

Dear Wine Enthusiast:

The next Victoria Wine Society tasting is our annual Big Aussie Reds tasting and AGM.

Speakers: Glenn Barlow, Mike Gelling & Sharon McLean
Location: Ambrosia Event Centre, 638 Fisgard St.
Date: Monday, April 30th
Time: The tasting commences at 7PM
Cost: \$40 Members, \$45 Member Guests and \$50 Non Members

The recap; this tasting was significant for a few reasons, first to welcome long time member Sharon McLean as a director to specifically help coordinate tastings. Secondly is a new format using a small panel to lead the tasting (and spread the workload of researching the wines) rather than trying to come up with a guest speaker after wines have been pre-selected, which in the case below were top picks from the Vancouver Winefest. Unfortunately Sharon fell ill day of but Mike had just returned from Australia and the selection was solid.

- Hungerford Hill 2006 Riesling, Clare Valley \$25; *Very bright, lime, hint of petrol, lush & ripe on the palate with good balanced acidity*
- Tyrrell's 1999 Vat 1 Semillon, Hunter Valley \$46; *Nutty, honey aromas with hay & citrus, nice & round with intense flavours, very crisp citrus zest finish*
- D'Arenberg 2004 The Derelict Vineyard Grenache, McLaren Vale \$37; *Floral & spice notes to the red plum, fragrant, good fruit intensity, liqueur like, cherry cola, good acidity, supple frame*
- Yalumba 2005 Tempranillo + Grenache + Viognier, Barossa Valley \$42; *Very perfumed, honeysuckle & tropical fruit, supple, round & flavourful, unique, took a while to knit*
- Plantagenet 2003 Shiraz, Great Southern \$40; *Smoked bacon, leather, ripe berry & vanilla, big round weight & supple ripe tannins, spicy length, very pleasurable*
- E&E 2003 Black Pepper Shiraz, Barossa Valley \$95; *Super concentrated, cherry cola syrup, pepper & leather, surprisingly juicy, gobs of fruit, hot, massive, still arms & legs*
- Elderton 2002 Command Shiraz, Barossa Valley \$75; *Big spicy oak & concentrated fruit aromas, very rich & round, intense cherry extract flavours, super long, great balance for such a block buster, the overwhelming favourite in the room*
- Eileen Hardy 2002 Shiraz, McLaren Vale \$93; *Tight, pine needles, concentrated fruit, just not showing much nose or palate, loads of power but not defined*