

James Halliday

Australia Wine Companion

2012 Edition



★★★★★ Outstanding winery regularly producing wines of exemplary quality and typicity. Will have at least two wines rated at 94 points or above, and have had a five-star rating for the previous two years.



Alluvius Reserve Hunter Valley Semillon 2010 Light, brilliant green; captures all the characters of top - flight young Semillon; lemon/lemon zest notes are girdled by mineral and herb nuances, the finish long and vibrant. From the celebrated Braemore Vineyard. Screwcap. 11% alc. **Rating 96** To 2025 \$32 (**Best of the best by variety**)

Single Vineyard Reserve Venus Block Orange Chardonnay 2010 From the high-altitude estate-owned vineyard in Orange; bright straw-green, it has the fig aromas that are highly prized by some winemakers and critics; on the palate the fig is joined by sumptuous peach and nectarine fruit, the package supported by fine French oak. Screwcap. 13% alc. **Rating 96** To 2020 \$35 (**Best of the best by variety**)

Coquun Reserve Hunter Valley Shiraz 2009 Crimson-purple; a supremely elegant wine with remarkable length and intensity to its cavalcade of faintly spicy black fruits and silky tannins, oak in the background. From the low-yielding 90-year-old Tallawanta Vineyard, one of the Hunter Valley landmarks. Screwcap. 14% alc. **Rating 96** To 2039 \$45 (**Best of the best by variety**)

Grand Reserve Tallawanta Hunter Valley Shiraz 2009 Excellent crimson; the Tallawanta Vineyard was planted in the 1920s by the Elliot family, and is one of the treasures of the Hunter Valley; it had a brush with near-extinction, but it is now in the care of Pepper Tree. This wine encapsulates the magic of the Hunter Valley: intense flavour, yet only medium-bodied; a mesmeric array of flavours from earth, leather and spice through to plum and blackberry, and fine-grained tannins. Screwcap. 14% alc. **Rating 96** To 2040 \$55 (**Best of the best by variety**)

Single Vineyard Strandlines Grand Reserve Wrattobully Cabernet Shiraz 2009 Strong crimson-purple; shows the synergy that comes from using shiraz to provide a sweet mid-palate to balance the strength of cabernet at the start of the palate and (most importantly) the finish and aftertaste. Has quite beautiful mouthfeel, balance and overall fruit flavour. Screwcap. 14.5% alc. **Rating 96** To 2024 \$55 (**Best of the best by variety**)

✦ **Hunter Valley Marlborough Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 2010** The best of two worlds? If you can't beat them, join them. Well, yes. The super-fragrant bouquet is all Marlborough, with passionfruit and kiwi fruit to the fore, then semillon swings into action on the intense and long palate, ending up with a wine you wish to drink, not sip. Punches way above its price weight. Screwcap. 11.5% alc. **Rating 95** To 2011 \$18 (**Best of the best by variety**)

✦ **Single Vineyard Limited Release Wrattobully Chardonnay** This is the initial release made from estate plantings of the French Dijon clones selected by Prof Bernard, and which have exceptional aromas and flavours; while the wine is delicate, it has indeed been invested with vibrant white peach fruit and sweet citrus flavours. Screwcap. 14% alc. **Rating 95** To 2018 \$25

Single Vineyard Elderslee Road Reserve Wrattobully Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 Considered by Pepper Tree to be their best cabernet vineyard on the Limestone Coast, planted on terra rossa/limestone dune. It is a luscious wine overflowing with cassis and blackcurrant fruit, quality French oak and ripe soft tannins. Screwcap. 14.5% alc. **Rating 95** To 2029 \$35

✦ **Single Vineyard Limited Release Hunter Valley Semillon 2010** Pale straw-green; the aromas are complex, with lemongrass and meadow, the palate with gentle lime flavours backed by perfectly balanced acidity. All it needs is time. From the Trevena Vineyard. Screwcap. 11.5% alc. **Rating 94** To 2019 \$22

Single Vineyard The Gravels Reserve Wrattobully Shiraz Viognier 2009 Interesting wine; the purple colour is good but not quite as bright as that normally resulting from 5% co-fermentation of viognier, and the palate has a chocolate topping that is also unusual; none of this changes the fact that the palate has great texture and the flavours are enjoyable. Screwcap. 14.5% alc. **Rating 94** To 2019 \$35

Single Vineyard Calcare Reserve Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 From the best rows in Pepper Tree's small Coonawarra vineyard, the name coming from the limestone (calcare) soil of Coonawarra. Strong purple-red, it has abundant cassis and blackcurrant fruit, a touch of Coonawarra earth that will grow with time, and fine oak. Screwcap. 14.5% alc. **Rating 94** To 2024 \$35



Limited Release Single Vineyard Hunter Valley Chardonnay 2010 Interesting wine; winemaker Jim Chatto was content to allow the full development of stone fruit and fig flavours, and balanced these with controlled barrel-ferment oak inputs; the wine is balanced, but not as lively as the best. Screwcap. 13.5% alc. **Rating 93** To 2016 \$22

Wrattenbully Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 Rating 93 To 2019 \$18

Single Vineyard Limited Release The Pebbles Wrattenbully Shiraz Viognier 2009 Rating 92 To 2019 \$25

Wrattenbully Shiraz 2009 Rating 91 To 2019 \$18



Wrattenbully Merlot 2009 Rating 89 To 2014 \$18

Single Vineyard Limited Release Wrattenbully Pinot Gris 2010 Rating 88 To 2012 \$22

Single Vineyard Limited Release Wrattenbully Tempranillo 2009 Rating 88 To 2014 \$25