



SOMMELIER MIX PACK - LEADING AND AVANT-GARDE WINES

What makes a wine avant-garde or leading?

Wine is subject to trends and fashions which are or are not related to quality. But interestingly who sets these trends and styles, and where does it emanate from - what makes a wine the fore runner of what is to come?

Looking closely at the leading fringes of winemaking is where we might find our answer.

A small group of people in the Australian wine industry that buck the norms, that are passionate about their craft, and who have a genuine respect and understanding about the earth are discovering or are re-discovering aspects of wines and winemaking.

The often-smaller producers establish their own cool as they move laterally from the masses with the rest of the industry following somewhere behind.

It is in this spirit that we have put together a 6-bottle mix pack of interesting, up and coming wines.

Cheers – Christian Maier

Product	UH Retail per bottle	Order Units	Total Amount
GHOST ROCK RIESLING 2024, CRADLE COAST TAS	\$28		
MDI RIBOLLA 2023, MILDURA VIC	\$27		
DENTON SHED CHARDONNAY 2023, YARRA VALLEY VIC	\$28		
LITTLE REDDIE NEBBIOLO REFOSCO 2023, HEATHCOTE	\$29		
RAVENSWORTH REGIONAL SANGIOVESE 2024, CANBERRA	\$29		
TWO TONNE TASMANIA TMV PINOT NOIR 2024, TAMAR TAS	\$34		
Leading and Avant-Garde Mix Pack			
<i>One of each bottle</i>	\$169.00		

GHOST ROCK RIESLING 2024, CRADLE COAST TASMANIA \$28

'The winemaker you need to know, (though she doesn't care if you don't)' was the title of Max Allen's article published in the Financial Review last May.

Former US TV presenter Sierra fell in love with wine while filming in New Zealand a decade ago. She was also recently named Top Winemaker at the Young Gun of Wine Awards. However, her philosophy is simple. "I just want to do right by the grapes," Sierra says of her winemaking approach.

This is also her opportunity to show just how good Tasmania Riesling can be, which can be often overlooked for sexy Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. When the land and people are totally in tune with the vines through understanding and respect, this is the result. A textural Riesling with part wild yeast and part fermentation in large neutral oak, showing a harmonious balance of floral notes, mineral expression, and fruit purity, making it the quintessential Riesling expression.

MDI RIBOLLA 2023, MILDURA VIC \$27

From Australia's Godfather of Pinot Grigio, and the maker of the first local orange wine, comes MDI (Murray Darling Italy). Kevin McCarthy's passion project has a mission to change perceptions about how good wines from Mildura can be. McCarthy's solid reputation, born from his pioneering work with field blends and skin contact, lends serious weight and kudos to a place not often synonymous with greatness. The MDI wines offer great value, experimental and slightly wild

wines—the talent with aromatic whites is on full display with special limited-edition releases from varieties we’re pretty sure no one has heard of.

DENTON SHED CHARDONNAY 2023, YARRA VALLEY VIC \$28

There’s a new spark at Denton. Under the fresh leadership of Scott Bishop and the steady hands of winemaker Kirilly Gordon and vineyard guru Julian Parrott, this [Yarra Valley](#) estate has entered an exciting new chapter - and it’s turning heads. Denton is a truly singular site: a granite cone rising from the valley floor, with ancient granitic sands and rock that infuse the wines with precision, minerality, and drive. It’s a vineyard that speaks loud and clear.

And Kirilly Gordon (who some of you might remember from her wine lunch at Uni House last year) is handling it very right. Since taking the reins in 2022, she’s brought a new level of finesse to the range. Organic farming practices, under-vine cultivation, and a serious move away from herbicides have lifted the site to new heights. The wines are clean, focused, deeply expressive wines that hum with site character and cellar clarity.

In the typical Shed Chardonnay style this is fresh and bright with citrus fruits, some tropical notes and creaminess with crisp acidity. A Chardonnay for everyday drinking with flavour and poise.

LITTLE REDDIE NEBBIOLO REFOSCO 2023, HEATHCOTE VIC \$29

Pat Underwood works with unique vineyards in Central Victoria; from dry-grown plots in Malmsbury, to obscure plantings of indigenous Venetian varieties in Colbinabbin, to iron-rich sites planted to mineral Nebbiolo. His relationships with his growers are fiercely warm and tight, sharing ethics and values towards the land. In the cellar, Pat’s approach is one of passion, intuition and minimal intervention.

Nebbiolo, while having a reputation for being a powerhouse, can make these softer, early drinking reds when handled gently. Especially when it’s paired up with the bright and jube-y Refosco grape - it’s a match made in heaven.

It’s a pitch-perfect red for warmer weather, filled with sweet strawberry and cherry notes and a lovely floral top note. It’s a little nervy and has a lot of energy. It’s fantastic to drink.

RAVENSWORTH REGIONAL SANGIOVESE 2024, CANBERRA \$29

Bryan Martin is a legend of the Australian wine scene. He farms 3.3 hectares of certified organic, predominantly own-rooted vines in Murumbateman. It’s a site that hums with energy and life.

His Sangiovese vines were planted 20 years ago and he has been refining his approach to this wine for many years now and has seemed to find a more traditional method of production as the best course of action. Sourced from premium vineyards in the Hilltops and Canberra District, this Sangiovese thrives in the region’s cool, challenging conditions. The wine spent three weeks on skins and 14 months in older barriques, creating a balance between fresh, juicy fruit and the variety’s natural savoury edge.

The proof is in the pudding and it is clear that this is one of the more impressive Sangiovese in the country. Firm and gravelly with beautiful Autumnal aromatics, this is Sangiovese with a refined Australian accent.

TWO TONNE TASMANIA TMV PINOT NOIR 2024, TAMAR VALLEY TASMANIA \$34

This is the wine that kicked it all off for Ricky Evans, and after 13 vintages, Evans is one of [Tasmania's](#) most dynamic winemakers. Over his time since serendipitously starting the Two Tonne Tasmania label in 2013, Ricky’s approach to both farming grapes and making wine has matured dramatically. The young gun is now an established player in the upper echelon of the island and is set to be one of Tasmania’s most influential voices in wine for many years to come. It just keeps getting better. A true snapshot of the Tamar Valley, TMV Pinot blends fruit from Ricky’s own vineyards with a couple of trusted growers, delivering a cracking Pinot that’s both effortless and detailed.

Think bright red berries—raspberry, wild strawberry, a bit of cranberry—wrapped up in fine, chalky tannins with a flicker of spice. There’s just enough whole bunch (10%) to add a little lift, and a stint in old barriques (only 10% new) keeps everything fresh, juicy, and dangerously easy to drink.

Pure Tassie Pinot pleasure—made to be opened, enjoyed, and probably finished faster than you planned.

A member of our team will get in touch with you about payment details
Please send your completed orders to ops@unihouse.org.au

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