

124 TASTED  
71 AWARDED

## TASMANIA

In a unique tasting of cool-climate wines, Tasmania offers a different experience from many mainland wines - which is how it should be. Not surprisingly, the best performers came from the pinot noirs and sparkling wines, with honourable mentions for the sweet whites and, somewhat surprisingly, the pinot gris/grigio bracket.

### SPARKLING

17 TASTED  
10 AWARDED

Excellent line-up of some of Australia's leading sparkling wines. Wines with higher scores showed greater complexity. Most wines here were well balanced, with just the right amount of dosage (sugar addition) and some delicate mousse.

#### House of Arras Grand Vintage Tasmania Methode Traditionnelle 2003 ★★★★★

Light golden wine with a toasty/creamy yeast nose and lovely lingering complexity of flavours with attractive aged characters and plenty of crisp, citrusy acidity to balance. \$70



#### Clover Hill Cuvee Exceptionnelle Pipers River Blanc de Blancs 2006 ★★★★★1/2

Bright and toasty nose with very attractive yeast autolysis characters. Tight and toasty in the mouth, with great length of flinty, green apple-like flavours. \$55

#### Josef Chromy Tasmania Methode Traditionnelle NV ★★★★★1/2

Pale straw colour with an attractive nutty/toasty nose and a good persistent bead. Lean, dry, citrusy palate exhibits a good acid level and has lovely flavour intensity and length. \$27

#### Jansz Premium Rosé NV ★★★★★

Subtle strawberry and citrus bouquet, a very fresh red berry fruit palate and nice crisp, citrusy acid backbone to balance. \$24.95

#### Riversdale Estate Crux Coal River Valley Tasmania Sparkling 2005 ★★★★★

Smells of sweet pear drops and shows great length and persistence of flavour on an elegant palate edged with bright, yeasty notes. \$30

#### Pirie Tasmania Sparkling NV ★★★★★

Fresh aromas of citrus and green apples. Refreshingly crisp palate with nice combination of youthfulness, complexity and aged characters. \$33



#### Clover Hill Cuvee Exceptionnelle Pipers River Methode Traditionnelle 2006 ★★★★★1/2

Light, mushroomy complexity to a nose with hints of iodine, and a full, rich palate with great flavor complexity. \$45

#### Jansz Premium Tasmania Cuvee NV ★★★

Attractive lighter, non-vintage style. Bright and well balanced, with fresh youthful characters. \$24.95

#### Tamar Ridge Tasmania Pinot Noir Chardonnay 2006 ★★★

Nose has considerable honeyed aged characters. Some sweetness on the palate, with balancing acidity. \$39

#### Jansz Tasmania Vintage Rosé 2007 ★★★

Lifted strawberry and cream-like aromas and a broad palate with well-balanced berry flavours. \$39.95

### SAUVIGNON BLANC & BLENDS

10 TASTED  
5 AWARDED

Mixed group. These wines tend towards a restrained fruit style rather than the big, overt, tropical styles. On a pleasing note, few were overly herbaceous, as in the past, but offered lighter, consumer-friendly flavours.

#### Bream Creek Tasmania Sauvignon Blanc 2010 ★★★★★

Ripe and complex tropical nose with a well-rounded, slightly sweet, ripe fruit palate showing grassy green fruit flavours that linger on. \$25

#### Josef Chromy Tasmania Sauvignon Blanc 2010 ★★★★★

Pungent passionfruit of a nose and a simple, lightweight palate that's fresh and tasty with moderate acidity. Give it more time to settle. \$25

#### Iron Pot Bay Tamar Valley Tasmania Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2009 ★★★

Pungent bouquet and nicely textured, tight and refreshing palate with crisp acidity. \$22

#### Heemskerk Wines Abel's Tempest Tasmania Sauvignon Blanc 2010 ★★★

Attractive, almost peppermint-like perfume and bright, juicy cordial characters in the mouth \$25

#### Riversdale Estate Coal River Valley Tasmania Sauvignon Blanc 2010 ★★★

Lifted aromas of kiwi fruit and hay, and a rich, well-textured palate with savoury flavours. \$24

### PINOT GRIS/GRIGIO

11 TASTED  
5 AWARDED

The judges were pleasantly surprised with this group and noted a good distinction between the gris - fuller, riper styles - and the crisper, racier grigios.

#### Tamar Ridge Devils Corner Tasmania Pinot Grigio 2010 ★★★★★

Very pale, with some delicate floral fragrances that lead to a tight, crisp palate with fine flavours of lemons and pear drops. \$21

#### Spring Vale East Tasmania Pinot Gris 2010 ★★★★★1/2

Attractive green apple nose with a lovely fruity lift. Quite aromatic palate, sweet and well balanced. \$28

#### Josef Chromy Tasmania Pinot Gris 2010 ★★★★★1/2

Nice nose - smells of Turkish delight and apricots. Oily palate, in the gris style, with high alcohol and ripe fruit flavours. \$25

**The Wine Society Tasmania  
Pinot Gris 2010 ★★★**

Subtle peach/pear aromas and some nice sweet berry fruit flavours with an oily mouthfeel. \$19.99

**Pirie South Tasmania  
Pinot Gris 2010 ★★★**

Smells of ripe pears with a dash of talcum powder! Has a flavoursome, fruity palate. \$23

**RIESLING**

21 TASTED  
14 AWARDED

Strong class of cool-climate, natural-acid, well-balanced wines. These tend to be the more limey, mineral-style rieslings.

**Pressing Matters Coal  
River Valley Tasmania  
Riesling 2006 ★★★★★**

Very attractive example of this varietal, showing lovely honeyed aged characters developing nicely. Palate still fresh and bright, with seamless balance of fruit, acidity and aged characters. \$29

**Pressing Matters RO Coal  
River Valley Tasmania  
Riesling 2009 ★★★★★**

Subtle floral bouquet with a flinty edge. Very lemony/minerally defined palate showing great intensity and length of flavour. Nicely structured and with an excellent spine of acidity. \$29

**Pressing Matters R9 Coal  
River Valley Tasmania  
Riesling 2009 ★★★★★1/2**

Attractive aromas of citrus, with a sprinkling of baby powder-like characters. Very pretty fruit palate with some residual sugar all seamlessly balanced by lovely acidity. \$29

**Pooley Coal River Valley  
Riesling 2009 ★★★★★**

An austere flinty mineral style with excellent length, persistence and intensity of fresh citrus fruit and lemon peel characters. \$26

**Bream Creek Tasmania  
Riesling 2008 ★★★★★**

Limes lift off the nose and fill the mouth, merging with apple juice-like characters to create a lovely juicy mouthful of varietal flavour. \$23

**Holm Oak Vineyards TGR  
Wild Fermented Tasmania  
Riesling 2010 ★★★1/2**

Subtle, spicy nose and juicy flavours. Residual sugar obvious but it is well matched with a good level of crisp acidity. \$22

**Riversdale Estate Coal  
River Valley Tasmania  
Riesling 2010 ★★★★★1/2**

Very interesting, tightly structured wine that's dry and austere with a perfumed nose and clean, lean, lemon palate. \$23

**Pooley Margaret Pooley  
Tribute Coal River Valley  
Riesling 2010 ★★★**

Freshly cut limes on the nose which follows through onto the palate with a crisp finish. \$35

**The Wine Society Premium  
Selection Tasmania  
Riesling 2010 ★★★**

Dry, flinty style with tight, elegant, citrus blossom-like fruit. \$16.99

**Freycinet Vineyard  
Tasmania Riesling  
2010 ★★★**

Subdued, limey nose but a generous, juicy palate. Some residual sugar well matched by the acid. \$24

**Bass Fine Wines  
Strait Tasmania Riesling  
2007 ★★★**

Pleasant green apple and lemon characters with nice toastiness developing. \$N/A

**Riversdale Estate Cygnus  
Coal River Valley Tasmania  
Riesling 2008 ★★★**

Slightly toasty aged characters on the nose, with intense, developed flavours on a firm palate. \$26

**Pressing Matters R9 Coal  
River Valley Tasmania  
Riesling 2008 ★★★**

Tight, nicely textured wine with tart, crisp fruit and balancing residual sweetness. \$29

**Pressing Matters Coal  
River Valley Tasmania  
Riesling 2007 ★★★**

Fine citrus fruit, with attractive aromatics and some residual sugar. \$29

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## GEWURZTRAMINER

3 TASTED  
2 AWARDED

A couple of interesting and different traminers. One is a traditional floral/spicy wine and the other a racy, acid-based New World style.

**Moorilla Muse  
Tasmania Gewurztraminer  
2010 ★★★★★**

Delightfully intense floral/Turkish delight bouquet. Soft in the mouth, with good structure and nice varietal fruit depth and weight. \$35

**Bass Fine Wine Strait North  
Tasmania Gewurztraminer  
2009 ★★1/2**

Delicate notes of rose petals waft off the nose and are followed by a fine, elegant and citrusy palate. \$N/A

## CHARDONNAY

17 TASTED  
8 AWARDED

The judges differed in their preferences here, with the explanation being, "Cool-climate fruit results in a much more diverse range of styles than you will find in warmer regions." The wines ranged from the clean and clinical to the feral and funky.

**Riversdale Estate  
Crater Coal River Valley  
Tasmania Chardonnay  
2009 ★★★★★**

Lovely toasty aromas with a bright, lemon-like edge. Refined, elegant and crisp palate with great texture, plenty of varietal flavour length and phenolic fullness. Very good wine. \$34.99

**Bream Creek Reserve  
Tasmania Chardonnay  
2005 ★★★★★**

Complex, aged oak/fruit characters to the nose. Plump in the mouth, with lovely fruit/oak flavour complexity and pleasant, slightly oily, mouthfeel. \$34

**Holm Oak Vineyards  
Tasmania Chardonnay  
2010 ★★1/2**

Bright citrus and toast-like aromas with attractive lemony flavours showing some sweetness, but it's in balance. \$30

**Riversdale Estate  
Crater Coal River Valley  
Tasmania Chardonnay  
2008 ★★1/2**

Hints of melons and vanilla on the nose, and pleasant freshness of varietal flavours on the well-structured palate. \$

**Heemskerk Wines Abel's  
Tempest Tasmania  
Chardonnay 2010 ★★**

Smells of green melons, tastes lemony and has a nice spritzig character. \$25

**Bay of Fires Tasmania  
Chardonnay 2008 ★★**

Rich and complex bouquet - very intense - and attractive toasty, oatmeal-like flavours. \$32

**Bellwether Tamar Valley  
Tasmania Chardonnay  
2009 ★★**

Complex meaty/toasty nose, with more complexity on the long, pungent palate. \$50

**Nocton Park Coal  
River Valley Tasmania  
Chardonnay 2007 ★★**

Greenness on both nose and palate, with some softness in the mouth. \$25

## ROSÉ

2 TASTED  
1 AWARDED

**Iron Pot Bay  
Tamar Valley Pinot  
Meunier Rosé 2010 ★★**

Bright, well-balanced wine with candy-sweet nose and long, crisp, savoury palate. \$22

## PINOT NOIR

29 TASTED  
18 AWARDED

Strong class. The older wines generally performed better than the younger ones. "We are moving away from the fruit-driven styles to more complex hand-crafted wines which cause discussion and a divergence of opinions", said one judge.

**Spring Vale Freycinet  
Coast Tasmania Pinot  
Noir 2009 ★★★★★**

Mix of sweet raspberry and tangy cranberry aromas with subtle spicy/medicinal notes. The lovely long palate has attractive flavours reminiscent of liqueur cherry confectionery. \$40

**Freycinet Vineyard  
Louis Tasmania Pinot Noir  
2009 ★★★★★**

Lovely complex wine with a dense concentration of dark chocolaty aromas matched with elegant varietal fruit. Well-structured palate has attractive red fruit flavours and chewy oak. \$28

**Riversdale Estate Coal  
River Valley Tasmania  
Pinot Noir 2009 ★★1/2**

Ripe cherry fruit bouquet with subtle oak, hints of spice and developed, savoury notes. Well-structured, meaty palate with slight syrupy-like characters and supple tannins. \$24.99

**Freycinet Vineyard  
Tasmania Pinot Noir  
2008 ★★★★★**

Dense pungent/spicy aromas and dark, brooding and slightly aggressive palate that's big and complex and has a lovely savouriness. \$55

**Moorilla Muse  
Series Tasmania Pinot  
Noir 2009 ★★★★★**

Complex, minty/chocolate bouquet and lovely silky-textured palate with excellent concentration of sweet varietal fruit and good acidity. \$49

**Bay of Fires Tasmania  
Pinot Noir 2009 ★★★★★**

Nice spicy character to the nose, with secondary characters starting to develop. Dense, tannic palate, soft in the mouth, with lovely spiciness. \$32

**Tamar Ridge Kayena  
Reserve Tasmania Pinot  
Noir 2007 ★★1/2**

Dense oaky/mint nose showing some development. Sweet fruit palate with some savoury notes and fine tannins. \$55

**Iron Pot Bay River Block  
Tamar Valley Tasmania  
Pinot Noir 2009 ★★1/2**

Sour cherry aromas with a herbal edge and more of the sour cherry characters on a palate with slightly green tannins. \$27

## JUDGES



**Tom Ravech**  
Senior winemaker with Tamar Ridge Wines. Has previously worked as Operations Manager at the Villa Maria Winery (NZ) and Tucks Ridge in Mornington Peninsula.



**Gerald Ellis**  
The original owner of Meadowbank Estate Winery, but now proprietor of Meadowbank Vineyard in the Derwent Valley. Gerald has had an extensive career in Tasmanian winemaking, marketing and finance.



**Jeremy Dineen**  
Chief winemaker for Josef Chromy Wines. Formerly made wines with Hood Wines, Frogmore Creek, Mitchelton, in Victoria and Capel Vale in WA. Judge at Perth, Hobart and Rutherglen wine shows.

**Bass Fine Wine  
Strait Tasmania Pinot  
Noir 2009 ★★★1/2**

Complex wine with good 'chunkiness'. Smells and tastes of red cherries, with toasty notes and acid freshness. \$N/A

**Tamar Ridge Kayena  
Vineyard Tasmania Pinot  
Noir 2009 ★★★**

Dense savoury/smoky nose and a very long, very complex, savoury palate with firm tannins. \$32.70

**Pooley Coal River Valley  
Pinot Noir 2009 ★★★**

Good balance between cherry/raspberry varietal fruit characters and the acidity and tannins. \$35

**Josef Chromy  
Pepik Tasmania  
Pinot Noir 2010 ★★★**

Smoky, dark berry/violet bouquet and a fleshy fruit palate - quite hot - with nice length. \$20

**Humbug Reach Tamar  
Valley Tasmania Pinot  
Noir 2009 ★★★**

The nose is a complexity of oak and fruit, and oak dominates the tight cherry palate. \$45

**Holm Oak  
Vineyards Tasmania  
Pinot Noir 2009 ★★★**

Light cherry bouquet and a very bright, supple, sweet red fruit palate. \$32

**Tamar Ridge Estate  
Devil's Corner Tasmania  
Pinot Noir 2010 ★★★**

Astringent green notes to the nose. Good concentration of fruit flavours, high acid and supple tannins. \$21

**Pirie South Tasmania  
Pinot Noir 2010 ★★★**

Vanilla-like characters to the nose, and a very pretty varietal palate with a grippy tannic finish. \$24

**Pressing Matters Coal  
River Valley Tasmania  
Pinot Noir 2009 ★★★**

Mocha-like aromas with toasty notes. Dark, sweet, cherry fruit palate and very smart use of oak. \$49

**Ghost Rock Vineyard  
Casper's Block Tasmania  
Pinot Noir 2009 ★★★**

Simple lolly aromas and a lightweight, spicy, fresh cherry palate; pretty and elegant. \$28

**OTHER RED  
VARIETALS  
& BLENDS**

6 TASTED  
2 AWARDED

A difficult task to get some red varietals across the line here, where pinot dominates the region. There is potential but more work needs to be done.

**Moorilla Muse St Matthias  
Vineyard Tasmania  
Syrah 2009 ★★★1/2**

Quite a spicy and peppery nose and a very grippy palate that's dense with flavour and high in acid and oak. \$60

**Moorilla Muse  
Series Merlot Cabernet  
2009 ★★★1/2**

Minty/herbal characters lift off the nose and attractive flavours of oak and ripe red fruits fill the mouth. \$35

**SWEET WHITES**

8 TASTED  
6 AWARDED

Some very nice examples of sweet riesling varietal wines here, offering great cellaring potential due to their natural acidity.

**Tamar Ridge Kayena  
Vineyard Tasmania  
Botrytis Riesling 2009  
(375ml) ★★★★★**

Intense floral bouquet with gorgeous apricot-like botrytis characters. Very rich, luscious varietal palate with excellent flavour richness, depth and length held together by vibrantly crisp acidity. \$26

**Josef Chromy Tasmania  
Botrytis Riesling 2009  
(375ml) ★★★★★**

Clean, fresh, spritzig lime aromas with touches of apricot botrytis characters. The palate has weight, texture and plenty of flavour. "Ice wine-like," said one judge. \$25

**Pressing Matters R69 Coal  
River Valley Tasmania  
Riesling 2009 ★★★★★**

Lively and extremely pretty wine showing excellent balance between varietal fruit, crisp acidity and residual sweetness. \$29

**Pressing Matters R139  
Coal River Valley  
Tasmania Riesling 2008  
(375ml) ★★★1/2**

Powerful varietal aromatics and bright, confectionery-sweet palate with a tight structure and seamless balance. \$26

**Iron Pot Bay Tamar Valley  
Dessert Riesling 2008  
(375ml) ★★★**

Attractive developed characters on the nose, and a simple, well-aged, flavoursome palate. \$16

**Pressing Matters R139  
Coal River Valley Riesling  
2006 (375ml) ★★★**

Dense, toasty nose and tight and bright, high-acid, flavoursome palate. \$26



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