

## BOLD WINTER WARMERS THE GALVO'S TOP 24 OF THE STYLE

If you need warming up in the chilly weather, then have a look at these. They sure warmed us up. We tasted over an inclement weekend with a little warming help from a big open fire and two heat seeking dogs that didn't move from it. The weekend was very civilized (unusual for us), oh well, someone's got to do it. Here we go; this is the 'short list' from many, many hundreds of wines.

-  **2001 Scorpo Shiraz.** So many different and interesting characters, just kept on coming through. Initially it was grainy and hard but lifted immensely after some time in the glass. Charred smoky oak on the nose, bacon, chocolate and oak on the palate, aniseed nutmeg, drinking really well. Elegant, good length. **93-(94)-B-2 \$32**
-  **2001 Gibson's Barossa Vale Shiraz.** Cool climate and savoury with very tight structure. Overall very very good and long. Spicy, rich in nutmeg and cinnamon plums on the nose. Lots of oak on the palate with fruit to carry it. Excellent weight, very attractive and complex. **91-(93)-C-2 \$30**
-  **Seppelt DP 37 Tokay.** Winter warmer indeed. Who said fortifieds all needed to be very old? This one proudly boasts a youthful fruitcake nose and then shows great quality spirit on the palate integrated with that lovely Christmas pudding / clove / spice mouthfeel. **90-(90)-A-1 \$16**
-  **Morris Liqueur Muscat.** Bloody ripper, very good level of acidity holds it up and makes the whole thing purposeful. Classic raisiny approach, excellent viscosity, spicy, long well balanced, fantastic age versus freshness, very long. **90-(90)-A-1 \$17**
-  **2001 Scorpo Pinot Noir.** Quite stunning. Really plummy sort of sensual aromatics, very correct for its variety. Fabulous texture, we loved the balance of fruits. Needs time to settle though. **89-(94)-C/D-2 \$35**
-  **2001 Pertaringa 'Undercover' Shiraz.** Lots of black fruits quite distinctly against the others, and sweet oak. Very silky palate, long and generous with really good persistence. Very elegant. **87-(90)-B-1 \$20**
-  **2002 Scorpo Pinot Gris.** Hazelnut and other quite exotic aromas lead to a palate of wonderful balance between fruit and alcohol. Nutty, gravely, rich and complex chalky acidity. Long and intriguing. **86-(86)-A-2 \$29**
-  **2001 Pertaringa 'Over the Top' Shiraz.** Clove spice, quite complex, has a developing layered character about it, very good depth and intensity, looking good. Plummy, rich, good back palate oak, quite toasty, long term. **85-(90)-D-2 \$30**
-  **2000 di Fabio 'The Old House' Cabernet Franc.** Green tobacco herbal peppery nose. Less generous palate, very good integration though, length is interesting to have the fruit, acid and tannins working in, huge potential that needs time. **85-(92)-D-2 \$**
-  **2001 Dutschke 'St Jakobi' Barossa Shiraz.** Complex, smoky cassis characters, then caramels and nutmeg. Palate has fantastic juiciness, really dry finish, rich and spicy oak, very complex wine overall. Very good. **85-(88)-B-2 \$34**
-  **2001 Ashton Hills Chardonnay.** Lifted grape fruits, citrus, nuts and creamy malo on the nose. Lovely white peach characters and a cool climate beauty with very crafty oak. Bold and elegant, if that's possible. **85-(90)-B-2 \$34**
-  **2001 Balnaves Shiraz.** Rich plum pudding and cinnamon spice nose. Smoky, rich chocolate palate that's quite intense, long and generous. Really good shape on the palate and finish. One for those that like their wood, lovely astringent tannins. **85-(86)-B-2 \$24**
-  **2001 Ladbroke Grove Cabernet Merlot.** Very obvious cool climate with minty characters that are quite defined. Palate is ripe with lovely elegant mouth feel to it, good intensity, it's got all the balance and it's long and strong. **85-(86)-A-2 \$28**
-  **2001 Gemtree 'Uncut' Shiraz.** Green herbal, lifted plums and slightly spiced, a very interesting nose. Lovely rich yummy palate, very well balanced which provided texture and good length. **85-(86)-C-1 \$27**
-  **2001 Gibson's 'Australian Old Vine Collection' Barossa Shiraz.** Sweet ripe plum and blackberry nose with intense fruity oak characters. The palate is a little sweeter than what the nose actually suggests with soft and sweet rich berry fruits. Lots of oak but has mouth filling fruit and good length. Very well balanced. **85-(87)-B-2 \$65**
-  **2001 Ladbroke Grove Cabernet.** Marzipan, herbal and menthol green characters go right through to the palate. Consistent fruit character although that's a bit hidden underneath it needs time to develop. Plenty of length and good tannins. Well balanced. **83-(86)-C-2 \$31**
-  **2000 Burton Coonawarra Cabernet.** Deep colour with nutmeg and varnish oak on the nose. Red currants that are ripe and fruity with lots of character follow with good acidity. Good drinking, sound and friendly. Very good persistence on the finish. It's aged well and has further great aging potential. **83-(86)-C/D-2 \$27**
-  **2001 Whale Coast 'The Crows Nest' Shiraz.** Bacon and cherry fragrance with very intense fruit too. Very thick, fat and wide palate with lots of fruit there as well in great balance with warm rich tannins. Long overall and very elegant. This one's new and hard to find, call the owner Dr David Batt on 0414 521037 for stockists. **82-(85)-C-3 \$22**
-  **2001 Battely Syrah.** Interesting fruit characters, overall quite a harmonised wine it took time for it to really show. Great savoury and juicy fruitiness. **82-(85)-B-2 \$27**
-  **2001 Gibson's Barossa Vale 'The Blend'.** Quite generous sweet style, really underlying greenish characters coming through. However, it has a real abundance of fruit, fabulous length and really well balanced. **82-(85)-A/B-2 \$24**

*We just had to put these 4 in from past tastings, they really fit the bill.*

-  **2000 Balnaves of Coonawarra. 'The Tally' Dark,** alluring and that's just looking at the bottle (after unmasking). A super league wine here just looking at the colours as it sits in the glass. Lifted cassis and plums with the impact of French oak that is perfectly integrated. Incredible black currant/mint palate with concentration. It's a big wine with incredible length and a framework to match and will shock us again we're sure. **94-(96)-D-2/3 \$80**
-  **2000 Joseph Amarone.** Once again a wonderfully powerful, rich and long structured cabernet from another gifted maker that's just so juicy fruit with unobtrusive oak. This will please all and it's for the long haul so put it away as it's surely a collector's item. **92-(95)-D-2 \$48**
-  **1997 Orlando 'Jacaranda Ridge' Coonawarra** Mouth filling monster of fruit and oak. This is a very intense full-bodied dry wine that just has layers of black/red fruits. **92-(94)-C-2 \$55**
-  **1998 Mountadam Cabernet** Big intense wine with blackberries, liquorice and earthy-plum characters. Big fruity palate with plenty of tannins and obvious cool climate. Drinking well. **91-(91)-B-2 \$43**