

# LIBERTY



# LIQUORS

## Tasting Panel

### NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 13

MAY- JUNE 2025

As we roll into Autumn our panel met again to painstakingly taste, discuss and pick some full whites and light to medium reds that presented great value from a quality perspective. A lot of the wines we tasted were new vintages so it was truly an exciting tasting to see what came out from both the 2023 and 2024 vintages. There were also some imports and revisits to previous vintages. General criteria and pricing are given to the panelists before hand to ensure fair results. All wines are blind tasted and scored out of 20, based on colour, scent and palate. Here are the finalists our expert judges determined were the best drinking for this Autumn.

### HAMELIN BAY CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2023

#### *Clever Cabernet!*

One of the first 2023 Cabernet Sauvignons to be submitted to our tasting panel for the year. Another classic Margaret River variety, the 2023 Hamelin Bay Cabernet Sauvignon delivers a composed and elegant expression of the variety, impressing the panel with its pretty aromatics and poised, mid-weight palate. Bright red and purple fruits including redcurrant and raspberry and ripe blackberry—are complimented by a silky smooth and balanced finish. Subtle oak integration supports the wine's structure without overpowering its detail.



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## RUSTENBERG STELLENBOSCH CHARDONNAY 2022

### ***Lekker-stuff!***

Almost unanimously voted as the top Chardonnay on the day, and the only import for our finalists. This classic style of Chardonnay hails from the famous Stellenbosch region of South Africa. Impressing the panel with its richly layered profile, offering aromas and flavours of apricot, coconut, and orange peel, followed by notes of marzipan and sponge cake. The palate is generously textured yet finely balanced, with well-judged oak adding depth and complexity. A bright thread of crisp fruit lifts the wine, providing freshness and drive. With an aging potential of over eight years, this Chardonnay is both immediately appealing and built for graceful development in the cellar.



## MARNONG ESTATE PINOT NOIR 2023

### ***VIC-Tory!***

The 2023 Marnong Estate Pinot Noir from Victoria was a wine that all panelists were really impressed by, it presents with a pale ruby hue and a light brick rim, signalling its delicate style. The nose is lifted by maraschino cherry and leather tones, underpinned by subtle strawberry notes. On the palate, it delivers classic varietal expression with gentle complexity and finesse, supported by a creamy texture and a touch of briny savouriness. Balanced and understated, this is a thoughtfully crafted Pinot Noir with quiet character. In a world of increasingly expensive pinot, this is a wallet and palate friendly wine.



## WILLOW BRIDGE ESTATE DRAGON FLY CHARDONNAY 2024

### ***Value, Value, Value!***

This is now the 3rd wine from Geographe producer Willow Bridge Estate that has made it through the tasting panel, and we're always pleased with the quality and price of these wines. The 2024 Dragonfly Chardonnay is vibrant and refreshing, showcasing classic varietal notes of white-fleshed stone fruit and almond blossom. Generous aromatics of citrus and white peach are layered with subtle laces of French oak, adding background complexity. The palate is full-flavoured and textural, delivering nectarine and citrus richness with a long finish. This is a well-composed, expressive Chardonnay with both depth and brightness. Incredible value!



## FRAZER WOODS STILL SHIRAZ 2020

### ***Fr-antastic!***

Known for their amazing range and quality of sparklings, when we unbagged this wine we were all surprised to see that Frazer Woods are also talented at producing quality WA shiraz! Crafted exclusively from estate-grown fruit, is the sole still wine from John Frazer—and it's a standout. Bursting with bright red berry aromas and subtle spice, the wine delivers a smooth, silky palate layered with cherry and cranberry notes. Velvety texture and juicy fruit bring balance and energy, leading to a long, elegant finish. A refined and characterful Shiraz that impresses with both charm and finesse, a great example of WA style shiraz!

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## VIA CAVES CABERNET MERLOT 2021

### *Back to the Future!*

We always enjoy revisiting wines like most wine appreciators. This wine has actually scored higher this time around which indicates its getting better, like most of us, with age. The 2021 Via Caves Cabernet Merlot captures the unmistakable character of a classic Margaret River blend, with all contributing varieties adding depth and dimension. Aromatics reveal a complex mix of dark berry fruits, light herbal nuances, and subtle French oak. The palate is seamless and layered, delivering rich dark fruit and exotic spice, all supported by finely integrated oak. Its undoubtably getting better with age!



## THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS LA FOUDRE CHARDONNAY 2024

### *WA's Next Top Chard!*

The 2024 Next Hundred Years La Foudre Chardonnay is a brand new label and offers a compelling glimpse into the character of Frankland River fruit. Golden and bright in the glass, it opens with ripe stonefruit and melon aromatics, gently layered with background oak. The palate is soft and textural, showing white peach, subtle nuttiness, and a touch of minerality, all carried through a long, satisfying finish. A confident and exciting first release from this label that speaks to both place and potential. Be the first to bring this new wine to your next wine club, dinner or catchup with friends and blow them away!



## HAY SHED HILL MARGARET RIVER CHARDONNAY 2023

### *Must-Have!*

The 2023 Hayshed Hill Chardonnay is a restrained, modern expression that reflects the evolution of Australian Chardonnay. Pale straw with fresh green tinges, it opens with pure aromas of fresh-cut pear, honeydew melon, and zesty citrus. The palate is fresh and lively, driven by crisp and vibrant fruit flavours, finishing clean, bright, and with impressive length. With no overt oak or buttery notes, this wine champions clarity, balance, and contemporary finesse.



## TE MATA GAMAY NOIR 2024

### *Hurray for Gamay!*

The 2024 Te Mata Estate Gamay Noir is a vibrant, deep candy red delight, bursting with ripe red fruit charm and layered complexity. The nose is alive with cherry, strawberry, and fresh raspberry, lifted by notes of marzipan, cinnamon, and liquorice. On the palate, a lush French vanilla creaminess is balanced by bright fresh red berry fruit, fine-grained tannins, and a touch of dryness, adding structure and depth to the generous fruit character and spice. A classic Te Mata expression—vivid, textured, and simply delicious.

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WAS ~~\$24.99~~  
MEMBER PRICE  
**\$18.99** EA

REGULAR PRICE  
**\$22.99**

## CHAIN OF PONDS MILLERS CREEK ADELAIDE HILLS CHARDONNAY 2024

### *Incredible deal!*

The 2024 Chain of Ponds Millers Creek Chardonnay is a finely balanced and expressive wine, with a zesty nose of citrus, nectarine, and ripe peach, lifted by white florals and subtle fig. Hints of savoury oak and crème brûlée add complexity to the aromatics. The palate is elegant and poised, showing freshness, refined texture, and a rounded finish with impressive length. A polished and characterful Chardonnay that delivers both vibrancy and finesse.



WAS ~~\$29.99~~  
MEMBER PRICE  
**\$16.99** EA

REGULAR PRICE  
**\$20.99**

## NIKOLA ESTATE GSM 2024

### *Bargain!*

Ever since Damien Hutton retook over the reigns at Nikola, the wines quality and style have blown us away time and time again. The 2024 Nikola Estate GSM is a bright and approachable blend, offering vibrant aromas of raspberry, cranberry, and cherry. The palate is smooth and well-balanced, with supple tannins framing sweet plum and red berry fruit. Effortlessly harmonious, this wine delivers generosity and charm with a soft, fruit-driven finish.



WAS ~~\$29.99~~  
MEMBER PRICE  
**\$23.99** EA

REGULAR PRICE  
**\$26.99**

## FLAMETREE ESTATE CHARDONNAY 2024

### *Flamin Hot Deal!*

The follow up to one of our best selling chardonnays, 2024 Flametree Chardonnay is a refined and expressive wine, showcasing citrus, floral notes, dried pear, and grapefruit on the nose, gently framed by subtle French oak. The palate is finely textured and savoury, finishing dry with impressive precision—a hallmark of wild ferment and turbid juice handling. Equally enjoyable now or suited to medium-term cellaring, this is a Chardonnay of elegance and quiet complexity.



**42 Bayview Tce, Claremont**  
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