

WINE

Separating the Best Values

Truly a list with something for everyone



By Denman Moody

Author, *The Advanced Oenophile*

The last three or four months have given me palate fatigue — almost. Out of close to a thousand wines tasted, about 20 percent of them are excellent values in their respective price ranges. Since there are so many, I have held my comments, in some instances, to a word or two. For Australia — a list. Since all are recommended from recent tastings, this is an article you can copy and email to your favorite wine shop, and ask for a mixed case of wine that should prove delightful!! And there's something here for everyone, and in different price ranges from \$9.99 to \$130.

AUSTRALIA

WHITE: William Hardy Chardonnay South Australia 2012 \$15; D'Arenburg The Hermit Crab Viognier Marsanne McLaren Vale 2012 \$16; Leeuwin Estate Prelude Chardonnay Margaret River 2011 \$30; Giant Steps Sexton Vineyard Chardonnay Yarra Valley 2012 \$35; BK Wines Swaby Chardonnay Adelaide Hills 2012 \$45

SHIRAZ: Mount Langhi Gheran Billi Billi Shiraz Victoria 2010 \$13; William Hardy Shiraz McLaren Vale 2012 \$15; Penfold's Bin 8 Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz South Australia 2011 \$20; Peter Lehman 8 Songs Shiraz Barossa Valley 2009 \$26; Schild Estate Ben Schild Reserve Shiraz

Barossa Valley 2009 \$44; Voyager Estate Shiraz Margaret River 2011 \$45; Wirra Wirra RSW Shiraz McLaren Vale 2010 \$54; Schild MOOROO MOOROO Limited Release Shiraz Barossa Valley 2007 \$75; Penfold's St. Henri Shiraz South Australia 2009 \$85; Penfold's RWT Shiraz Barossa Valley 2010 \$130

CABERNET SAUVIGNON: Xanadu Cabernet Sauvignon Margaret River 2010 \$20; Two Hands Sexy Beast 2011 \$30; Vasse Felix Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Margaret River 2011 \$36; Wynne's Black Label Cabernet Sauvignon Coonawarra (my favorite area for this varietal ever since I was there in 1980) 2010 \$45

OTHER REDS: Yering Station Pinot Noir Yarra Valley 2010 \$18; Pepper Jack Barossa Blend 2012 \$22; Rosemount Estate GSM McLaren Vale 2011 \$22; Dalrymple Pinot Noir Tasmania 2011 \$35; Schild Estate Edgar Schild Grenache Barossa Valley 2012 \$60

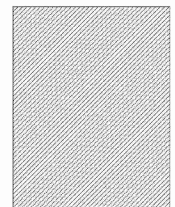
CALIFORNIA PINOT NOIR

Irony Pinot Noir Small Lot Reserve Monterey 2012 — A favorite of my ophthalmologist Eddie Pitts. \$14; Byron Pinot Noir Santa Barbara County 2012 — Incredible value at \$15; Decoy Pinot Noir Sonoma County 2012 — Seemingly excellent every year. From Duckhorn. \$22; Fess Parker Pinot Noir Santa Rita

Hills 2011 — Perfect with roasted chicken at home. \$24; Geyser Peak Pinot Noir Pluto's Fury Russian River Valley 2012 — Stunning. \$28; DeLoach Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2012 — Part of the Jean-Charles Boisset Collection. \$28; Benziger Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2012 — Perfect with turkey and brie sandwich from Central Market. \$29; Laetitia Pinot Noir Whole Cluster Arroyo Grande Valley 2012 — Gorgeous fruit. \$35; Laetitia Pinot Noir Reserve du Domaine Arroyo Grande Valley 2011 — Perfect kiss of oak. \$35; Amici Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2012 — Cherries and spice. Layers of flavors. \$35; Cuvaison Estate Pinot Noir Carneros 2012 — Bright cherries and a touch of earth. Terroir-driven. \$38; Gary Farrell Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2011 — Elegant with lovely fruit and a hint of oak. \$40; Harmonique Pinot Noir Delicacé Anderson Valley 2007 (current release) — Elegant and complex. \$42; EnRoute Pinot Noir Les Pommiers 2012 — From the Far Niente stable of great wines. Grand Cru! \$65

OTHER WHITE WINES:

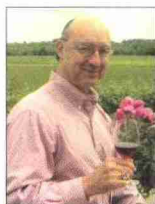
Alente White (Portugal) 2011 — Great value. New tasting experience. \$9.99; Fess Parker Chardonnay Santa Barbara County 2012 — Unbelievable bargain; Loveblock Pinot Gris Marlborough 2012 — Solid find; KOPKE Vinho Branco Douro (Portugal) 2011 — Delightfully



fresh. Arinto, Gouveio and Rabigato grapes! \$16; Rodney Strong Chardonnay Sonoma County 2012 — Consistently excellent. \$17; Decoy Sauvignon Blanc Sonoma County 2013 — Spectacular fruit. \$18; Chateau de Sancerre (Loire Valley) 2012 — The quintessential Sancerre. Enchanting minerality and persistence. Lovely. For something different, try with aged cheddar. Or fresh shrimp and crabmeat with avocado slices. \$29; Nickel & Nickel Chardonnay Stiling Vineyard Russian River Valley 2012 — Extraordinary aroma, exciting taste, long, clean, luscious finish. \$4

ROSÉ: Mulderbosch Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé (South Africa) 2012 — vibrant and zesty. Fresh, juicy, satisfying taste. \$12; Bellerouche Cotes-du-Rhone M. Chapoutier 2013 — A “must try” for a new experience. \$15

TUSCAN REDS: Ruffino Chianti Classico Riserva Ducale 2010 — It has been several years since I have tried a Ruffino. This is definitely the best Riserva Ducale I have tasted. First vintage was 1927. I think they have it figured out!! Wild berries and spice with substance and style. \$20; Lucente 2011 — The second wine of the Robert Mondavi/Frescobaldi joint venture. Purple-red color. Coffee and sweet, red cherries. Complex and food-friendly \$27; Modus 2011 — Luscious blend of 75 percent Sangiovese, 25 percent Cabernet sauvignon and 25 percent Merlot. Try with meat pizzas, osso bucco or steaks. \$28 ●



Denman Moody is the former publisher of *Moody's Wine Review*, which the *Washington Post* said was “...certainly the best publication in this country for tracking the state of rare and exotic wines.” He was also the contributing editor on rare wines for the *International Wine Review* in New York from 1984-1990. He is an author, freelance wine writer and wine consultant. Denman is the Texas broker for the wines of Dr. Konstantin Frank, Finger Lakes, N.Y. TheAdvancedOenophile.com.