

# LIBERTY



# LIQUORS

# Tasting Panel

## NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 18

The first tasting panel of 2026 featuring more reds than whites has recently concluded and our judges have helped us choose 12 incredible wines to get us through the sunny days and cooler nights. The submitters came with some seriously good wines and it was down to a few decimal points on scores as to which wine made the cut. As always, our goal is to blind taste, select and recommend wines that present exceptional value. Scores are based on colour, aroma and flavour. We hope you enjoy them as much as we did, santé!

## NIKOLA ESTATE CABERNET MALBEC 2022

### *Incredible Value!*

What a wine! Straight from our own backyard to boot! Since Damien Hutton joined Nikola Estate, the wines have never been better. The wine is a medium-bodied red with depth and savoury charm. It opens with aromas of blackcurrant, small red berries, bay leaf and cedar, followed by hints of dark plum, blue fruits and gentle spice. The palate is smooth and well-rounded, with cassis and dark berry fruit supported by subtle oak influence from time in barrique. A savoury herbal edge adds balance, carrying through to a polished, lingering finish. Great with hearty meat dishes.



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## GLAEZTER WALLACE SHIRAZ GRENACHE 2022

*Wonderful Wallace!*

The next wine came from an extremely competitive Shiraz and Shiraz blend bracket. The Wallace is an old vine blend of 75% Shiraz and 25% Grenache that opens with aromas of dark plum, raspberry and bay leaf, lifted by hints of white pepper. The palate is rich and generous, with black fruit and spice from the Shiraz balanced by the softness and juicy vibrancy of Grenache, with a long, polished finish. It would pair beautifully with slow-cooked lamb shoulder, barbecue dishes and hard cheeses.



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\$24<sup>99</sup>



## CHAFFEY BROS SYNONYMOUS SHIRAZ 2021

*Small batch, big punch!*

From the incredible 2021 South Australian vintage comes another great well-established brand's wine. The wine opens with rich aromas of blackberry, dark plum and cherry, layered with hints of liquorice, dark chocolate, and warm spice. The palate is plush and generous, showing ripe black fruit and plummy depth balanced by savoury earthy notes, and a bright line of natural freshness. It finishes smooth, flavoursome and persistent, making it a great match for beef, pork or spicy dishes.



WAS \$34<sup>99</sup>  
MEMBER PRICE  
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REGULAR PRICE  
\$29<sup>99</sup>



## RUSTENBERG WILD FERMENT SAUVIGNON BLANC 2024

*Sauve Sauv Blanc!*

The only white wine from a small but competitive white wine bracket, this wine had our judges stumped as to what it was, but all in agreement on the incredible quality of this wine from South Africa. A rich wine that opens with tropical hints of pineapple and passionfruit, with some hints of capsicum. The palate is rounded and textural, with bright fruit balanced by a gentle savoury edge and well-integrated oak adding subtle weight and complexity. It finishes fresh, polished and expressive. Serve it with grilled chicken dishes or some prawns on the braai!



WAS \$25<sup>99</sup>  
MEMBER PRICE  
\$21<sup>99</sup> EA

REGULAR PRICE  
\$23<sup>99</sup>



## PECCAVI NO REGRETS CABERNET MERLOT 2022

*W.A. Bordeaux!*

A classic Bordeaux blend of 75% Cabernet and 25% Merlot, but from a great vineyard in Margaret River. The wine is matured for six months in French oak and opens up with lifted dark berry aromas of blackcurrant, plum and mulberry, layered with a savoury tapenade-like note and subtle oak spice. The palate is medium-bodied, elegant and well-balanced, showing ripe dark fruit, fine silky tannins and a gentle savoury edge through the finish. Its polished structure and fruit depth make it a great match for lamb cutlets, beef ragu and hearty veggie dishes



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## BOWEN ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2023

### *Cold Night Warmer!*

Bowen Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2023 is a 100% estate-grown Cabernet Sauvignon grown on the region's famous terra rossa soils. It shows medium-density red-purple hues and classic Cabernet character, with aromas and flavours of blackberry, mulberry and dark plum supported by subtle French oak and fine, elegant tannins. The palate is medium-bodied, balanced and expressive, with good fruit intensity, freshness and a polished finish that can be enjoyed now or will reward careful cellaring. and will also reward careful cellaring. Enjoy with a nice warm shepherd's pie.



## CASTELLI ESTATE SHIRAZ 2021

### *Sumptuous Shiraz!*

We're loving what's coming out of the Great Southern region in general at the moment, so this wine really made us happy when we unmasked it. The wine shows a surprising richness for cool-climate Shiraz while retaining elegance and savoury detail. It opens with plush aromas of blueberry, blackberry and dark plum. The palate is medium to full-bodied, with dark berry fruit supported by well-integrated French oak bringing subtle savoury depth. The finish is long, smooth and gently spicy, making it a strong match for a curry or grilled meat dish.



## D'ARENBERG D'ARRYS ORIGINAL SHIRAZ GRENACHE 2021

### *Original, Classic, Trusted!*

From McLaren Vale, South Australia, this wine is a 50/50 blend of Grenache and Shiraz. It opens with fragrant red and black berry aromas, layered with dried herbs, spice and a subtle savoury edge. The palate is medium-bodied, juicy and polished, with Grenache bringing perfume and red-fruited lift while Shiraz adds depth, spice and gentle structure. Fine, velvety tannins carry the wine through a long, savoury finish. It would pair beautifully with pork or duck dishes, and even a nice ham or sausage pizza.



## ALKOOMI FAMILY COLLECTION CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2023

### *Family Affair!*

From pioneers of the Frankland River region in WA comes an amazingly good Cabernet from the stellar 2023 vintage. The wine opens with deep aromas of mulberry, cassis and dark plum, layered with liquorice and cedar. The palate is polished and concentrated, showing ripe black fruits, coffee and subtle spice, supported by a measured oak frame that gives the wine depth without overwhelming the fruit. It finishes long, smooth and savoury, making it a great match for casseroles, coffee-rubbed beef ribs, lamb shoulder, or a classic roast with rich pan juices.

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## ROCKCLIFFE THIRD REEF PINOT NOIR 2021

**1st in Pinot,  
3rd only in Reef!**

It was a tough Pinot bracket this tasting, with strong showings all around. When all the other brackets had such strong showings, but this wine was unanimously Pinot Noir of the day. The wine shows a bright, fragrant style with aromas of red cherry, rhubarb and subtle earthy spice. The palate is elegant and detailed, with layers of cherry, dark chocolate, savoury notes and a fine flinty edge, giving way to a smooth, lingering finish. The wine matches well with roast duck, mushroom risotto, pork belly, grilled salmon or soft cheeses.



## SNAKE AND HERRING DIRTY BOOTS CAB SAUV 2022

**These boots were made for sipping!**

New vintage, new label, same great wine. The second time this wine has made it through our blind tasting. A quality Margaret River Cabernet with a bit of bottle age to boot, no pun intended. The wine opens with dark berry aromas of blackberry, blackcurrant and redcurrant, layered with violet, bay leaf, black olive and a touch of spice. The palate is medium-bodied but full of flavour, showing ripe cassis, plum and savoury dark chocolate notes, supported by fine-grained tannins and a smooth, well-shaped finish. Pairs extremely well with a steak on its own and in pie or sandwich form.



## JERICO WINES ADELAIDE HILLS TEMPRANILLO 2024

**Tempting Tempranillo!**

A well-made Tempranillo always excites our judges; this one is worth every penny. The wine opens with lifted aromas of red cherry, plum and wild raspberry, layered with subtle spice, dried herbs and a touch of earthy savouriness. The palate is medium-bodied and smooth, showing juicy red and dark berry fruits balanced by fine tannins and a gentle savoury edge that gives the wine structure without heaviness. Bright and versatile, it finishes soft and polished, making it a great match for roast chicken or tapas-style dishes.



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