

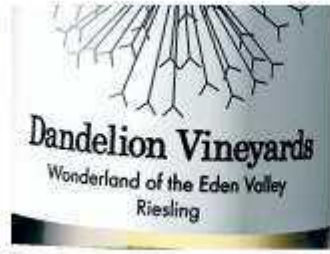


# REVIEWS

by Tony Love

Ratings:  
 ★☆☆☆ No thanks  
 ★★☆☆ If you must  
 ★★★☆ Decent drop  
 ★★★★ A cut above  
 ★★★★★ Top class

taste.com.au | 11



**TERRIFIC**  
**\$22** Angullong 2010  
 Pinot Gris  
 Orange, NSW  
[www.angullong.com.au](http://www.angullong.com.au)

**The story:** Grown at a 600m altitude, this PG has just won the chairman's trophy for best varietal PG at the Cowra Wine Show, a great result for a wine that has had some classy winemaking skill employed to bring out its best.

**The flavour:** The faintest blush reveals its variety, followed by expressive floral spice aromas; its mouthfeel is tighter than expected, minerally textured like biting into a fresh and crunchy granny smith apple – stylistically it's more like a grigio but still a terrific drink.

RATING: ★★★★★  
 VALUE: **Very good**  
 VERDICT: **Summer smart**

**PLENTY!**  
**\$25** Dandelion  
 Vineyards 2010  
 Wonderland of the Eden  
 Valley; Eden Valley, SA  
[www.dandelionvineyards.com.au](http://www.dandelionvineyards.com.au)

**The story:** This partnership brings together great old vineyards and smart, energised winemaking that has elevated it to James Halliday's top 10 best new wineries in his latest *Australian Wine Companion*. This wine already has won its first trophy.

**The flavour:** The bouquet just sings purity with field grasses and florals, while the drinking is quite concentrated with plenty of zing and a fine minerally mouthfeel that is all class.

RATING: ★★★★★  
 VALUE: **Really good**  
 VERDICT: **Top shelf**

**EXCELLENT**  
**\$28** De Bortoli 2010  
 Reserve Release  
 EZ; Yarra Valley, Vic  
[www.debortoli.com.au](http://www.debortoli.com.au)

**The story:** Winemaker Steve Webber is always busy exploring new styles and blends, and here he's put together what he calls an "Edelzwicker", the EZ, from gewurztraminer, riesling and pinot gris reflecting an Alsatian blend that has plenty going for it. A sibling riesling also is a cracker.

**The flavour:** A real gloss to this wine with rose-like perfume off the gewurz followed by terrific pink lady apple flavours and an exciting crunch to boot. It's all about the fragrance and freshness.

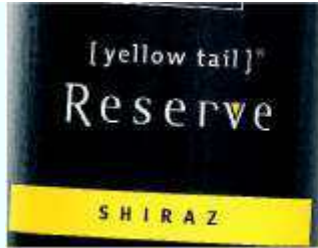
RATING: ★★★★★  
 VALUE: **Fair**  
 VERDICT: **Most refreshing**

**EXCELLENT**  
**\$15** Bullant 2008  
 Cabernet Merlot  
 Langhorne Creek, SA  
[www.lakebreeze.com.au](http://www.lakebreeze.com.au)

**The story:** A second label from the gang at Lake Breeze which scored a huge haul of top wines at its regional showcase earlier this year. Bullant is a great example of the trickling down of A-grade wine into second tier and bargain labels on the shelves for all to enjoy.

**The flavour:** Softer, lightly handled cabernet with chocolatey, mocha tweaks amongst its blackberries. It's ripe, fresh and beautifully soft with fine tannins and lovely balance at this price.

RATING: ★★★★★  
 VALUE: **Fantastic**  
 VERDICT: **A great find**



**LITTLE C**  
**\$15** Yellow Tail 2008  
 Reserve Shiraz  
 South-East Australia  
[www.yellowtailwine.com](http://www.yellowtailwine.com)

**The story:** Based in NSW's Riverina, this huge producer sells megalitres into the US, explaining perhaps this wine's cork closure that still impresses in America. The Reserve uses significant proportions of McLaren Vale, Langhorne Creek and Wrattontully to boost its quality.

**The flavour:** The back label's subtitle says "dark and spicy" and the level of aromatics and flavour is quite impressive with good plum and oak balance as well as textural complexity.

RATING: ★★★★★☆  
 VALUE: **Bloody good**  
 VERDICT: **Great bargain**



**DOG WITH**  
**\$26** Starvedog Lane  
 2007 Shiraz  
 Viognier; Adelaide Hills, SA  
[www.starvedoglane.com.au](http://www.starvedoglane.com.au)

**The story:** Festooned with gold medals from its outings at three capital city shows, this wine is one of Constellation's top rating performers, superbly crafted by winemaker Glenn Barry who's put together a consistent string of vintages with this blend.

**The flavour:** Crunchy plum fruit with a seamless fragrant spice and floral lift from its 5 per cent viognier addition. The balance is spot on.

RATING: ★★★★★  
 VALUE: **Great**  
 VERDICT: **Modern and exciting**



**QUICK O!**  
**\$28** Flametree 2009  
 Cabernet Merlot  
 Margaret River, WA  
[www.flametrewines.com](http://www.flametrewines.com)

**The story:** Still only a relative newcomer with just a handful of vintages under its belt and top-shelf recognition already garnered, think of winning the Jimmy Watson trophy with your first red wine – which, in fact, was an earlier vintage of this regional classic combo.

**The flavour:** Rather than green herbaceous and stinky impressions for unripe fruit, there's an intriguing fragrance of forests, mushrooms and dark chocolate along with the fine purple berries. Quite pleasing.

RATING: ★★★★★☆  
 VALUE: **Fair**  
 VERDICT: **Grows on you**