/forest character. Heady, medium-bodied, and spicy with a dry, angular finish, it is an excellent, possibly outstanding Grenache to consume over the next 4-5 years. The **2005 GSM Avignon**, a Provencal look-alike made from 41% Grenache, 40% Shiraz, and 19% Mourvedre aged 12 months in old French oak, reveals an attractive peppery, herbal, sweet cherry, and raspberry-scented bouquet with plenty of spice and cedar. Ripe, opulent, and full-bodied with a Mediterranean character, it will offer tremendous flexibility with a variety of cuisines. The Grenache and Mourvedre are from 70-year-old vines, and the Shiraz from 105-year-old vines. The **2005 GSM Stonehorse** (63% Grenache, 27% Shiraz, and 19% Mourvedre) exhibits a deep ruby/purple color as well as pure cassis, sweet black cherry, and raspberry notes, medium to full body, a restrained and elegant style, and fewer Provencal-like flavors. Drink this long, ripe, rich, impressive 2005 over the next 5-6 years.

The tank-aged **2005 Old Vine Semillon** (from 45-year old vines) reveals elegant, lemon blossom and Thai lemon grass notes intermixed with a waxy viscosity, good acidity as well as purity, and a full-bodied, fresh style. Drink it over the next two years. Aged in new and one-year-old American oak, and made in a completely different style, the **2005 Shiraz The Bogan** (from 25- to 105-year-old vines) is a dense purple-colored effort displaying an exuberant nose of toast, blackberries, cassis, cherries, and damp earth. It is full-bodied and powerful with fabulous purity and texture as well as a blockbuster finish. This is a classic example of Barossa Shiraz at its finest. Enjoy it over the next 12-15 years. Kaesler's icon cuvee is their **Shiraz Old Bastard**, produced from a single vineyard planted in 1896, and aged 22 months in 100% new French oak. The **2004** is a big yet remarkably elegant, deep purple-colored Shiraz offering notes of blueberries, black raspberries, and toasty oak, a superb texture, admirable richness, and a long, heady finish. There is plenty of tannin lurking beneath the cascade of fruit, glycerin, and extract. While accessible, it is too young to drink at present, and is meant to keep for 2-3 decades. Anticipated maturity: 2008-2025+. Moving up in price as well as quality, the **2005 Shiraz Old Vine** (45- to 105-years old) is an ageworthy, full-bodied, powerful, muscular Shiraz boasting plenty of tannin as well as structure, and a sweet perfume of creme de cassis, toasty oak, white flowers, and licorice. While accessible, this powerful red should keep for 10-15 years.

A good value in old vine Barossa Shiraz, the inky/ruby/purple-hued **2005 Shiraz Stonehorse** (100% Shiraz from 15- to 45-year-old vines aged in used oak for 15 months) exhibits an explosive nose of sweet black cherries, cassis, tar, spice box, and licorice. This full-bodied, sexy, up-front effort is impossible to resist. Enjoy it over the next 4-5 years. An intriguing blend is the sensational **2004 Shiraz/Cabernet Woms** (65% Shiraz and 35% Cabernet Sauvignon). Made in a more elegant style, it offers notions of Provencal herbs, pepper, garrigue, black

currants, blackberries, and toasty oak. Unlike The Bogan, it was aged in 100% new French oak, and reveals more subtle wood notes along with full-bodied power and richness, and a 40-45-second finish. It should age well for 12-15 years. The European-styled **2005 Viognier** was aged 14 months in French oak. This 100% Viognier exhibits an oily/petroleum-like character along with notions of pears, apricots, and litchi nuts. It is a heady, surprisingly earthy Viognier with loads of personality and a long finish. Don't expect it to last beyond 1-2 years.



LANGMEIL	2005 SGM THREE GARDENS	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$18.00)	RED	90
LANGMEIL	2004 SHIRAZ THE FREEDOM	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$80.00)	RED	91+
LANGMEIL	2005 SHIRAZ VALLEY FLOOR	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$23.00)	RED	90
LANGMEIL	2005 SHIRAZ/VIIGNIER HANGIN SNAKES	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$20.00)	RED	90

An excellent value, the **2005 Three Gardens** is a combination of 46% Shiraz, 44% Grenache, and 10% Mourvedre from 15- to 130-year-old vineyards. This elegant blend exhibits notes of anise, wood smoke, blackberries, cherries, pepper, and earth. Surprisingly fruity and rich with wonderful intensity as well as layers of flavor, it is a southern Rhone-like effort that will provide a lovely mouthful of wine over the next 3-4 years. The star of this portfolio in terms of pure quality is the **2004 Shiraz Freedom**. Winemaker Paul Lindner fashions this cuvee from a vineyard planted in 1843. Aged two years in 70% new French oak, and bottled unfinned and unfiltered, it is a cleverly constructed effort that initially seems somewhat subdued and restrained. However, with aeration, more nuances, flavor, and intensity emerge. My instincts suggest my score may be conservative when this wine hits its plateau of maturity in 3-4 years. It should keep for two decades. An inky/ruby/purple color is followed by

subtle notions of damp soil, fresh mushrooms, blackberries, tar, and earth. Full-bodied with a restrained character, it is almost the antithesis of the flamboyant style of many South Australian reds. Displaying beautiful purity as well as good balance, it will be better with another 2-3 years of bottle age, and should drink well for two decades. The dark ruby/purple-hued **2005 Shiraz Valley Floor** (which sees all American oak) reveals more spice, vanillin, and toasty characteristics without the complexity of its less expensive sibling. It is a straightforward yet impressively deep, rich, pure Shiraz to consume over the following 3-5 years. A terrific value, the dense ruby/purple-hued **2005 Shiraz/Viognier Hangin' Snakes** is a co-fermented blend of 95% Shiraz and 5% Viognier aged 6 months in neutral French wood. Its big, sweet nose of blackberries, cherries, earth, smoked game, and comfit-like aromas is followed by a well-made, impeccably pure, luscious, soft wine to enjoy over the next 3-5 years.

MASSENA

MASSENA	2005 DURIF HOWLING DOG	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$40.00)	RED	93
MASSENA	2004 MOONLIGHT RUN PROPRIETARY RED	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$32.00)	RED	91+
MASSENA	2005 SHIRAZ EPSILON	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$23.00)	RED	94
MASSENA	2005 SHIRAZ THE 11th HOUR	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$43.00)	RED	96

As longtime readers know, one of California's longest-lived, best value wines is Petite Sirah, which is also known as Durif. **Maskena's 2005 Durif Howling Dog**, cropped at a ridiculously low .7 tons of fruit per acre, and aged 18 months in old French oak, can easily compete with some of the great Petite Sirahs from Ridge or Turley Vineyards. Its inky/blue/purple hue is accompanied by scents of blueberry liqueur crushed rocks, and acacia flowers. Full-bodied, powerful, and rich, with surprisingly supple, but extravagant levels of tannin, it is not yet

ready for prime time drinking. Purchasers should forget it for 4-5 years, then watch it unfold over the next two decades. A top-notch value in a complex blend, the 2004 Moonlight Run is a combination of 60% Grenache, 20% Shiraz, 15% Mourvedre, and 5% Cinsault, all from 85- to 100-year-old vineyards. A smoky, creme de cassis, new saddle leather, pepper, garrigue, and cherry and black raspberry-scented perfume is followed by a medium- to full-bodied, rich wine with firm tannin. It will be even better with 1-2 years of bottle age, and should keep for 7-8 years.

A terrific value, the **2005 Shiraz Epsilon** is fashioned from 32-year-old vines planted in the Greenock sector. Aged 12 months in old French oak hogsheads (300 liters), it exhibits an opaque purple color, abundant aromas of raspberries, blueberries, graphite, and spice box, and a full-bodied, rich, fleshy style. A hedonistic tour de force in winemaking, it can be enjoyed over the next 4-5 years. From 60- to 100-year old vines that were saved from the bulldozer during the infamous Barossa "vine pull" (hence the name), the **2005 Shiraz**

11th Hour was cropped at .5 tons of fruit per acre, and aged in 100% French oak, of which 5% was new. Sweet, pure aromas of blackberries, blueberries, crushed pepper, and flowers jump from the glass of this inky/purple-colored Shiraz. As one might expect from such tiny yields, it is a wine of great intensity, massive body, and tremendous purity, definition, and length. While still primary, it gives all the indications of being a modern day classic that should last and improve for 15-20 years.

Mr. Riggs

MR. RIGGS	2006 RIESLING WATERVALE	CLARE VALLEY	(\$25.00) WHITE	89
MR. RIGGS	2005 SHIRAZ	McLAREN VALE	(\$45.00) RED	92
MR. RIGGS	2005 SHIRAZ THE GAFFER	McLAREN VALE	(\$20.00) RED	90
MR. RIGGS	2005 SHIRAZ/VIIGNIER	McLAREN VALE/LANGHORNE CREEK	(\$26.00) RED	91
MR. RIGGS	2005 VIOGNIER	SOUTH AUSTRALIA	(\$27.00) WHITE	88

From highly respected winemaker Ben Riggs, the **2006 Riesling Watervale** (a tank-fermented and aged 100% Riesling) displays lovely aromas of minerals, citrus, grapefruit, and apple as well as orange blossoms. This flavorful, tasty, dry Riesling should be consumed over the next year. A very good value, the opulent, dense ruby/purple-tinged 2005 Shiraz The Gaffer exhibits exuberant fruit, a subtle touch of French oak, and abundant glycerin as well as body, purity, and density. Also a terrific buy, the 2005 Shiraz/Viognier (95% of the former and 5% of the latter) spent 10 months in primarily French oak. Its deep

ruby/purple color is followed by scents of apricots, honeysuckle, black currant jam, and sweet wild mountain berries. This complex, rich, full-bodied effort boasts great fruit on the attack, mid-section, and finish. Generous, but with well-integrated oak, acidity, and tannin, it should drink well for 5-6 years. Asphalt/melted road tar characteristics interwoven with blackberries, smoke, roasted herbs, and meat emerge from the dense purple-hued **2005 Shiraz**. Aged 20 months in 80% French oak and 20% American, this is a seriously endowed, full-bodied, backward yet accessible offering to consume over the next 10-12 years.



OLIVER'S TARANGA	2004 SHIRAZ	McLAREN VALE	(\$42.00) RED	87
OLIVER'S TARANGA	2002 SHIRAZ HJ RESERVE	McLAREN VALE	(\$65.00) RED	91+

The Oliver family has been growing fruit in McLaren Vale for six generations. From their 300 acres of prime vineyards they fashion high quality Shiraz with good purity, perfumes, and textures, but no singular characteristic that makes them stand out from the crowd. The **2004 Shiraz** will age nicely for ten years, but there is nothing distinctive about it. The **2002 Shiraz H. J. Reserve**, from

a 65-year-old vineyard, and aged 30 months in 100% new French oak, should reveal more character and individuality with another 3-4 years of bottle age. A dense ruby/purple color is accompanied by aromas of smoked herbs, licorice, black raspberries, and creme de cassis. Impressive and full-bodied, but also backward and tannic, it should be at its peak between 2008-2020+.



STEPHEN PANNELL	2004 GRENACHE	McLAREN VALE	(\$48.00)	RED	93
STEPHEN PANNELL	2006 SAUVIGNON BLANC	ADELAIDE HILLS	(\$19.00)	WHITE	88
STEPHEN PANNELL	2005 SHIRAZ	McLAREN VALE	(\$58.00)	RED	(88-91)
STEPHEN PANNELL	2005 SHIRAZ-GRENACHE	McLAREN VALE	(\$46.00)	RED	(93-95)

Obviously, readers who believe all Australian wines are big, over-sized fruit bombs are dead wrong. This country has as much diversity in winemaking styles, quality, and regional distinctions as any of the world's great wine producing countries. Stephen Pannell creates European-styled reds and whites that possess extraordinary purity, definition, and seamlessness. I enjoyed the **2006 Sauvignon Blanc**. This Bordeaux-styled white reveals crisp, honeyed grapefruit, melon, and subtle wood notes (30% is barrel-fermented) as well as an elegant, restrained, subdued personality. Pannell appears to have a special touch with **Grenache**, and his **2004** (fashioned from non-irrigated, 60+-year-old bush vines, and tiny yields of 1.5 tons of fruit per acre) was aged 14 months in 5-year-old French 300 liter barrels. It possesses superb purity in addition to an old style Rayas-like

bouquet of black raspberries, kirsch, licorice, earth, and spice. Full-bodied, rich, and dry with substantial flavor intensity supported by a solid, tannic backbone, it should improve over the next 2-4 years, and last for a decade. Tasted just prior to bottling, the **2005 Shiraz/Grenache** (80% Shiraz from 45-year-old vines and 20% Grenache from 70-year-old vines) spent time in large French barrels. It reveals beautiful, seamless blackberry and black raspberry aromas interwoven with scents of licorice, tar, and spice box. This expressive, full-bodied, superbly endowed wine will offer superb complexity over the next 5-7 years. Lastly, the **2005 Shiraz** is slightly muted compared to its siblings, but it is an impressively endowed, deep ruby/purple-hued, pure, seamless, impeccably well-made effort. It appears to have excellent potential, but I will reassess it once it is in bottle.



PENNY'S HILL	2005 SHIRAZ	McLAREN VALE	(\$33.00)	RED	90+
PENNY'S HILL	2005 SHIRAZ RED DOT	McLAREN VALE	(\$20.00)	RED	91

The top cuvees here include an excellent value, the **2005 Shiraz Red Dot**, a blend of fruit from McLaren Vale and Langhorne. Full-bodied with superb richness, loads of blackberry, pepper, licorice, and damp earth-like characteristics, this supple Shiraz is best consumed over the next 4-5 years.

A long-term proposition is the inky/purple-hued, elegant, medium to full-bodied **2005 Shiraz**. Not as fruit-forward as its less expensive sibling, it reveals attractive notes of black fruits interwoven with spicy oak, flowers, and earth. Cellar this moderately tannic Shiraz for 1-2 years, and drink it over the following 10-12.



PIPING SHRIKE	2005 SHIRAZ	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$17.00)	RED	90
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Winemaker Charles Cimicky has fashioned a terrific value from 100% Shiraz aged in old American hogsheads and smaller French barrels. It is another example of what can be achieved by top quality winemaking in the Barossa's

finest viticultural areas. This 2005 Shiraz exhibits a deep ruby/purple color along with superb blackberry, spice box, pepper, and cedar characteristics. Full-bodied, opulent, and fleshy, this hedonistic offering should be enjoyed over the next 3-4 years.

POONAWATTA ESTATE

POONAWATTA	2005 SHIRAZ THE CUTTINGS	EDEN VALLEY	(\$50.00)	RED	(90-93)
POONAWATTA	2005 SHIRAZ 1880	EDEN VALLEY	(\$90.00)	RED	(92-94X)

Poonawatta's rich, heady, long **2005 Shiraz The Cuttings** reveals an inky hue along with wonderful sweetness and a full-bodied opulence. It is a classic example of a cooler climate Eden Valley Shiraz. It should age well for 10-15 years.

The superb **2005 Shiraz 1880** (from a 2-acre vineyard planted in that year) is a full-bodied, powerful, scented, flamboyant, rich, southern Australian classic that, like its sibling, should age well for 10-15 years.



CORRINA RAYMENT	2005 SHIRAZ EXPATRIATE	MCLAREN VALE	(\$45.00)	RED	(92-94)
CORRINA RAYMENT	2005 SHIRAZ REVOLUTION	MCLAREN VALE	(\$20.00)	RED	93

According to importer Ben Hammerschlag, Corrina Rayment is one of the most energetic and talented, young, progressive winemakers working in South Australia. Certainly the following two offerings are impressive. For value, the knock-out **2005 Shiraz Revolution** (100% Shiraz aged in French oak, of which 15% is new, for one year) displays a full-bodied, beautifully pure style with plenty of blackberries, pepper, and spice. With terrific intensity, sweet tannin, adequate acidity, .

and plenty of glycerin, it can be enjoyed over the next 3-4 years Tasted just before bottling, the **2005 Shiraz Expatriate** spent 18 months in 100% French oak. It is a beautifully scented Shiraz boasting a flamboyant nose of crushed rocks, new saddle leather, flowers, and copious quantities of blackberry and cassis fruit. Full-bodied, powerful, and more earthy than many McLaren Vale Shiraz cuvees, this beauty possesses huge texture, body, and length. Drink it over the next 10-15 years.



SLIPSTREAM	2006 SAUVIGNON BLANC	WESTERN AUSTRALIA	(\$17.00)	RED	90
SLIPSTREAM	2005 SHIRAZ THE FASTBACK	McLAREN VALE	(\$30.00)	RED	90
SLIPSTREAM	2005 SHIRAZ-GRENACHE	McLAREN VALE	(\$18.00)	RED	90

Slipstream is essentially the negociant label (although it includes some estate fruit) from importer Ben Hammerschlag's home estate in McLaren Vale. This young, 35-year-old, who has done so much for Australian wine, expects to release wines under an estate name (the name of which I do not yet know) beginning with the 2006 vintage. These releases include the Fastback Shiraz from his estate, a Sauvignon Blanc from Western Australia, and a Shiraz/Grenache that is a blend of fruit from his own estate and elsewhere. The **2005 Shiraz The Fastback**, which was made by Reid Bosward, exhibits an inky/purple color in addition to a sweet perfume of blueberries, blackberries, and pepper. Richly fruity, nicely extracted, medium to full-bodied, elegant, and long, it should drink well for 2-5 years.

Sexy and flamboyant, the **2005 Shiraz/Grenache** (72% and 28% respectively) was created by three winemakers – Ben Riggs, Reid Bosward, and Stephen Pannell. A fabulous value, it offers gorgeous notes of raspberries, licorice, garrigue, and sweet cherries. This elegant, medium-bodied wine exhibits loads of fruit, character, and personality. It should drink well for 5-6 years. A terrific **Sauvignon Blanc**, Slipstream's **2006** comes from Western Australia's Pemberton region. Made by the impressive Dan Pannell, it is a tank-fermented and aged effort offering wonderful melony, herbal characteristics that reveal a striking resemblance to a Sancerre. Lovely fruit, crisp acidity, and a mineral/floral component suggest it should be consumed over the next several years.



STANDISH	2003 SHIRAZ	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$80.00)	RED	99
STANDISH	2004 SHIRAZ/VOIGNIER THE RELIC	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$80.00)	RED	99

Dan Standish (also the co-owner of Massena), who has a degree in chemical engineering and was a winemaker at Torbreck for many years, created the Standish Wine Co. in 1999. He owns some of the best-placed old vines in the Vine Vale subsection of the Barossa. As one might expect, these are wines of extraordinary elegance, richness, and nuance. The following two offerings are both extraordinary expressions of Barossa viticulture that flirt with perfection. The **2003 Shiraz** (100% Shiraz from a 90-year-old Vine Vale vineyard) was cropped at .5 tons of fruit per acre, and was aged 32 months in old French oak. It is a magnificent effort boasting tremendous ripeness as well as abundant blueberry and creme de cassis notes intermixed with flowers, graphite, and crushed rocks. With amazing concentration, purity,

and richness, but no heaviness (the alcohol is only 14.5%), and a finish that lasts well past a minute, it is accessible now, but should age effortlessly for two decades or more. More exotic and flamboyant than the Shiraz, but equally profound is the **2004 Shiraz/Viognier The Relic** (93% and 7% respectively, cropped at .5 tons of fruit per acre, and aged 20 months in old French oak). An inky/purple-colored, powerful, full-bodied, rich red, it possesses a huge, sweet nose of blue and black fruits, flowers, and subtle oak, a blockbuster mid-section, and an amazingly long finish. More approachable than the 2003 Shiraz, it can be drunk now or cellared for 15 or more years.

Dan Standish is one of the Barossa's up-and-coming superstars, and his wines merit serious attention.

WOOP WOOP

WOOP WOOP	2005 CABERNET	SOUTH AUSTRALIA	(\$11.00)	RED	88
WOOP WOOP	2005 CHARDONNAY	SOUTH AUSTRALIA	(\$11.00)	RED	87
WOOP WOOP	2005 SHIRAZ	SOUTH AUSTRALIA	(\$11.00)	RED	88
WOOP WOOP	2006 V (VERDELHO)	SOUTH AUSTRALIA	(\$11.00)	RED	87

Wop Woop's offerings have, justifiably, become very popular with consumers for their quality/price rapport. Readers looking for an inexpensive introduction to Australian wines that represent their varietal characters and offer oodles of fruit in uncomplicated, but delicious, savory, full-bodied styles need look no further than these efforts. The 2005 Cabernet and 2005 Shiraz are both juicy, chunky, fleshy, impeccably pure, well-made reds meant to be consumed over the next

several years. The tank-fermented 2005 Chardonnay exhibits a greenish tinge to its light gold color. Lemon blossom and orange skin-like characteristics are found in this medium-bodied, richly fruity, dry Chardonnay. Drink it over the next 12 months. The 2006 V (100% tank-fermented and aged Verdelho) reveals copious amounts of crisp, melony, tropical fruit notes as well as a hint of flowers in its medium-bodied, zesty personality. It should be consumed over the next year.

