

WINE News

Announcing New Direct Imports from
Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa



AUGUST 5, 2013 FEATURES

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Discover the True Wines of Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa

By Jim Chanteloup

The wines of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are all countries commonly placed under the umbrella of “New World.” However, in many ways this is not an accurate reflection of the wines or the regions. South Africa’s wine industry was established in the 1650s, some 200 years before the classification of Bordeaux—hardly “new.” Australia has a rich winemaking history with some of the oldest vines in existence growing in some of the most ancient soils on the planet.

New Zealand’s wine industry may be younger by comparison, but the ancient Māori tradition of *Kaitiakitanga*—“guardianship of the land”—has had a strong influence on Kiwi winemaking practices. New Zealanders have always embraced natural methods of winemaking, eschewing mechanization in favor of holistic techniques. Today, 97% of NZ’s wine production is certified sustainable and virtually all of the Kiwi wines we stock are organic or biodynamic. In addition to excellent Sauvignon

Blanc, our NZ selections also include superb Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Bordeaux Blends, Syrah and other aromatic whites.

Beyond Old World/New World labels, another common stereotype is that Australian wine is mass produced, over-ripe, jammy reds. However, this style represents only a tiny fraction of the true Australian wine industry. Australia has a plethora of microclimates producing diverse expressions of many varietals. True Australian wine is as about restraint, balance and terroir — not the fruit bombs that tainted Australia’s reputation for many. Read on to discover more.

South African wine is also on the rise with more high-quality producers coming into the US market. Our South African selections offer both historic estates like Rustenberg (1682), Buitenverwachting (1796) as well as dynamic new wineries like Waterkloof. South Africa offers an incredible diversity of wines and fantastic values. Enjoy!

New Direct Imports!

By Ryan Woodhouse

After a ten-month world trip in 2011 visiting over 70 properties in New Zealand, Oz, and South Africa, I was inspired to expand K&L’s Direct Import (DI) program to include some of my best finds from these countries. We are now working with new stars such as Te Whare Ra, Amelia Park, and Waterkloof, never before seen in the US. Others include historic, iconic estates such as Dalwhinnie and Oakridge that have been absent from the US market for too long. Our DI program brings

you fantastic wines at great prices by cutting out the middle men!

AMELIA PARK

Award-winning Aussie winemaker Jeremy Gordon is now focused on his new project, Amelia Park. He’s sweeping every wine competition and picking up huge scores from top wine critics. The wines are pure and concentrated with impeccable balance.

2010 Amelia Park “Mishmash” Red Margaret River* (\$14.99) 93 JH Top Value! Superb Margaret River Cab at a great price.

2011 Amelia Park Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon Margaret River* (\$16.99) 92 JH: “...lime, apple, and passionfruit on the palate...precise and balanced.”

2010 Amelia Park Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot Margaret River* (\$19.99) 94 JH Blackcurrant and violet aromas lead to a velvety palate with notes of plum and vanilla.

2010 Amelia Park Shiraz Frankland River* (\$19.99) 92 JH Exciting cool-climate Aussie Shiraz with a subtle earthy note. Dynamite!



NEW ZEALAND *Kaitiakitanga: Guardians of the Land*



Jason Flowerday hand-crafting TWR's brilliant Pinot Noir.

By Ryan Woodhouse

TE WHARE RA

Te Whare Ra will always hold a special place in my heart. Jason and Anna Flowerday, the husband and wife, owner/winemaker team behind the wines are the nicest people you could ever meet and TWR was our first DI from New Zealand. Most importantly, however, is that the wines are flat-out delicious! Made predominantly from an old block of vines in the Wairau Valley meticulously farmed according to organic and biodynamic principles. The Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Syrah are handmade in tiny quantities; we take as much as they can spare. Their fantastic Sauvignon Blanc has quickly become one of our best sellers, as well as their game-changing Riesling and Gewürztraminer. All of the wines have a dazzling purity, impeccable balance and textural complexity that make them a cut above the competition.

2012 Te Whare Ra (TWR) Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough* (\$18.99) Shows passionfruit, elder flower, citrus and gooseberry from the Awatere fruit, with great midpalate texture and fresh, yet restrained, acidity on the finish.

2011 Te Whare Ra (TWR) Pinot Noir Marlborough* (\$24.99) Juicy ripe red berry and dark fruit flavors are complimented by rich savory undertones from the old vines. Exotic spice and mineral aromas emerge with air. This is unbelievably good Pinot for the price!

2011 Te Whare Ra (TWR) Chardonnay Marlborough* (\$24.99) 9I+ RP Elegant, Burgundian texture and richness on the palate is balanced by a touch of toasty oak.

2011 Te Whare Ra (TWR) Riesling "D" Marlborough* (\$18.99) With notes of citrus and jasmine, this dry style of Riesling also has fine structure and length.

2011 Te Whare Ra (TWR) Gewürztraminer Marlborough* (\$18.99) Crushed rocks and flowers in the nose, with serious texture and minerality on the palate.

2010 Te Whare Ra (TWR) Syrah Marlborough (\$29.99) Quintessential ultra-cool climate Syrah, with violet floral highlights and notes of crushed berries and ground

black pepper. The palate is silky and dynamic, exuding red fruits with exotic spices and subtle savory notes of crushed herbs. Treat this like a northern Rhone Syrah in regards to food pairing and you will not be disappointed!

RIPPON

Rippon Vineyard recently celebrated 30 years of producing wine and 100 years of farming the land. The vines grow in complex schist soils; they are un-grafted and have been farmed organically since planting. The estate has been fully biodynamic since Nick's return from Burgundy in 2003. After studying at the Lycee Viticole in Beaune and working at Domaine de la Romanee-Conti, Nick returned to his family's land on the shores of Lake Wanaka. These wines rival any in the world regardless of price point. I have tasted numerous bottles at 20+ years in age and have concluded that they are great investments for the cellar.

2008 Rippon "Mature Vines" Pinot Noir, Lake Wanaka, Central Otago (\$49.99) 94 W&S, 93 WS, 91 RP Absolutely world class Pinot. It leads with lifted aromatics of dark roses, cherry, and fresh-picked herbs that reveal layers of pure red fruits on the finely textured palate. The finish is accented by notes of sandalwood, spicebox, and schist mineral-ity. Very complex and long, this is Pinot at its purest.

SERESIN

Seresin has become an iconic producer in Marlborough whose brave decisions in the vineyard and convictions in the cellar have elevated the quality of wine in the region overall. To paraphrase renowned British critic Jancis Robinson, they have raised their head above the parapet of mediocrity. The principles of Seresin are grounded in organic and biodynamic viticulture, with a strong belief that natural balance and health in the vineyard will ultimately produce the truest expressions of place and vintage.

2010 Momo (Seresin) Pinot Noir Marlborough (\$16.99) Beautiful aromatics of crushed dark berries, plum, earthy mushrooms, and rosemary lead the nose. The palate shows nice ripeness and spicy French oak accents along with great energy and drive and an elegant finish. Serious Pinot at half the price.

2012 Momo (Seresin) Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough (\$14.99) Dynamic, dry, and fresh, with snappy acidity, citrusy tropical notes, and nice chalky minerality on the finish. Just the thing for oysters and other seafood!

2011 Seresin Sauvignon Blanc, Wairau/Omaka Valley Marlborough (\$25.99) 90 ST Exotic, floral aromatics with notes of freshly grated citrus rind and plumeria, restraint and purity on the palate, and excellent texture from neutral oak maturation.

2010 Seresin "Leah" Pinot Noir, Wairau/Omaka Valley Marlborough (\$29.99) Crushed rose petals and red fruits in the nose with darker cherry notes and savory elements and warm toasted spices. Silky and elegant, with invigorating acidity lifting the long finish.

*To learn more about Te Whare Ra, Rippon, and Seresin, please visit their producer profiles on our blog **UNCORKED**.*



AUSTRALIA Award-Winning Wines of World Class Quality

By Ryan Woodhouse

DALWHINNIE

Dalwhinnie is an iconic estate nestled in a natural amphitheater in Victoria's Pyrenees mountain range at an elevation of 2,000 feet. The vineyard was established in 1976 and is the highest and most remote in the Pyrenees region. The vines are dry farmed and naturally low-yielding due to the very poor rocky soils, and the microclimate is characterized by dramatic diurnal swings in temperature, preserving high natural acidity. These elegant, powerful wines have rightly attracted very high points from the world's top critics. Fantastic now but built to age, they make a worthy addition to the cellar. We are very happy to offer a limited allocation exclusively to K&L customers.

2011 Dalwhinnie "Moonambel" Chardonnay Pyrenees, Victoria* (\$32.99) 95 JH Superb! Crunchy orchard fruit, fresh grains, toast, malt. Good flinty mineral tones. Bright but finely balanced acidity. Exceptional persistence.

2010 Dalwhinnie "Moonambel" Shiraz Pyrenees, Victoria (\$49.99) 96 JH, 94 RP Deep, long, and structured; elegant yet intense.

2010 Dalwhinnie "Moonambel" Cabernet Sauvignon Pyrenees, Victoria* (\$39.99) 95 JH, 92+ RP Powerful nose of black currant, cassis, crushed mint and graphite. Richly textured, powerful with

ample ultra-fine tannins providing good structure and persistence.

2010 Dalwhinnie "Southwest Rocks" Shiraz Pyrenees, Victoria* (\$69.99) 96 JH, 95 RP Dark and brooding, full-bodied yet pure and fresh. Long, supple tannins provide great cellaring potential. Great now, exceptional in a few years.

2010 Dalwhinnie "The Pinnacle" Shiraz Pyrenees, Victoria* (\$69.99) 97+ RP, 96 JH Immense power and intensity. The most muscular and saturated of the Dalwhinnie wines. Black fruit with some savory, meaty elements. Bittersweet chocolate and allspice.



Dalwhinnie Estate, high in the Grampian Mountain Range.

OAKRIDGE ESTATE

Oakridge Estate winemaker David Bicknell is a 20-year veteran of his craft in the Yarra Valley and one of the most highly regarded Chardonnay producers in Australia. His Chardonnays transcend all that you think you might know about Australian Chardonnay. They are the definition of precision, focus, tension and complex minerality. White Burgundy lovers will be amazed by these wines as they have the drive and focus of great Puligny-Montrachet. Oakridge also makes some fantastic Shiraz, subtle, bright and elegant Pinot Noir, and a very textural, complex Fumé Blanc. The scores all speak for themselves, but these wines are not to be missed. They were all instant staff favorites!

2011 Oakridge Estate Local Vineyard Series (LVS) "Barkala Ridge Vineyard" Chardonnay Yarra Valley (\$24.99) 95 JH Intensely flinty and mineral driven. Quite Chablis like.

2011 Oakridge Estate LVS "Denton Vineyard" Chardonnay Yarra Valley* (\$24.99) 95 JH Very charming and immediately expressive. Silky texture, elegant.

2012 Oakridge Estate LVS "Guerin Vineyard" Chardonnay Yarra Valley* (\$24.99) Interestingly finds the middle ground between the Barkala Ridge and Denton bottlings. Shows white peach, orchard blossom, citrus and raw almonds. Structured and serious with good density on the midpalate.

2011 Oakridge Estate 864 Single Block Selection "Charlie's Block: J&J D'Aloisio Vineyard" Chardonnay Yarra Valley* (\$49.99) 96 JH Best young Chard I have ever tasted, period. Drive, texture, complex layers of flavor so dynamic they defy description. Simply amazing.

2011 Oakridge Estate 864 Single Block Selection "Drive Block: Funder and Diamond Vineyard" Chardonnay Yarra Valley* (\$49.99) 95 JH, 93 RP Spectacular wine with drawn-out, linear acidity that will age for a decade plus.

2011 Oakridge Estate LVS "Denton Vineyard" Pinot Noir Yarra Valley* (\$24.99) 93 JH Elegant, medium-bodied, bright Pinot. Dusty red berries, leaf litter and spicy wood notes on the nose. The palate echos the aromatics with nice purity and savory undertones

2010 Oakridge Estate LVS "Whitsend & Oakridge Vineyard" Shiraz, Yarra Valley* (\$24.99) 95 JH Intense, but not a big extracted wine; rather one of focus, balance and purity that will only get better with time.

2012 Oakridge Estate Limited Release "Fumare" Fumé Blanc Sauvignon Blanc / Semillon Yarra Valley* (\$24.99) 93 JH Very fresh and fragrant. Floral and bright with summer blossom, snappy acidity and citrus flavors. Great wine for Sancerre drinkers.



Waterkloof Estate overlooking False Bay, South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA *Terroir & Tradition*

By Jim Chanteloup

South Africa is the most beautiful and dramatic wine country I've ever had the pleasure of visiting. The awe-inspiring mountain ranges are the backdrop to a tremendous variety of soil types, terrain, and microclimates in South Africa. As a result, there is great diversity in expression of varietal and terroir throughout South Africa's many wards (AVAs). World-class Cabernet and Chardonnay in Stellenbosch, intriguing Rhône styles in Swartland, and racy, snappy whites in Constantia are just the beginning. With



its unique location and history, South Africa has a wine culture that straddles both the traditional and modern worlds. In Stellenbosch, it's easy to compare Rustenberg, with its beautiful Cape Dutch architecture represented in pristine condition, to the sleek modern design of Waterkloof (which, despite its modern appearance, also happens to be a fully-functioning biodynamic farm) for a visual contrast of "old" and "new." Taste the wines, however, and it is clear that these wineries embrace both "worlds," reflecting terroir and traditions that are uniquely South African. *To learn more about Waterkloof, please visit their [producer profile](#) on [UNCORKED](#).*

2012 Rustenberg Chardonnay (\$19.99) Top Value! Perfectly balances ripe tropical fruit with toasty oak complexity.

2010 Rustenberg "John X Merriman" Bordeaux Blend (\$29.99) Finely structured with firm tannins. For the cellar.

2012 Waterkloof "Circumstance" Sauvignon Blanc* (\$19.99) A contender for best Sauv Blanc of 2013!

2011 Waterkloof "Circumstance" Chenin Blanc* (\$19.99) Ripe orchard fruits, refreshing pear and quince.

2009 Waterkloof "Circumstance" Syrah* (\$24.99) Classic Syrah, with dense red fruits, wild herbs and smoked meats.

2010 Waterkloof "Circumstance" Cabernet Sauvignon* (\$24.99) Great Cab, with saturated dark fruit and smoky, cedar, tobacco and mint nuances. Its structure lengthens the dense fruit on the palate.

Hollywood Hot Picks

By Keith Mabry

From crisp, dry Riesling to serious Shiraz, K&L Hollywood's Keith Mabry identifies must-try wines for the season:

2012 Pewsey Vale Riesling Eden Valley South Australia (\$14.99) 91 WS, 90 RP Some of the best dry Riesling comes from Clare and Eden Valleys in South Australia, and Pewsey Vale is a benchmark. Bracing and zesty, with a nose of lime blossom, green apple, lime zest and crushed rocks, this is an exquisite example.

2012 Downes Family "Sanctuary Peak" Sauvignon Blanc Elgin South Africa (\$19.99) 92 ST Elgin has a cooler climate, making this SB less grassy and more gooseberry and grapefruit-driven in style. Made with a restrained hand, it's a bit like white Bordeaux, with a richer, almost honeyed texture, and long citrusy finish. World-class stuff!

2012 Lake Chalice "The Nest" Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough New Zealand (\$10.99) If you were a big fan of our Stratum Sauvignon Blanc, this is a great replacement. It is loaded with much of the same tropical fruit and gooseberry aromas, with layers of pineapple, mango, lemon

grass, kaffir lime and melon. It is expressive and full of vibrancy, making it the perfect summer quaffer.

2010 A.A. Badenhorst "Secateurs" Red Rhône Blend Swartland South Africa (\$16.99) 90 RP, 90 WE Swartland, with its rolling red hills, is the breadbasket of the Western Cape of South Africa. This is predominately Shiraz, with Grenache, Cinsault and Mourvedre rounding out the blend. With notes of brambly raspberry, wild blackberry, and smoky earth, it is one of the best Rhône tributes I have tasted from the region.

2005 Leeuwin Estate "Siblings" Shiraz Margaret River Australia (\$13.99) 92 W&S, 90 ST Famous for their world-class Chardonnay, Leeuwin also makes equally great Shiraz. Bottle age has smoothed the texture of the wine and allowed the flavors of boysenberry, blackberry and spice to integrate, with a wonderful mouthfeel and finish. Don't shy away if you are not a fan of the richer styles from Barossa or McClaren Vale. This is from the cooler Margaret River region, and is just pure Shiraz through and through.

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K&L EVENTS & TASTINGS We host regular evening and Saturday tastings in each K&L store as well as many special events throughout the year. For the complete calendar of upcoming events and tastings, go to [KLWines.com/Local-Events](#).

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