

J O H N
D U V A L
W I N E S

2014 **UPDATE**

TASTE THIS – 2013 PLEXUS MRV

The adventurous move in 2010 to produce my very first white wine has certainly paid off. Judging by the demand from restaurants and bistros the Plexus Marsanne Roussanne Viognier blend seems to have been just ahead of its time, catching consumers' imaginations as they looked to change from Sauvignon Blanc. The 2013 MRV is drinking beautifully with just the right balance of texture, aromatics and length to complement lighter style foods – prawns, salmon, chicken, game birds even lamb and pork – while the 2014 (which will be bottled soon) was picked early to beat the heat and has a fresh and fragrant bouquet and a zingy acid backbone. If you are in the Barossa and passing cellar door drop in for taste.

VINTAGE NOTEBOOK

2012 – Structured, Elegant

The more I taste the current release Plexus and Entity, I am convinced 2012 will be regarded as one of the classic Barossa vintages. Good soil moisture, a carryover from the wet 2011, and a mild summer during the 2012 growing season put a stamp of elegance on the 2012 wines. But don't drink them all now: their balance, flavour depth and tannin quality will give excellent cellaring potential. In fact you won't be surprised that I think the 2012 Eligo will give the 2010 a run for its money...and that is high praise indeed given that the 2010 received 98 Parker points.

2012 Eligo is due for release February March 2015.

2013 – Traditional, Concentrated

Concentration and character, was how I summarised the 2013 vintage after picking a year ago. The season was dry and warm to hot, resulting in low yields so there was never going to be a problem with lack of colour or tannin structure. But the young wines really needed time in barrel and several rackings to soften the tannins and fill out the palate. Now that I have just blended the 2013 Plexus and Entity I'm pleased with the way they have come together. 2013 will be a more traditional Barossa vintage; rich, full bodied and structured, these will reward cellaring until at least 2025.

2014 – Soft, Stylish

If the heat of early January 2014 had continued through February, the 2014 vintage might well have been a write off. Instead we had 100mm of rain which breathed life back into the vines. At the time I remember saying 'when will it stop': after all rain is the last thing one needs at vintage. But it signalled the end to the heat and prolonged the ripening of Barossa and Eden Valley vineyards. As a result the reds are soft, elegant and stylistically right on track. We got out of jail!

J O H N D U V A L W I N E S

THE OFFERS

Beat the price rise

For those who missed the chance to purchase the 2012 Plexus SGM and Entity Shiraz, we still have some stock left – and we are happy to sell them at last year's prices to our loyal mail order customers. And there's free freight on dozen packs. Be quick.

Masterclass

We know how hard it is for people to cellar wines these days, so why not use JDW as your cellar. This year we are offering a special wooden boxed Masterclass pack of six pre-cellared bottles of our flagship Shiraz: 2 bottles of 2008 Eligo, 2 bottles of 2009 Eligo and 2 bottles of 2010 Eligo (98+ points review from Robert Parker's Wine Advocate magazine). Included in the pack will be detailed tasting notes and a menu for a Masterclass dinner party that will complement the wines, with recipes specially prepared by Food Luddite chef Mark McNamara.

THE PRESS

Plexus SGM joins Langtons Classification

The Langton's Classification is the most authoritative national and international form guide to Australia's finest wines. It is based on a wine's reputation for quality and consistency over a minimum of ten years and also its track record at auction. Since 1990 the Langton's wine auction house has been tracking the buying patterns of collectors to produce this transparent and independent guide to ultra-fine Australian wine.

This year saw the release of the 6th Edition of the Classification and we were proud and delighted that our Plexus SGM was included. We were particularly thrilled that the 2012 vintage Plexus SGM was chosen in its first year of eligibility (after ten years).

Plexus was the first wine we made in 2003 and as the "godfather" of the JDW range it is fitting that it is now considered as one of the elite wines of Australia.

Syrah (Shiraz) Genius

In April I was asked by my distributor *Negociants Australia* to be part of a Working with Wine panel presenting Australian and international wines to the wine trade. The Rhone themed educational roadshow featured the wines of one of the world Syrah genius Phillipe Guigal from the famous family owned Northern Rhone producer, E. Guigal.

It was a pleasure to taste Phillipe's wines and discuss the origins and evolution of Syrah and the other Rhone red varieties Grenache and Mourvedre with a panel including journalist Nick Ryan, Louisa Rose, Chief Winemaker of Yalumba and Iain Riggs, Managing Directors of Brokenwood. It was also a great opportunity to show the 2012 Plexus SGM, hot on the heels of the Langton's classification, as well as my Chilean Syrah Pangea.

We were in very good company: more than 200 participants had to sit an exam to attend

the Working with Wine tastings in all mainland capital cities and then participate in a further blind tasting and exam. The prize: an expenses paid trip to Europe to visit the great wine houses of France, Italy and Germany.

Annexus – Perfect Pure Grenache

Since my days at Penfolds when I launched the first Cellar Reserve range in 1997, I have been keen to produce a 100% varietal Grenache under the JDW label.

Grenache is a variety that can be simple, with confection sweet fruit, but it can also be more complex and a Barossa classic, produced from some of the oldest Grenache vines in the world, thanks to its long, lineage back to the fortified era.

In 2013 I was lucky enough to find some remnants of those days: an 1860s vineyard in Eden Valley and a 1915 patch on the Barossa floor. Blending these two batches together and including 20% whole bunch fermentation to lift aromatics, has resulted in an exciting new wine, Annexus. An addition to the Plexus program, Annexus is a very small bottling, which will only be made in the best years. Planned release February/ March 2015.



REVIEWS

Plexus MRV 2013

Tony Love's Top 100 Wines – July 2014

Delicate white stone fruits and a note of apricot, the fragrance attractive, then an almost secret power and intensity as it settles, vital, complex and fulfilling.

*Ralph Kyte-Powell
The Age – Epicure
92/100 – July 2014*

Musky florals, peach, apricot and ginger aromas meet the nose, there's a whisper of oak and it tastes lush, dry and complete.

Entity Shiraz 2012

*Mike Bennie
The Wine Front
94 pts – June 2014*

Richness in perfume, wholesome red and black current fruit, warm and spiced, some leather and licorice in the mix too..... Mouthwatering to finish. Feels elegant.

Plexus SGM 2012

*Huon Hooke
Wine of the Week –
Sydney Morning Herald
95/100 – July 2014*

2012 is a top vintage.....The aromas are attractively spicy, clean and fresh, while the palate is intense and well-balanced, with soft tannins and spicy red-fruit flavours..... it's medium to full bodied and deliciously drinkable despite its youth.



Eligo 2010

*Lisa Perotti-Brown
Robert Parker's The
Wine Advocate
98+/100 – March 2014*

Profoundly scented of blueberry preserves, blackberry tart and chocolate box intermingled with an undercurrent of star anise, coffee, rare beef and tar..... richly fruited with layers of opulent, berry preserve and spice cake flavours supported by solid foundation of firm, velvety tannins and balanced acid. It finished with outstanding persistence.

TRAVEL DIARY

September 2013

Calgary/Vancouver
Promotional tasting with Vintage West my BC Distributor.

Washington State
Long Shadows vineyard and winery vintage visit – Excellent season!

Chicago
Distributor and customer tasting.

Denver and Boulder
Customer tastings

San Francisco
Met wine writer Dan Berger for a tasting. Dan will be judging the Six Nations Wine Challenge in August with 2012 Entity the Australian competitor. We will be interested in the results as the 2012 Entity was chosen by local judge Huon Hooke, to be one of the 5 Shiraz to represent Australia.

John Duval takes delivery of 100yr old Mourvedre from grower Mike Scholz



November 2013

Hong Kong
Winemaker dinner – prestigious Hong Kong Cricket Club, oldest cricket club in Asia.

China, Beijing
Private member wine and food clubs – Extraordinary!

Guangzhou
Memorable seafood restaurant built over seafood market – Fresh!

Chengdu
New shopping centre size of three Pentagons or 6 Sydney Opera Houses – Huge!

Vietnam, Hanoi
Dodged typhoon!

Taiwan
First visit since the Penfolds days –x growth and westernisation.

December 2013

Chile
Celebrated 10 years with Vina Ventisquero and old friend Felipe!

January 2014

Holiday (at last)
Visited Long Shadows to put the 2013 Sequel blend together.



John and our cellar door staff: Tasting Bar Manager, Kym Farley and Sales Manager, Sally Johnson



Renowned chef, Mark McNamara

CELLAR DOOR

Food Luddite at Artisans

As you know I joined the Artisans of the Barossa in early 2010 – a group of like minded small premium boutique winemakers with a passion for all things Barossa, fine wine and good mateship.

The group shared a vision of opening a joint cellar door and the dream came to fruition in early 2011 when we secured a lease on a beautiful building at the base of Menglers Hill, just outside of Tanunda.

Originally an old farmhouse it was renovated with a large modern extension including a deck overlooking the valley floor, one of few wine locations in the Barossa that has such spectacular views all year round.

With a lot of hard work and determination we have seen the Artisan Cellar Door grow dramatically over the last three years and in November 2013 we were awarded Cellar Door of the Year by our peers in the Barossa. We

were also listed amongst Australia's best cellar door's by Gourmet Wine Traveller magazine.

My four wines are rotated through the 70 wine tasting list with special wines highlighted each week. Alongside Plexus, Entity and Eligo I also list (for sale not tasting) my international wines: the Longshadow's Sequel Syrah from Washington and the Vina Ventisquero Syrah and Carmene/Syrah blend from Chile.

This year has been particularly exciting with the introduction of our much loved food program. Renowned chef, Mark McNamara (Food Luddite at Artisans), has joined the team bringing a wealth of culinary skill and knowledge. Mark is also responsible for bringing back the long lunch to Artisans of Barossa as well as a range of wine friendly plates that are available daily. Food Luddite at Artisans is simply perfect for a long, lazy grazing lunch on the deck, a light nibble with your wine tasting or even a shared table for a small group.

When you're next in the valley be sure to call in and see what we're up to, taste the latest wines and experience some exceptional food – you never know you might even find me behind the bar. Facebook and twitter provide daily updates with what's on or visit our website for more details.

Cheers

artisansofbarossa.com

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