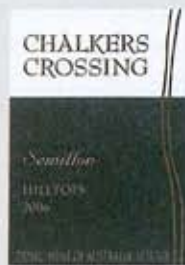


90★★★★
2006 Chalkers Crossing
Semillon, Hilltops, A\$18

A hint of oak maturation in older barrels gives this a slightly different character and also softens and rounds out the palate. The aromas are creamy, nutty and cashew-like, with a parsnip overtone; the palate is intense and lively with firm, zesty acidity shot through it. ↓ 5



89★★★★
2004 Mitchelton Airstrip
Marsanne Roussanne Viognier,
Central Victoria, A\$26

Mineral and honey developed marsanne aromas lead the way, followed by straw/dry-grass development. A pleasing, well-made semi-mature dry white of traditional style, with a clean, lingering finish. ↓ 2



90★★★★
2007 Mount Horrocks
Watervale Riesling,
Clare Valley, A\$28

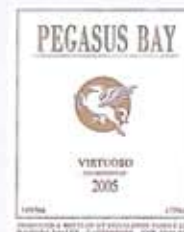
Like many 2007 Clare rieslings, this might not have the subtlety of a cooler year, but it has plenty of flavour and richness, with a soft, open bouquet and a rich, generous palate. It could take some age well. ↓ 5



NEW ZEALAND WHITES

95★★★★★
2005 Pegasus Bay
Virtuoso Chardonnay,
Waipara, NZ\$48.95

Big, rich, complex chardonnay with intense fruit flavours matched by equally intense oak. Sizzled butter and nutty yeast autolysis characters add extra interest. Very stylish and with good cellaring potential. ↓ 5



90★★★★
2006 Rutherglen Estate
Renaissance Viognier Roussanne
Marsanne, Rutherglen, A\$30.95

This is a big, powerful wine, a red drinker's white for sure. Caramel, vanilla and chocolate oak-influenced aromas. Very in your face. Stacks of flavour; big and fleshy, but what do you eat with it? ↓ 2



95★★★★★
2006 Sacred Hill
Rifleman's Chardonnay,
Hawkes Bay, NZ\$53.90

Intense, rich and creamy wine with strong butter, barrel-fermentation character, nutty lees and spicy oak. Impressive complexity and length. This top label has an impressive track record, with many gold medal and trophy awards to its credit. ↓ 5



90★★★★
2006 Willow Bridge
Estate Reserve Semillon,
Geographe, A\$20

A distinctive WA-style semillon, this shows grassy and cut-radish aromas, and some twiggy, herbal qualities that can be confused with oak character (it's unwooded). The palate is quite delicate and crisp. A good alternative to Hunter styles. ↓ 4+



94★★★★★
2007 Craggy Range
Fletcher Family Vineyard
Riesling, Marlborough,
A\$32/NZ\$24.95

Concentrated riesling with lovely lime and mineral fruit purity. Long, with a great balance of taut acidity and a suggestion of sweetness, although the wine finishes satisfyingly dry. ↓ 6



89★★★★
2006 Chalmers
Vermentino, Riverland, A\$22

This is youthful for its age, and has a distinctly Italianate personality, with marzipan or almond-like nuances. There's the beginning of a straw-like, bottle-age patina creeping in. The finish is firm and dry with some grip adding authority. Full of interest. ↓ 2



94★★★★★
2006 Kim Crawford SP
Flowers Sauvignon Blanc,
Marlborough, NZ\$30

A delicate style with lovely fruit purity and an ethereal texture. Still very fresh, with aromatic herb, currant, passionfruit and capsicum flavours. An elegant sav blanc with impressive length of flavour – a measure of the wine's power. ↓ 3

