



# Wine recommendations

Senior wine writer Nick Stock reviews the latest South Australian wine releases to enjoy now or to cellar.



## 2005 Shaw and Smith Shiraz RRP \$38-42

Shaw and Smith's form in the red department continues to rise with this, their best red wine to date. It's a rich, complex cool-climate Shiraz, with plenty of perfume, fragrance and black fruit aroma, grilled meats and a dusting of ground black pepper. The palate rolls into shape with polish and aplomb. Rich flavours of dark berries and toasted spices sit across a measured sturdy base of tannin and the oak is neatly placed. Already drinking well, it will evolve with grace for some years in the cellar. [www.shawandsmith.com](http://www.shawandsmith.com)



## 2005 Teusner Joshua RRP \$19-21

Kym Teusner is one of the leaders of the Barossa brat pack that's emerged from some famed cellars in recent years. He makes wines derived from experience, yet stamping them with his own personal mark and they're damn good. This, the baby in the range, is a blend of the usual Barossa suspects and trades on regional terms, whilst offering early appeal. Plenty of red berry fruits and spice, some earthy notes and dried berries too. The palate is supple and fleshy with a fine savoury edge sliced into juicy red fruit flavour and approachable, easy going tannins. [www.teusner.com.au](http://www.teusner.com.au)



## 2004 Deisen Barossa Shiraz RRP \$50-55

Sabine Deisen's Marananga property sits on some of the Barossa's best red dirt. Her insight and fascination with the landscape evoke an innate sense of terroir; she listens to the land and gives it full voice in her wines. This leads with heady black fruits, blackberry and some plum, rich and ripe. In the mouth it is dense and even, a soulful wine with gently extracted muscular tannins, deep dark fruit flavour, concentrated and assertive. Carried off with balance and style, it's her best shiraz to date.



## 2005 First Drop Montepulciano RRP \$37-39

Matt Gant was recently crowned Australia's Young Gun of Wine and here's just one of the reasons why. He's been chipping away at St Hallett's reds, gently tweaking their wines into more modern shape and he's now backed himself into business under the First Drop banner. Italian native Montepulciano is taken to new heights here, deep in colour and richly fruited, this shows dexterity and interpretive talent. Ripe dark fruit essence colours the palate with superb tannins. Watch this space. [www.firstdropwines.com](http://www.firstdropwines.com)



## 2002 Henschke Hill of Grace Vineyard Shiraz RRP \$450

One of Australia's rarest and most exquisite wines, nursed forth each year from a tiny seven and a half hectare plot in Eden Valley. The work that goes into each vintage is phenomenal and, when you consider that some of these vines have been in the ground since the 1860s, it's a privilege to behold. It's delicate, complex and fragrant, with star anise and pure dark berry aromas. Grace is the word. There's a haunting power in the palate, hidden behind fine tannins and pure dark cherry and berry fruit. A national treasure. [www.henschke.com.au](http://www.henschke.com.au)



## 2004 Penley Estate Reserve Cabernet RRP \$55-60

Kym Tolley's ability to turn out Cabernet Sauvignon in varied shades of style and intensity demonstrates his love for the grape, his regional understanding and skill. This corrals all the superb potential of the 2004 vintage into his top cuvee and what a wine it is. It's like a Roller or a Bentley, elegant lines with real power under the hood, finely honed timber interior, the works. The palate is crafted into superb balanced shape, dark berry and cassis flavours wound onto fine dense tannins, juicy and long. [www.penley.com.au](http://www.penley.com.au)



## 2004 Petaluma Coonawarra RRP \$50-55

This is surely one of Petaluma's best efforts in the four decades they've been working the red cigar. Ripe, dark berry fruits are filed behind assertive cedary oak and sweet spicy aromas. A classic line of style runs deep through the

palate, bright and lifted through the middle, ripe fruit flesh and some earthy notes too. A wine of class, power and regional style, charming and structured with a little oak char to sweeten the finish, this will cellar handsomely. [www.petaluma.com.au](http://www.petaluma.com.au)



## 2005 John Duval Plexus RRP \$34-36

A classic Barossa blend of Shiraz, Grenache and Mourvèdre, John Duval knows exactly how to splice these three varieties together. This 2005 edition has pure fruit appeal, still intense and full of character, but striking for its lifted, vibrant aromas. It throws red fruits from the glass, ahead of sweet spice notes and some tarry earthy Mourvèdre. The palate is supple, seamlessly woven, and it carries ripe fruit flavour, juicy tannin texture and deep presence through the middle. [www.johnduvalwines.com](http://www.johnduvalwines.com)



## 2005 d'Arenberg 28 Road Mourvedre RRP \$34-36

Not too many people have the bravery or passion to have a stab at this marvelous grape in a varietal bottling. Thankfully, d'Arenberg have the resources and interest to bring this leading effort to fruition each year. Spice and pepper, both hallmarks of the variety, plenty of sweet whole berry fragrance, some leafy notes too. Big earthy drive through the palate, a thick sturdy spine of tannin encased in dark fruit flavour runs right the way along, bringing a savoury twist as it fades. This is a soulful, swashbuckling red. [www.darenberg.com.au](http://www.darenberg.com.au)



## 2005 Leasingham Bin 56 Cabernet Malbec RRP \$18-20

Where the Barossa has Mourvedre (aka Mataro) as its earthy, structured blending grape, the Clare Valley draws on resources of Malbec (although here it came from elsewhere), blended to great effect with the local Cabernet. The 05 Leasingham reds are a strong bunch. Here, herbs and cassis mingle with liquorice and brighter red berry fruit. The palate has charm and depth, some tobacco and mint, cedary wood and savoury autumn flavours. Bright acid lifts from start to finish. A great year and a bargain to boot. [www.leasingham-wines.com.au](http://www.leasingham-wines.com.au)