



## Exploring Australia's Top Cabernet Sauvignon Regions

**NOTE THE DATE!!** Monday, May 16, 2016

Reception Wine: 6:00 PM, Formal Tasting: 6:20 PM

Faculty Club, Univ. of Toronto, 41 Willcocks Street, Toronto

Members' Fee: \$84; Guests'/Non-Members' Fee: \$104

In May, Toronto Vintners takes you on a tour of the top Cabernet Sauvignon producing areas of Australia which include Barossa, Clare Valley, Coonawarra, and Margaret River. While there are regional and varietal differences, all produce fine, quality red wines. There are elegant, medium-bodied examples through to full-bodied, powerful reds full of intense black fruit flavours, with oak to match, and firm tannins with long aging prospects. We feature some of the best wineries in each of these regions and are very fortunate to have at least one winemaker attending our event!

### The Regions

**Barossa's** hotter climate area means grapes ripen easily with high sugar levels and low acid and so winemakers often acidify to balance. The extensive use of oak is also a characteristic with American oak used more than French oak.

**Coonawarra** is synonymous with sumptuous CS wines, full of plum and blackcurrant fruit, so much so that successes with other grape varieties is overlooked. They taste exceptional when young, but also cellar brilliantly. **Margaret River** has produced some of Australia's best CS's over the past 40 years and is a worthy challenger to Coonawarra. The finest examples have blackcurrant, earth and spicy characters. Finely structured, beautifully balanced and showing great harmony of characters, Margaret River CS combines elegance with strength. **Clare Valley** is often underrated but its winemakers produce deep, concentrated CS's of power and elegance with medium to long-term propositions.

### The Wineries

Winemaker Richard Langford at **Ashmead** (Barossa) adeptly forges a range of predominately red wines from the good value end right up to the sought-after collectibles. The 66-year old Ashmead Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard gives exceptional fruit. At **Ringbolt** (Margaret River), Peter Gambetta's international winemaking experience working in some of the world's premium wine-growing regions and spending the 2005 European vintage in Bordeaux makes him an invaluable asset. Clare & Keith Mugford are winemakers, viticulturalists & proprietors of **Moss Wood Winery** (Margaret River) since the late 1970's and have created a stable of fine wines distinguished by their consistency over each vintage and ability to age superbly. The Moss Wood & Mugford names are synonymous with uncompromising quality. In 1972, Napa Valley winemaker Robert Mondavi identified the future site of the **Leeuwin** vineyard as being ideal for the production of premium wine. Leeuwin was thrust into the international spotlight when Decanter Magazine gave its highest recommendation to the 1980 "Art Series" Chardonnay. The "Art Series" represents Leeuwin's most opulent and age-worthy wines and are identified with paintings commissioned from leading contemporary Australian Artists. One of the most significant wineries in McLaren Vale, **d'Arenberg** (McLaren Vale) was established in 1912 by Joseph Osborn who was a teetotaler! They make distinctive wines using traditional methods and have won many awards including Top 100 Wineries of the Year by Wine & Spirits Magazine USA. **DogRidge** (McLaren Vale), a family-owned winery, is a jewel of an estate that sits at the base of South Australia's Southern Mount Lofty Ranges, overlooking McLaren Vale. Their soils vary considerably over a small area, giving the winery the opportunity to select small parcels of the best fruit to reflect the distinct terroir of each site. **Wynns Coonawarra Estate** (Coonawarra) is the region's pre-eminent wine producer and largest single vineyard holder with the best and longest established vineyard sites in Coonawarra. Its vineyards were first planted in 1891 and its wines are regarded as benchmarks for the district and lauded for both their quality and flavour. **Kilikanoon** (Clare Valley) was founded in 1997 and its proprietor and winemaker, Kevin Mitchell hails from a long line of wine grape growers. It was given the "2013 Australian Winery of the Year" award. "This is one of the most brilliantly run wineries in Australia, and the quality of the entire portfolio is impressive thanks to the enviable talents of winemaker Kevin Mitchell." Robert Parker Jr.

See registration details at the bottom of page 2.



## Tasting Notes and Information – Australian Cabernet Sauvignons

### **2002 Elderton, Ashmead – Barossa Valley \$69**

“This wine has evolved beautifully, giving pronounced notes of cassis, red cherry and prunes with some spice, coffee and hints of moss and black olives. Full-bodied yet wonderfully elegant and balanced, the tannins here are still quite firm supporting the rich fruit with plenty of acid to enliven. This vintage is delicious now though should continue to cellar to 2016+.” Wine Advocate #192, Dec 2010. Lisa Perrotti-Brown 93/100

### **2010 Ringbolt, 21 Barriques - Margaret River \$45**

“Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon gives a pure, intensely fruited nose of ripe black currant, black cherries and pencil shavings with touches of lightly grilled bread, dried mint and chocolate box. Medium-bodied with just enough clean, vibrant flesh, it has a medium level of grainy tannins and crisp acid, finishing with medium to long persistence. Drink it now to 2016.” eRobertParker.com #202, Aug 2012. Lisa Perrotti-Brown 87/100

### **2010 Leeuwin, Art Series- Margaret River \$59**

“The still youthful, deep garnet-purple colored 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Art Series shows bay leaf and cigar box notes over red and black currants, with tree bark and earth inflections. Medium-bodied, taut and very firm, it has a solid backbone supporting muscular, slowly maturing fruit and finishes with excellent length and finesse.” Drink: 2017 - 2024 eRobertParker.com #223 Mar 2016. Lisa Perrotti-Brown. 93/100

### **2010 Moss Wood, Moss Wood Vineyard - Margaret River \$115**

“Deep garnet-colored with a hint of purple, the 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon presents pronounced cassis, warm blackberry and spiced plum aromas with hints of dried mint, lavender, violets, cigar boxes and Chinese five spice. Medium to full-bodied with great poise and expression even at this primary, youthful stage, it has a firm level of fine-grained tannins and a lively backbone of acid through the finish with great length and depth. Approachable now, it should drink best 2015 to 2024+.” eRobertParker.com #208 Aug. 2013. Lisa Perrotti-Brown 95/100

### **2010 d'Arenberg, The Coppermine Road - McLaren Vale \$50**

Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2010 Coppermine Road Cabernet Sauvignon is redolent of stewed plums, black currant cordial and dried Mediterranean herbs with suggestions of tree bark and menthol. With a good line of medium to firm grainy tannins this medium-bodied wine also has refreshing acid to support the muscular black berry and herbal flavors, and a long length on the finish. Drink this wine now to 2017+. eRobertparker.com Wine Advocate #205, Feb 2013, Lisa Perrotti-Brown. 88/100

### **2012 DogRidge, Most Valuable Player - McLaren Vale \$73**

The maritime climate of McLaren Vale produces high quality cabernet if vintage conditions are right, and they certainly were in '12. Very good colour; cassis is the fruit driver, accompanied by nuances of plum, cedar, oak and earth, the tannins exactly what is needed to provide long-term structure. (20-Jan-2014) 96/100 [James Halliday](#), Wine Companion

### **2010 Wynns Coonawarra Estate, John Riddoch, Coonawarra \$100**

Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2010 John Riddoch Cabernet Sauvignon has pronounced black currant, black cherry and cedar notes with nuances of lightly browned toast, roses, game and rosemary. Medium-bodied, the palate is already a joy to drink, though this wine is showing only a fraction of its potential. Elegantly fruited and tightly wound, it has a firm level of fine-grained tannins and a refreshing acid backbone. It finishes with laudable persistence. Drink it from 2014 to 2026+. eRobertParker.com Wine Advocate #205, Feb 2013. Lisa Perrotti-Brown. 95+

### **2010 Kilikanoon Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2010, Clare Valley \$35**

Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve is scented of black currant, cinnamon stick and nutmeg over cedar and pencil lead notes. With tons of taut fruit, the medium-bodied wine has lifted acidity and firm, very fine tannins. It is a very pretty and impressive wine that finishes long. Drink 2014 to 2022+. eRobertParker.com Wine Advocate #205, Feb 2013. Lisa Perrotti-Brown 93+

**[REGISTER/BUY TICKETS](#)**. You **must** [register](#) online and pay by credit card or cheque. **NOTE: ALL ticket sales/reservations are final**. Cheques must be received by Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. The cheque-payment option will be disabled at midnight Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> after which only credit card sales will be accepted until Monday May 16<sup>th</sup> or earlier if the event sells out. You will be sent an email confirmation after completing your registration. If you tried to register but did not receive your confirmation, please contact [chris@torontovintners.org](mailto:chris@torontovintners.org) before trying to register again.