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Giant Steps Yarra Valley Syrah 2017



Giant Steps is an independent winery in Healesville, Victoria, owned by Phil Sexton. Phil first made his name in establishing some noted micro-breweries, such as Little Creatures, and later established Devil's Lair in Margaret River. First released in 2001, Giant Steps focuses exclusively on the distinctive expression of single vineyard sites in the Yarra Valley. Grapes are drawn from estate and leased vineyards, as well as a selection of long-term contracted vineyards. Giant Steps wines are produced fastidiously in the vineyard and vinified with minimal intervention so that each is a faithful expression of site, vintage and culture. The name Giant Steps comes in part from Phil's love for jazz and John Coltrane's album of the same name, and in part due the giant step Phil took in relocating his family from Margaret River to the Yarra Valley.

Region: Yarra Valley, Vic

Notes: Wonderful Northern Rhone style Syrah - savoury, gamey meats, with a dusting of white pepper and tobacco leaf. The palate is elegant and restrained but with great intensity, framed by fine-grained tannins. A long and savoury finish makes this wine very moreish.

Cellar: Cellar up to 2030 Food match: Wild game terrine

Alc/Vol: 13.5%



Brash Vineyard Single Vineyard Shiraz 2016

Brash Vineyard is located in the Yallingup Hills, in the Margaret River. The winery is owned by Chris and Anne Carter, Brian and Ann McGuinness and Rik and Jenny Nitert. The vineyard was planted in 2000. The majority of the fruit is sold to other wineries in the region, with only around 10% reserved for the Brash Vineyard label. This equates to about 250 cases of each of the four wines produced each vintage - Cabernet, Shiraz, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. The focus here is on quality and site specific wines, rather than quantity. All of the wines are produced at Naturaliste Vintners, under the watchful eye of Senior Winemaker Bruce Dukes, to the highest possible standard.

Region: Margaret River, WA

Notes: 'Deep red colour with a good purple tint, the bouquet likewise fresh, bright and attractive. There's a lick of spice and a touch of oak, well-balanced, and the wine is intense and savoury, firm and drying on the tongue, but also soft and appealing. Some Chinese five-spice notes. It has some elegance. A very smart shiraz.' Huon Hooke. Cellar: Cellar up to 2026

Food match: Confit duck with polenta and lentils

Alc/Vol: 13.7%



Arlewood Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2016



The Gossatti family have been growing grapes in Margaret River since 1994, and the family vineyard is driven by their Italian heritage where their great grandfather was capo of the cooperativa winery in his home town in Valtellina, in the far north of Italy. Originally established by Gary Gossatti, today it is his two sons, Jordan and Adrian, who run the vineyard. Much of the work done by their own hands, tending the vines to control vigour and crop load for grapes of intense flavour. Their flock of Wiltshire sheep are used in the vineyard for grass and weed control and removing the natural habitat of many pests. This means less herbicide, less pesticide, less tractor miles. The winemaking approach is similar: hand picked, gentle pressing, minimal filtration. Arlewood is the winner of James Halliday's 2017 Dark Horse Winery of the Year, reflecting the unique site and quality of small batch wines in southern Margaret River.

Region: Margaret River, WA

Notes: 'More than a passing glimpse over the shoulder of Bordeaux. Blackcurrant, bay leaf, black olive et al all tumble around each other in the mouth, the well trained tannins not getting involved in the stoush. If you like voluptuous plummy, oaky cabernets, you won't understand this wine. If your tastes are more catholic you will.' James Hallidav.

Cellar: Cellar up to 2025 Food match: Grilled rib eye steak

Alc/Vol: 14.5%

\$31.99 /bottle Code: ITM23232

\$33.99 /bottle



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Cellar: Cellar up to 2024 Food match: Beef carpaccio

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Riversdale Estate Pinot Noir 2017

The Riversdale Estate family are the sixth generation to work the land and contribute to agriculture. The Estate boasts the largest privately owned vineyard in the Coal River Valley with 40 hectares of vine plantation. The gentle undulating land to the waterfront provides a unique maritime influence, micro-climate and an ideal environment for the arge vineyard. These characteristics contribute to the growing and making of awardwinning wine. This wine is made from younger vines with barrels from selected older blocks, which showcases those very youthful flavours and characteristics.

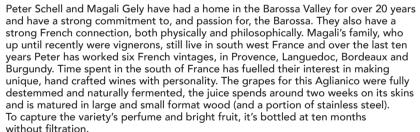
Region: Coal River Valley, Tas

Notes: Black cherry and dark berry fruit characters dominate the nose. The palate is plush and silky with with substantial structure and flavours such as dark cherry, five spice and brambly fruit alongside meaty, savoury notes.

Alc/Vol: 13.5%



Spinifex Aglianico 2017



Region: Barossa Valley, SA

Notes: 'The aromas are fresh and bright, young and clean and modern, fruitdriven and bold. The palate is likewise full-bodied and rounded, fruit-sweet and soft, with lots of ripe berry fruits, and ample but supple tannins, which provide an excellent backbone. A delicious modern style - Wine of the Week.' Huon Hooke -The Real Review.

Cellar: Cellar up to 2025 Food match: Ratatouille Alc/Vol: 13.5%



Avlesbury Estate The Pater Series Cabernet Sauvignon 2017

Aylesbury Estate is named after the town of Aylesbury from which the Gibbs family hailed. The Gibbs family moved to the Ferguson Valley in 1883, over 140 years ago. The 22 acre vineyard is part of the family-owned farm that has been passed down through five generations of the Gibbs family. The vineyard was planted in 1998 by Ryan Gibbs' father but it was Ryan and his wife, Narelle, who went on to establish Aylesbury Estate with the intention of capturing the best of the Ferguson Valley in a bottle, producing wines that are an expression of the pristine environment the fruit is grown The elevation of 160 to 220 metres above sea level enables the cooling sea breezes to reach the vineyard from the Indian Ocean. North-facing slopes were chosen as the best sites for Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Sauvignon Blanc. The vineyard's soil is fertile, rich chocolate loam with underlying clay, helping to retain moisture for the vines.

Region: Geographe, WA

Notes: 'A generous wine in terms of fruit, but with structure that's built around tannins that are firm but have an attractive chalkiness of texture that melds with concentrated black fruits; bramble and earth give depth to the mid palate before the lingering finish of licorice, blackberry and subtle spice.' Patrick Eckel.

Cellar: Cellar up to 2029 Food match: Beef ragu with linguine

Alc/Vol: 14.5%







Hello Sommelier's wine club member,

Happy New Year!

I don't know about you, but I've stopped making new year's resolutions. I couldn't see the point given that by halfway through January, I'd always forgotten what they were! So, if you have made some resolutions of your own, I do hope they're not wine oriented as your February Sommelier's pack contains a fabulous array to help you celebrate the arrival of 2020.

The first wine is the Arlewood Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2016, the passion project of the Gossatti family. Their roots can be traced back to the Valtellina wine region in northern Italy and this certainly shines through in the style of wine they make. Whilst the 2016 has all the elegance that defines Margaret River Cabernet, there is something quite northern Italian about the wine. It's a more taut, savoury and finely-etched style of Cabernet than you normally see from this region, with lots of of black olive and earthy notes layered over warm blackcurrant flavours and a nervy acidity, in more than a passing nod to their Italian ancestors.

The other wine I'd like to highlight is the Spinifex Aglianico 2017. I have to admit that Peter Schell is one of my favourite winemakers at the moment. All of his wines are just so elegant and beautifully balanced with layers of flavour and complexity that you don't often see coming out of the Barossa. Which is why I jumped at the chance to include one of his wines in your pack. This Aglianico is beautifully perfumed and bright, juicy and ripe, yet with enough tannin structure on the mid-palate to stop the wine straying into fruit bomb territory.

I hope you enjoy your February wine plan pack. If you have any feedback, please don't hesitate to send me an email: wineplans@thewinecollective.com.au

Wishing you all the best for 2020!

Sarah Linhart Wine Buver

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