

Wines Tasted on May 13, 2004

<u>Vintage</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Vintner</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Our Rating</u>	<u>Industry Ratings</u>	<u>Industry Comments</u>
2001	Bin 2000 Shiraz S E Australia	McGuigan	9.00	74 12.5	WS – 88	An honest bottle of tasty red, rich in texture, offering pretty blackberry and cherry flavors on a layer of extra-fine tannins, echoing the fruit nicely. You can't beat the price for wine this good.
2002	Terra Barossa Shiraz Barossa Valley Australia	Thorn Clarke	10.00	70 11.12	WS – 90	Boasts an inky/blue/purple color in addition to a distinctive perfume of eucalyptus intermingled with blackberry liqueur, licorice, and scorched earth. Dense and chewy, with gobs of fruit and glycerin, and a soft, succulent finish, this is a heck of a wine for \$10! Drink it over the next 4-5 years.
2001	Stonehorse Shiraz Barossa Valley Australia	Kaesler	15.00	80 14.75	WS – 90	Dense and chewy, concentrating its raspberry and red cherry flavors with vanilla and licorice notes, echoing on the fine-grained finish. Drink now through 2008.

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2000	Thompson Vineyard Syrah Santa Barbara, CA	Bedford Thompson	23.00	76 13.38	WS - 88	Entirely from the Thompson Vineyard, the steep hillsides and south facing exposure of this site ensures complete ripeness. That combined with low tonnage produces an amazing concentration, robust dark crimson color and equally rich flavors that have become our hallmark 2000 was another long, cool growing season with winter rains holding off until after harvest. Distinct blocks of the vineyard were harvested over a six-day period to ensure consistent flavors resulting in fully matured fruit with excellent statistics. Fermentation, in open top containers, extended for 28 days. The wine was then transferred to barrel and aged 18 months, 25% new American oak. The wine has a deep color and generous fruit character suggesting ripe black raspberry, mulberry, and Oriental spice. Its rich, lush quality, smoky, berry bouquet that is almost floral, makes a noble statement. Though the tremendous fruit impact makes this wine enjoyable now, aging will enhance it over the next twelve years.

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2002	Stonehorse GSM South Australia	Kaesler	14.00	87 17	WS – 90/92	The 2002 Stonehorse (a blend of 60% Grenache, 32% Shiraz, and 8% Mourvedre) is produced from vineyard parcels averaging 40-70 years of age. It is kept in neutral American oak until being bottled without filtration. Displaying the extraordinary structure, definition, and intensity of the 2002 vintage in Barossa, it possesses superb blackberry and kirsch-like fruit intertwined with flower and licorice characteristics. With great purity, a rich, medium to full-bodied style, sweet tannin, and a long, layered finish, it should drink well for 10-12 years.
2002	Shiraz / Cabernet S E Australia	Rosemount	8.00 2.00**	78 14.25	WS – 88 WA - 87	Bright, jazzy and flavorful, a lively mouthful of blackberry, cherry, pepper and floral flavors, which linger nicely on the balanced finish. Much improved over 2001, but it's a lighter style than it used to be. Drink now through 2004. 70% Shiraz, 30% Cab, tastes like an Australian version of Beaujolais. It possesses a dark ruby color, light to medium body, aromas and flavors of black cherry and currant fruit, and an easy-going finish.

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2002	Stonehorse Shiraz Barossa Valley Australia	Kaesler	19.00	77 13.75	WS – 94/96	The 2002 Shiraz Stonehorse (the least expensive of Kaesler's Shiraz offerings) is spectacular. It is indicative of just how special this vintage is in the Barossa. It is a teeth-staining, mouth-filling, extremely concentrated Shiraz displaying a level of quality that makes the 2002 Bogan and 2002 Old Bastard's potential quality level look scary. The inky purple-colored Stonehorse offers a great perfume, beautifully integrated wood, and sensational richness as well as length. A prodigious effort that easily conceals its 15.5% alcohol, it should drink well for 10-15 years.

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1996	1st Cru Sauternes Bordeaux, France	Chateau Guiraud	30.00 375ml		WS – 82	An unusually high proportion of Sauvignon Blanc (35%) cannot undermine the unctuous nature of this pineapple and orange scented wine. Mid gold in color with browning edges. The hard, chunky flavors offer burnt marmalade fruits with a dash of spice, has a detracting moldy nuance. A finish of good length.
					91	A superlative sweet wine drinking excellently at the present time (2001). Intense botrytis nose with a flood of other nuances including butter, honey, citrus, saffron. Balanced to perfection: no hint of heaviness despite the intensity level. Tasted twice - a beautiful wine. Superb concentration on the nose: all mango/marmalade. Wonderful palate - packed full of sweetness. Lovely balance - a very sophisticated wine to last.

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