



**2010 Mac Forbes Hugh Gruyere** (A\$55) continues Mac's obsession with finesse over size. Hooke wrote, "lovely rounded, mellow bouquet with good character and light, earthy, forestry notes. Smooth, supple palate with soft tannins. Velvety, elegant and harmonious. It's more than simply fruit." I liked the hint of cedar from nicely married oak and its excellent line. It's ready and should age well for several years.

**2010 Yering Station Cabernet Sauvignon** (A\$38) combines ripe, black fruits with well-handled cedary oak on the nose. The palate's medium bodied with good depth of sweet fruit and finishes with slightly stalky tannin. Otton found "lots of blueberry, brambly fruit with hints of mulberry and pencil shavings. Good structure – not strong, but holds nicely with the fruit." The wine's drinking well and should do so for a couple of years.

## Other regions

**2009 Barwang GDR Cabernet Sauvignon** (A\$40) has generous, dark berry fruits typical of the Hilltops region, lifted by hints of violet. The palate has plenty of weight with concentrated blackberry, firm tannin balance and good length. Forrestal found the tannins finer than I had, adding "ripe, dark plum flavours. Lively and fleshy." While Hooke added, "good oak." The wine's ready now and will take age well.

**2008 Henschke Cyril Henschke Cabernet Sauvignon** (A\$135) avoids the excesses of some South Australian 2008s by being from the cool of Eden Valley. That's reflected by the intensely fragrant, even fresh, berry nose, which gains further aromatics from hints of cigar box and sandalwood. Bourne loved it, telling us "some wonderful herbal complexity without being vegetative. Blackberry and mulberry with dried herbs adding savoury complexity. Quite assertive structure, but it has weight of fruit. A wine for the future." I found it suppler and the tannins finer than he had, but agreed on the potential.

**2009 Philip Shaw No 5 Cabernet Sauvignon** (A\$75) is showing maturity in its complex bouquet of sweet fruit, cigar box and leafy fragrance. Otton strongly supported it. "It's slightly forward," she began, "but I liked the balance and flavour development. Rose petal, raspberry and redcurrant with autumnal, secondary characters and tobacco." It's a medium-bodied wine, as expected from Orange, and finishes with a lightly stalky grip. Ready now.

**2010 Wirra Wirra Angelus Cabernet Sauvignon** (A\$70) impressed us all. "Shows restraint on the nose with redcurrant and cassis aromatics," said Forrestal. "Rich and concentrated, silky smooth in the middle and with fine tannins." Hooke added, "full bodied yet elegant with violets, blackberry and tobacco." The wine is very youthful with great depth and persistence. As expected of a high-quality McLaren Vale wine, it cries out for time and will gain complexity for many years. ♪

## STAR PERFORMERS

★★★★★

- 97 2009 Xanadu Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$35/NZ\$38
- 97 2009 Brand's Laira One Seven One Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$70
- 96 2010 Wirra Wirra Angelus Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$70
- 96 2010 Deep Woods Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$60
- 96 2008 Voyager Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot, A\$60
- 95 2010 Houghton Gladstones Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$73
- 95 2008 Rosily The Cartographer Cabernet Sauvignon Franc Merlot Petit Verdot, A\$23
- 95 2010 Amelia Park Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$50

★★★★

- 94 2008 Henschke Cyril Henschke Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$135
  - 94 2009 Woodlands Alma May Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$130
  - 94 2008 Leeuwin Art Series Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$61
  - 93 2010 Majella Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$33
  - 93 2008 Yalumba Menzies Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$53
  - 93 2010 Cullen Diana Madeline, A\$115/NZ\$129
  - 93 2008 Vasse Felix Heytesbury Cabernet Sauvignon Petit Verdot Malbec, A\$90/NZ\$98
  - 92 2011 Firetail Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$28
  - 92 2010 Brookland Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot, A\$50
  - 92 2010 Fraser Gallop Parterre Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$42
  - 92 2009 Lenton Brae Wilyabrup Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$60
  - 92 2010 Mt Horrocks Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$38
  - 92 2009 Penley Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$51
  - 92 2009 Plantagenet Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$44
  - 92 2010 Woody Nook Gallagher's Choice Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$45
  - 91 2010 Grosset Gaia, A\$69
  - 91 2010 Mr Riggs Outpost Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$27
  - 91 2010 Yalumba Cigar Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$28
  - 91 2010 Evans & Tate Redbrook Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$44
  - 91 2010 Cape Mentelle Wilyabrup Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Cabernet Franc, A\$49
  - 91 2009 Hutton Triptych Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$50
  - 90 2010 Mandon Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot, A\$24
  - 90 2010 Mac Forbes Hugh Gruyere, A\$55
  - 90 2010 Brand's Laira Blockers Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$28
  - 90 2010 Bowen Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$30/NZ\$38
  - 90 2010 Balnaves The Tally Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$90
  - 90 2009 Lindeman's St George Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$70
  - 90 2010 Woodlands Margaret Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Malbec, A\$45
- ★★★
- 89 2010 Yering Station Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$38
  - 89 2009 Philip Shaw No 5 Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$75
  - 89 2010 Hay Shed Hill Block 2 Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$58
  - 89 2009 Barwang GDR Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$40
  - 89 2010 Petaluma The Hundred Line Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$24
  - 89 2008 Parker Coonawarra Estate First Growth, A\$106
  - 89 2008 Katnook Odyssey Cabernet Sauvignon, A\$100/NZ\$100
  - 89 2011 West Cape Howe Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot, A\$17