

the bullionaire

BULLION 18A

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This is Aussie wine, but not as you remember...



Matt Dunne of the Solotel group is the Sommelier on the spittoon this time. The theme for this selection is all about freshness and drinkability. These are not big over the top wines, but wines which focus on balance, complexity, structure and freshness. Wines we love at Bullion Cellars.

He has chosen two very modern Australian wines, showcasing the styles our winemakers are trying to make now. Gone are the big oaky examples of Shiraz and Chardonnay. In their place are wines of elegance and precision and wines with a sense of their place. We are now seeing a regional focus in Australia and how different regions can and do produce different styles. Matt has chosen a great modern Hunter Valley Chardonnay and an awesome Syrah from the Yarra Valley.

Continuing this freshness theme, he has also chosen one of the best Malbec's from Argentina I have tried in a long time, and a baby Amorene, or an Amarone from the South. A beautiful glass of red wine from the island of Sicily.

Enjoy, **Matt the Bullionaire**

2016 MAJOR KONG SYRAH *Yarra Valley*

2015 COLOME ESTATE MALBEC *Salta, Argentina*

2014 BARONE MONTALTO AMMASSO *Santa Ninfa, Belice Valley, Sicily*

2017 VINDEN ESTATE CHARDONNAY *Hunter Valley*



2016 MAJOR KONG SYRAH *Yarra Valley*

This wine is a lot of fun, but don't let the irreverent tone to the name and the label let you think this is a simple wine.

It is made in a "Natural" style and with practices more common with Pinot Noir winemaking. (Whole bunch fermentation, minimal filtration and zero sulphur additives.) It is a medium bodied wine that is utterly delicious and a fresh and vibrant example of the modern Shiraz/Syrah. It offers up lovely peppery, spicy red fruits with very soft and elegant tannins. It still packs plenty of flavour and was recently included in Decanter's selection of **"New twists on Australian wine classics."**

Only 200 cases are produced each year.



2015 COLOME ESTATE MALBEC *Salta, Argentina*

18 Wine Spectator's Top 100 2017

Colomé is a remarkable wine estate in the northerly Salta region of Argentina, boasting the world's highest commercial vineyards. It's also run along biodynamic lines.

Typical of all Malbec, the colour is brooding and opaque. It has beautiful aromas of blackberries, red fruits and lovely floral notes. However it is on the palate where this wine really excites. It is just lush, decadent and so smooth. Everything is in balance, with intense dark fruits surrounded by very high quality oak (15 months aging).

I can see why this wine was given such a high ranking by Wine Spectator.



2014 BARONE MONTALTO AMMASSO

Santa Ninfa, Belice Valley, Sicily

Barone Montalto controls over 400 hectares of vineyards and Ammasso is their flagship wine. This wine is made in a very similar manner to the Amarone's of Veneto, and it is often referred to as the Amarone of the South.

It is a blend of two indigenous grape varieties, Nero d'Avola and Nerello Mascalese along with Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

At harvest time the finest grapes are hand-picked and arranged in a single layer in small boxes. The grapes then spend 4 weeks drying in the fruttai, or Fruit Chamber, which is ventilated remaining at a constant temperature. The raisin like grapes are then fermented and the resultant wine is quite startling.

The nose of the wine is intense with scents of prune, candied fruits and prominent Christmas cake type aromas. The mouthfeel is full, rich and opulent and becomes sensual thanks to its freshness and velvety tannins. I have enjoyed a number of Amarone's in the past and this wine, at a fraction of the price, is just as good.



2017 VINDEN ESTATE CHARDONNAY *Hunter Valley*

A delicious wine combining the two different styles of Chardonnay, meeting perfectly in the middle. Big and bold on one hand, but with balance, acidity and freshness on the other. It shows lemon curd and ripe stone fruit with some very classy oak on the finish. A beautiful glass of wines with a mouth-watering finish.

Sourced from a single vineyard in the Hunter Valley, Vinden Estate are one the up and coming producers in the region. They are now onto their second generation and after 25 years, James Halliday has awarded them "Dark Horse" status. A wine and a winery to watch.

Enjoy the wines!

Matt



Stu Freeman and Matt Eagan – The Bullion Cellars Team



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BULLION 18A

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