

Wine Angel Portfolio Reviews by Josh Reynolds



Moorilla Estate, Tasmania	
	Rating
<p><u>2008 Moorilla Estate Pinot Noir Praxis, Tasmania</u> Deep red. Ripe cherry and dark berry aromas betray a slight warmth. Plush, sweet black raspberry and cherry flavors provide good palate coverage and are firmed by dusty tannins. The warm note repeats on the finish, which is sappy, smooth and persistent.</p>	88
<p><u>2007 Moorilla Estate Pinot Noir Muse, Tasmania</u> Vivid red color. Intensely spicy aromas of red and dark berries, with a hint of cherry pit adding depth. Powerful, chewy red berry and cherry flavors are refreshingly bitter and well focused, with fine-grained tannins adding structure. Sweet red fruit notes linger on the long, sappy, penetrating finish. This is balanced to age.</p>	90
<p><u>2006 Moorilla Estate Pinot Noir, Tasmania</u> Light red. Smoky raspberry and cherry aromas are perked up by bright minerality and Asian spices. Deeper cherry and bitter chocolate on the chewy, deep palate. The spicy character repeats on the long, juicy finish. I find more sweetness and suavity here than in many Tasmanian pinots, which can be a bit screechy.</p>	90
<p><u>2006 Moorilla Estate Riesling White Label, Tasmania</u> Pale straw. Stony citrus and quince aromas convey impressive clarity and thrust. Piercing lime and orchard fruit flavors are filled in and deep, with a tangy mineral bite on the long finish.</p>	90

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Hundred Tree Hill

Hundred Tree Hill, Pyrenees, Victoria	
	Rating
<p><u>2008 Hundred Tree Hill Chardonnay Victoria</u> Light gold. Lees-accented aromas of melon, peach and lemon rind. Chewy in texture, offering musky pit fruit flavors and a kick of citrus zest on the back. Nicely focused, with good finishing clarity and grip.</p>	88
<p><u>2006 Hundred Tree Hill Chardonnay Victoria</u> Light yellow. Smoky, leesy bouquet displays peach, pear and toasted hazelnut. Silky pit fruit flavors offer noteworthy concentration and very good palate coverage, along with slow-building smoked meat and apple qualities. Leaves a sappy orchard fruit note behind on the long, juicy finish. This is delicious.</p>	90
<p><u>2005 Hundred Tree Hill Cabernets, Victoria</u> (60% cabernet sauvignon and 40% cabernet franc) Deep red. Complex bouquet offers a Bordeaux-like array of red fruits, spice and floral qualities, along with notes of tobacco and cedar. Firm, focused and dry, with chewy, sweet red berry and cherry flavors enlivened by tangy spice and pepper notes. Taut and impressively brisk on the finish, which repeats the tobacco and floral notes.</p>	90
<p><u>2004 Hundred Tree Hill Cabernet, Pyrenees</u> Dark red. Pungent, old-school bouquet of redcurrant, dried cherry, cigar box and fresh rose. Smoky red fruit flavors deliver solid punch but turn a bit dry on the back. This light-bodied wine offers good complexity and sweetness, but my enthusiasm was limited by that twinge of dryness.</p>	87
<p><u>2005 Hundred Tree Hill Shiraz, Victoria</u> Inky ruby color. Pungent aromas suggest dark berries, violet, rose, cinnamon and camphor. Spicy dark berry flavors are firmed by chewy tannins and pick up an exotic floral pastille quality with air. The finish repeats the floral note and hangs on with good, spicy grip.</p>	89

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Keith Tulloch, Hunter Valley, New South Wales	
	Rating
<p><u>2008 Keith Tulloch Chardonnay Hunter Valley</u> Pale chartreuse color. Pungent aromas of anise, pear skin, honeysuckle and smoky lees. Dense, concentrated orchard fruit flavors are braced by a zesty mineral quality and become spicier with air. Packs a solid punch but this is only 12.5% alcohol. The finish repeats the smoke and anise notes and lingers with noteworthy persistence.</p>	90
<p><u>2008 Keith Tulloch Semillon Hunter Valley</u> (11.5% alcohol) Pale straw. Aromas of Granny Smith apple, lemon, herbs and minerals, plus a suggestion of talc. Juicy and quite dry, with moderate intensity and thrust to its tangy citrus and orchard fruit flavors. Firm, understated and focused, with good finishing energy and clarity.</p>	89
<p><u>2008 Keith Tulloch Per Diem Viognier, South Eastern Australia</u> Green-tinged yellow. Highly aromatic nose displays mango, peach, nutmeg and brown spices. Less floral than most viogniers, with gently sweet tropical and pit fruit flavors and a late-arriving element of crushed stone. Finishes on a bright lemony note, with good juicy persistence.</p>	88
<p><u>2008 Keith Tulloch Per Diem Pinot Gris, South Eastern Australia</u> Yellow-gold. Deeply pitched aromas of pear, wet stone, honey and fennel. Extremely dry pinot gris, offering intense, finely etched citrus and orchard fruit flavors and a late note of floral honey. The minerality builds on the finish, which is taut, racy and very persistent. Pretty uncompromising and perhaps too austere for those who like their white wines plump.</p>	88
<p><u>2007 Keith Tulloch Per Diem Pinot Gris, South Eastern Australia</u> Pale gold. Floral citrus and pear flavors are complemented by wet stones and white pepper. Light, racy lemon and lime flavors offer good mineral cut and back-end bite. Fleshier on the finish, which ends with a hint of bitter citrus pith.</p>	88

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<p><u>2007 Keith Tulloch Botrytis Semillon, Hunter Valley (half bottle)</u> Gold with a green rim. Deep, smoky aromas of poached pear, tangerine and floral honey. Smooth in texture, with sweet, slightly syrupy orchard and tropical fruit flavors and a subtle spiciness. Very sweet wine with excellent finishing cling and a strong echo of honey. I'd serve this as a dessert itself, without food, or with a foie gras terrine.</p>	<p>90</p>
<p><u>2006 Keith Tulloch Semillon, Hunter Valley</u> Very pale yellow color. Waxy yellow plum and poached pear aromas, perked up by white flowers and minerals. Firm and dry, offering classic citrus pith, mineral and honeycomb flavors and refreshingly bitter snap. Becomes chewier on the finish, which strongly echoes the citrus and mineral qualities. A classic rendition of this style.</p>	<p>91</p>
<p><u>2005 Keith Tulloch Botrytis Semillon, Hunter Valley (half bottle)</u> Copper-gold. Exotically perfumed nose offers expressive notes of honeyed peach, apricot and coconut. Weighty but energetic, with sweet pineapple, coconut and apricot compote flavors. The exotic tropical fruit and coconut qualities carry through an impressively pure and lengthy finish. This refuses to let up.</p>	<p>91</p>
<p><u>2007 Keith Tulloch Per Diem Quantum Red, South Eastern Australia</u> (80% cabernet sauvignon, 15% shiraz and 5% durif) Deep red. Smoky redcurrant and cherry on the nose. Spicy, tightly wound red berry and bitter cherry flavors are moderately concentrated and pick up a note of tobacco on the back end. Leaves spice and berry skin notes behind on the nicely persistent, focused finish.</p>	<p>88</p>
<p><u>2006 Keith Tulloch Kester Shiraz, Hunter Valley</u> Saturated ruby color. Youthfully brooding aromas of cherry and blackberry skin, with notes of leather, smoked meat, licorice and incense adding complexity. Chewy dark fruit flavors display very good depth and are firmed by fine-grained tannins. Gains sweetness with air and finishes with lingering notes of blackberry and anise.</p>	<p>91</p>

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Sally's Paddock, Pyrenees, Victoria	
	Rating
<p><u>2007 Sally's Paddock Red Wine, Pyrenees</u> (40% each of shiraz and cabernet sauvignon with 15% cabernet franc and 5% merlot) Deep ruby. Hypnotic, strikingly complex bouquet of red and dark berry compote, incense, five spice powder and potpourri, with a smoky undertone. Lush, creamy blackberry and mulberry flavors are complemented by notes of candied rose, fig paste and licorice. Expands with air, picking up zesty spice and mineral qualities that add urgency to the sweet, sappy finish. Very attractive today but this really deserves a good decade of cellaring.</p>	93
<p><u>2006 Sally's Paddock Red Wine, Pyrenees</u> (A blend of shiraz, cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc and merlot) Inky purple. Exotically perfumed bouquet of blackberry, blackcurrant, candied licorice, graphite and musky underbrush. Picks up espresso and black cardamom scents with air, which add to the wild, complex personality. Deep and creamy, with sweet dark berry preserve flavors, solid tannic grip and a late jolt of anise. Finishes with excellent cling and noteworthy persistence, the dark berries echoing.</p>	91
<p><u>2005 Sally's Paddock Red Wine, Pyrenees</u> Dark purple. Deep cassis and blueberry aromas, with seductive vanillin oak and Asian spices gaining strength with air. Silky cherry and dark berry flavors are enlivened by zesty minerality and complicated by candied licorice and smoky minerals. Finishes clean and brisk, with a repeating dark berry quality and a late note of tangy berry skin. Very young, so give it some air or cellar time.</p>	91

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The Brave, Barossa Valley, South Australia	
	Rating
<p><u>2008 The Brave Shiraz Barossa Valley</u> Inky ruby. Smoky aromas of dark berries, cracked pepper and cherry skin are very syrah-like. Supple, smooth, nicely concentrated cherry and dark berry flavors betray no rough edges or tannins. Finishes with good clarity and lingering sweetness. What this lacks in complexity it makes up in easy drinkability.</p>	88

The
HEDONIST

The Hedonist, McLaren Vale, South Australia	
	Rating
<p><u>2008 The Hedonist Chardonnay McLaren Vale</u> Light, green-tinged yellow. Reticent, reduced nose hints at smoky lees, pear skin, tarragon and minerals. Supple and sweet on entry, then quite closed in the middle, with lemony acidity giving the wine an austere personality. Tightly coiled but not hard. The tactile, youthful finish features lemon and spice notes and lingers with good stony persistence.</p>	89
<p><u>2006 The Hedonist Shiraz McLaren Vale</u> Glass-staining ruby. Exotic aromas of cherry and blackberry preserves, potpourri and incense, with a spicy overlay. This is handling its wood more gracefully than the cabernet and showing very fresh red and dark berry character. Fleshy and sweet on the finish, which repeats the spicy note and lingers with a touch of smoky oak. The grapes for these three wines were grown biodynamically.</p>	88

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MIRRABOOKA

Mirrabooka, South Australia	
	Rating
<p><u>2007 Mirrabooka Cabernet Sauvignon, South Australia</u> Deep red. Redcurrant and cherry on the nose, with a spicy note of cracked pepper adding vivacity. Dusty, sharply focused red fruit flavors are refreshingly bitter but turn a touch dry on the back end. Finishes on a smoky note, with an echo of tangy cherry and moderate persistence.</p>	87
<p><u>2006 Mirrabooka Cabernet Sauvignon, South Australia</u> Ruby-red. Pungent, herb-laced aromas of cherry and blackcurrant display good energy. Tangy cherry and berry skin flavors show good palate-coating intensity and spicy back-end lift. A bit tart on the finish, though, with the cherry quality echoing.</p>	87
<p><u>2007 Mirrabooka Shiraz, South Australia</u> Inky purple. Sexy aromas of dark berry preserves and dried violet. Juicy and fresh, offering sappy dark fruit flavors and a silky texture. Leaves sweet dark berry and smoke notes behind on the nicely persistent, broad finish. Not particularly complex but very easy to drink.</p>	87
<p><u>2006 Mirrabooka Shiraz, South Australia</u> Ruby-red. Spicy redcurrant and cherry on the nose, with zesty cracked pepper and floral qualities. The gently chewy red fruit flavors display a light-bodied, pinot noir-like personality, with dusty tannins adding grip. An energetic, brisk style that offers good value and would work well with lighter dishes.</p>	87
<p><u>2006 Mirrabooka Unwooded Chardonnay, South Eastern Australia</u> Light yellow. Stony apple and pear on the nose, with complicating smoke, anise and wet stone nuances. Riper melon and poached pear flavors offer decent depth and sweetness. Finishes with good smoky persistence.</p>	87

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Tuck's Ridge, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria	
	Rating
<p><u>2008 Tuck's Ridge Chardonnay Mornington Peninsula</u> Yellow-gold. Reticent nose suggests pit fruits, melon, toasted nuts and citrus zest. Dense, sappy and tactile, with surprisingly energetic lemon and lime qualities adding verve to deeper peach and melon flavors. Rich and intense chardonnay with a finishing note of smoky lees and a hint of tarragon.</p>	90
<p><u>2007 Tuck's Ridge Chardonnay Buckle Vineyard Mornington Peninsula</u> Yellow-gold. Deep, pungent aromas of peach and apricot pit, orange peel, yellow plum and toasty lees. Becomes muskier and more exotic with air, offering pliant orchard and pit fruit flavors and a bitter note of lemon pith. Finishes with very good chewy persistence and a suave, smoky character.</p>	91
<p><u>2007 Tuck's Ridge Chardonnay Turraurra Vineyard Mornington Peninsula</u> Bright gold. More expressive and brighter than the Buckle, showing an exotic array of spicy citrus and floral aromas, along with a strong overlay of minerals; reminds me a serious Puligny-Montrachet. Tangy and focused on the palate, offering zesty lemon, orange and honeysuckle flavors and slow-building leanness. The finish is spicy, focused and impressively persistent.</p>	92
<p><u>2008 Tuck's Ridge Pinot Noir Mornington Peninsula</u> Deep red. Expressive nose suggests red berries, rose and Asian spices. Dense, sappy and velvety in texture, with juicy raspberry and cherry flavors and a toasty note on the back end. Sweet and energetic, with very good finishing focus and verve.</p>	90
<p><u>2007 Tuck's Ridge Pinot Noir Buckle Vineyard Mornington Peninsula</u> Bright ruby color. Perfumed nose offers spicy red berries, mace, allspice, orange peel and a hint of toast. Deeper black raspberry and cherry on the palate, with fine-grained tannins adding grip and structure. Finishes with youthful vibrancy and excellent length, repeating the notes of black raspberry and spices.</p>	91

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TarraWarra Estate, Yarra Valley, Victoria	
	Rating
<p><u>2008 Tarrawarra Vineyard Chardonnay Yarra Valley</u> Pale, bright yellow. Powerful aromas of pit fruits, poached pear and anise, plus a hint of dried flowers. Broad, chewy and quite rich, offering lush peach and pear flavors and a suave, smoky quality. Finishes on a dry note, with lingering anise and smoke nuances. I'd drink this now.</p>	88
<p><u>2006 Tarrawarra Vineyard Chardonnay Tin Cows Yarra Valley</u> Pale gold. Smoky, leesy peach and pear aromas are complemented by talc and lemon zest. Supple citrus and pit fruit flavors show good depth and back-end lift, picking up tangy minerals with air. Finishes clean, with good citric snap and persistence.</p>	88
<p><u>2006 Tarrawarra Vineyard Chardonnay Reserve Yarra Valley</u> Green-tinged yellow. Seductively perfumed bouquet of fresh orange and pear aromas, complemented by smoky lees, anise and toasted nuts; smells like a Meursault. Pliant citrus and orchard fruit flavors are complicated by notes of talcy minerals and sweet butter, and pick up a spicy quality on the back end. Impressively pure and racy chardonnay with excellent finishing grip and cut.</p>	91
<p><u>2005 Tarrawarra Vineyard Chardonnay Reserve Yarra Valley</u> Light gold. Complex nose offers leesy citrus, floral and mineral scents, along with gentle oak spices and pear skin. Taut and focused, with juicy orchard and citrus fruit flavors and a suave, stony undertone. Gains flesh and weight on the finish, which echoes the pear and oak spice qualities. This is quite persistent.</p>	90
<p><u>2006 Tarrawarra Vineyard Chardonnay MDB Yarra Valley</u> Yellow-gold. Powerful aromas of poached pear, truffle, brown butter and toasty lees. More serious than the Reserve, offering deeply concentrated orchard and pit fruit flavors and a chewy texture. The finish repeats the smoke and truffle notes and closes with a jolt of spicy citrus and musky floral notes. This wine refuses to let go of the palate.</p>	92

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<p><u>2008 Tarrawarra Vineyard Pinot Noir Yarra Valley</u> Medium red. Fragrant nose displays scents of red berries, dried cherry, smoked meat, potpourri and minerals. Pure raspberry and bitter cherry flavors are underscored by smoke, graphite and a hint of licorice. A candied rose note builds with air and carries through the long, juicy finish. This young, promising wine deserves patience.</p>	89
<p><u>2008 Tarrawarra Vineyard Pinot Noir Reserve Yarra Valley</u> Bright red. Intensely perfumed bouquet of spicy red berries, flowers, herbs and smoky minerals. Less forthcoming than the regular bottling, with deep, tightly wound raspberry and cherry skin flavors. A strong mineral quality adds energy and grip to the very long, tangy finish. If the regular pinot deserves some time in bottle, this demands it.</p>	90
<p><u>2006 Tarrawarra Vineyard Pinot Noir Reserve Yarra Valley</u> Ruby-red color. Youthfully fresh and energetic bouquet of red berries, cherry, spices and blood orange. Tangy red fruits and minerals show a lacy mouth feel and no apparent tannins. Gains weight and sweetness on the long, juicy finish, which echoes the sweet berry flavors. This is really persistent.</p>	90

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Poole's Rock, Hunter Valley, New South Wales	
	Rating
<p><u>2008 Poole's Rock Vineyard Chardonnay Hunter Valley</u> Pale chartreuse color. Pungent aromas of pear, jasmine, smoky lees and honey. Deeply concentrated orchard fruit flavors are energized by a dusty lemon pith quality and complicated by notes of floral honey and truffle. Becomes spicier with air and finishes with lingering floral and mineral qualities. This is complex enough to drink now with rich chicken or shellfish dishes.</p>	90
<p><u>2007 Poole's Rock Vineyard Chardonnay Hunter Valley</u> Pale yellow. Fresh melon and poached pear aromas are brightened by notes of talc and lemon zest. Expansive orchard fruit and honeydew flavors provide good palate coverage and become spicier with air. A vanilla note comes up on the finish, adding sweetness and depth to the fruit qualities.</p>	88
<p><u>2006 Poole's Rock Vineyard Shiraz Hunter Valley</u> Deep ruby with a bright rim. Dark berries, violet, olive and tobacco on the nose; smells a lot like a northern Rhone wine. Sappy blackberry and cherry preserve flavors are complemented by notes of violet pastille and black olive, with silky tannins adding shape and support. No excess fat here. Finishes gently sweet and nicely focused. This is balanced to age.</p>	90

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Poole's Rock Wines, Cockfighter's Ghost, Multi Region	
	Rating
<p><u>2008 Cockfighter's Ghost Riesling, Clare Valley</u> Light yellow. Vibrant aromas of lemon, grapefruit, anise and minerals. Graceful, tightly wound citrus and green apple flavors are complemented by a deeper note of honeydew, with tangy acidity adding cut. I like this wine's energy and finishing precision.</p>	89
<p><u>2008 Cockfighter's Ghost Sauvignon Blanc, Adelaide Hills</u> Pale gold. Cool, subdued aromas of lemon, lime, pear and herbs, lifted by a note of honeysuckle. Supple in texture but with a rather bracing flavor of sweet citrus. Gains richness with air and finishes on a note of honeydew, with good sappy persistence.</p>	88
<p><u>2008 Cockfighter's Ghost Pinot Gris, Victoria</u> Light, bright yellow. Pungent tangerine, pear skin and jasmine on the nose, with a subtle leesy quality adding depth. Round, fleshy and penetrating, offering lush orchard fruit flavors and a bracing lemon zest note. Tastes like a cross between Alsace and northeast Italian versions of this variety. Finishes with refreshing citrus bite and good clarity. This will be very flexible at the table.</p>	88
<p><u>2007 Cockfighter's Ghost Chardonnay, Hunter Valley</u> Green-tinged yellow. Complex nose melds orange, fresh apricot, melon, honey and lees, with a stony suggestion contributing another element. Pliant and silky but fairly dry, with ripe acidity giving shape to the tropical and orchard fruit flavors. This fleshy wine offers very good depth and finishes with a firm bite of acidity.</p>	89
<p><u>2004 Cockfighter's Ghost Semillon, Hunter Valley</u> Pale gold. Quite citric in aroma, with pink and ruby red grapefruit, lemon and bergamot qualities. Dry and linear on the palate, with juicy pear and apple notes, along with orange and lime, filling in the middle palate. The juicy finish features a note of fennel.</p>	88
<p><u>2004 Cockfighter's Ghost Verdelho, Hunter Valley</u> Pale, bright gold. Fresh orange, dusty lemon and lime zest and salty mineral notes on the nose. Fresh and bright on the palate, with flavors of green apple and pear.</p>	87

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Finishes on a tangy, refreshingly bitter note.	
<p><u>2008 Cockfighter's Ghost Riesling, Clare Valley</u> Light yellow. Vibrant aromas of lemon, grapefruit, anise and minerals. Graceful, tightly wound citrus and green apple flavors are complemented by a deeper note of honeydew, with tangy acidity adding cut. I like this wine's energy and finishing precision.</p>	89
<p><u>2006 Cockfighter's Ghost Cabernet Sauvignon, Langhorne Creek</u> Inky violet color. Aromas of dark cherry, black raspberry, candied plum, licorice and tobacco. Juicy and energetic, with a firm mineral spine and good cut to the red and black fruit flavors. Nicely defined cabernet with very good finishing lift and spicy persistence.</p>	89
<p><u>2006 Cockfighter's Ghost Premium Reserve Pinot Noir, Tasmania</u> Deep, vivid red. Spicy aromas of redcurrant, black raspberry, smoked meat and anise. Dense, sappy and youthfully taut, with musky soil tones complicating the penetrating red and dark berry flavors. Very tightly wound pinot with a solid core of spice and minerality. This should reward another couple years of cellaring.</p>	88

FIRESTICK

Poole's Rock Wines, Firestick, Hunter Valley, New South Wales	
	Rating
<p><u>2008 Poole's Rock Vineyard Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc Firestick Hunter Valley</u> (51/49 blend; just 10.4% alcohol) Pale yellow color. Spicy orchard fruit, lemon and herbal aromas are deepened by a note of honeydew. Racy, dry and focused, with tangy lemon, lime and melon flavors and a late note of floral honey. Shows the sauvignon blanc more on the nose than on the palate. Finishes with good breadth and juicy persistence, displaying good power for such low alcohol.</p>	88