

# 2012 RATINGS AND CELLARING SUGGESTIONS

Vintage	Rating	Cellaring Potential	Comment
<b>CORDON CUT</b>			
2012	★★★★★	🍷 -10	Fabulous, long, sweet and lingering. Ginger and spice
2011	★★★★★	🍷 -8	Oranges and apricot, peach and pear. Textured and long
2010	★★★★★	🍷 -10	Outstanding, pristine lime, amazing sweet-sour balance. Steph's benchmark
2009	★★★★★	🍷 -5	Luscious and lingering, drinking beautifully
2008	★★★★★	🍷 -3	Developed, starting to dry out, marzipan and jam. Long
2007	★★★★★	🍷 -3	Stylish, fine and long. Dried pear and apricot
2006	★★★★★	🍷 -5	Lovely freshness and vitality, limes, raisin and butterscotch
2005	★★★★★	🍷 -2	Complex, generous and full flavoured
2004	★★★★★	🍷 -2	Lively, creamy, lime-citrus and firm acid backbone
2003	★★★★★	🍷	Caramel and toffee, very raisined *
2002	★★★★★	🍷 -2	Perfect drinking now, rich, elegant. Biscuit, honey and caramel *
2001	★★★★★	🍷	Enjoy right now, lovely flavours and lively acidity *
2000	★★★★	P	Very developed *
1999	★★★★	P	Toffee, molasses, candied ginger. Madierised *
1998	★★★★	P	Tarte Tartin - burnt toffee, pleasant drinking *
1997	★★★★	P	Luscious caramel, raisins and chocolate *
1996	★★★★	P	Dark chocolate, burnt orange, passed *
1995	★★★★	P	Interesting curio, rich long palate, drying out *
1994	★★★★	P	Dried apricot and toffee, tea and tokay. Sip away *
1993	★★★★	P	Surprisingly rich and generous, like an old muscat. Tasty *



## STAR RATINGS

- ★★★★★ Textbook Riesling character, exemplary balance, extraordinary length and considerable ageing potential.
- ★★★★★ Outstanding example, in the ideal Mount Horrocks style. Layers of flavour, great length and worth keeping.
- ★★★★ Tremendous varietal character, typical style, delicious drink.
- ★★★★ Good quality, distinctly varietal and keeping well if older.
- ★★★ A sound wine, if slightly disappointing. Usually not Stephanie's preferred style.

## CELLARING POTENTIAL

- 🍷 Drink now
- 🍷 -10+ Drink now or cellar for ten or more years
- P Passed its best – although good bottles will be interesting
- \* Sealed with a cork – all others under screwcap

## MOUNT HORROCKS

EDITOR: DARREN JAHN  
 PO BOX 111 AUBURN, SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5451  
 TELEPHONE 08 8849 2243 FACSIMILE 08 8849 2265

**CELLAR DOOR:**  
 THE OLD RAILWAY STATION,  
 CURLING STREET, AUBURN  
 OPEN 10 AM TO 5 PM SATURDAY, SUNDAY &  
 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS  
 TELEPHONE 08 8849 2202

e-mail us at: [sales@mounthorrocks.com](mailto:sales@mounthorrocks.com)  
 visit us at [www.mounthorrocks.com](http://www.mounthorrocks.com)

# MOUNT HORROCKS 2012

## TWENTY VINTAGE TASTING (JULY 2012)

It was a pinch yourself occasion: a remarkable tasting indeed. Twenty vintages of Mount Horrocks Riesling and Cordon Cut tasted in the presence of the winemaker who crafted them.

I have sampled each wine more than once before, always upon first release, and frequently with varying degrees of age. But never before have I experienced the pleasure of lining them up from whoa to go, in all their glory and the fascinating ways in which they mature.



# 2012 RATINGS AND CELLARING SUGGESTIONS

## WATERVALE RIESLING

This tasting confirmed why Mount Horrocks is ranked among Australia's best producers of riesling.

The screwcap closed wines (2000-2012) were remarkably consistent in their colour and flavour gradation as they matured, each and every one of them delicious and suited to further ageing.

The cork-sealed (1993-2000) were distinctly more mature and variable in degrees of oxidation, with numerous bottles affected by TCA (cork taint). Thankfully we managed to find good, even great, bottles of each of the cork-sealed wines to rate for this exercise but not until we had discarded as many as we ended up formally tasting – a stark reminder of the failings of cork.

The oldest wines (1993-1999) are now curios – the best bottles are delicious insights into the world of aged riesling, and for those of you that enjoy the mature flavours of this grape, these are wines to drink now.

We enjoyed considerable debate as to the panel's favourite wines, however at ten years of age, the 2002 was easily the favourite older wine. It is quite simply a stunner and has a further decade ahead of it. A surprise was the 2001.

From a warmer vintage, whilst approaching its peak, it displays balance and poise. Others to rate highly were 2005, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

What really stood out was the appeal of the very youngest examples (2009-2012) – the freshness and vitality of young riesling is what attracts us to the grape (and let's face it, what most of us actually drink). This supports Stephanie's suggestion that we enjoy them young, when they're full of vitality. "Whilst they clearly age well, I love drinking my rieslings pretty much immediately they're released" says Steph.

The new release 2012 has a similar future to the esteemed 2002. It is an ideal each-way bet. Buy a case to enjoy over the next few years and hide a case in your cellar for a decade.

Vintage	Rating	Cellaring Potential	Comment
<b>RIESLING</b>			
2012	★★★★★	🍷 -12+	Energetic textbook Riesling
2011	★★★★★	🍷 -10	Classic
2010	★★★★★	🍷 -12+	Impressive, restrained, elegant – a keeper
2009	★★★★★	🍷 -10+	Lighter, flinty yet more complex
2008	★★★★★	🍷 -10	Focussed, youthful, all class
2007	★★★★★	2-10+	Beginning to show development, stylish, wait a year or two
2006	★★★★	🍷 -10	Vibrant, lingering
2005	★★★★★	🍷 -6	Lovely drinking, will keep if you wish
2004	★★★★★	🍷 -8	Very fine, some development, lingers long
2003	★★★★★	🍷 -3	Beautiful drinking, textured and long
2002	★★★★★	🍷 -10	Remarkably restrained, tightly coiled, vibrant and long
2001	★★★★★	🍷 -5	Classic dry, citrus Riesling, ageing well
2000	★★★★	🍷 -3	Holding well, lovely developed notes *
1999	★★★★	🍷 -P	Quite developed, least reliable of the nineties *
1998	★★★★	🍷	Developed, lovely if you like them old *
1997	★★★★	🍷	Honey and marmalade, little future *
1996	★★★★	🍷	Candied fruit with a little liveliness. Drink *
1995	★★★★★	🍷	Remarkable condition at 17 years, full in flavour, lingering mouthfeel *
1994	★★★★	🍷	Developed citrus peel, apricot and honey. Almost passed *
1993	★★★★	🍷	Holding well for a difficult year. Drying out, rounded and generous *



## CORDON CUT RIESLING

Mount Horrocks Cordon Cut is firmly established as Australia's most acclaimed dessert riesling. Year in year out Stephanie creates a textbook concentrated sweet riesling, never missing the mark.

This tasting reinforced that of 2003 when we noted that they were best enjoyed at age one to six years, with the advent of the superior screwcap closure now extending that life span to eight.

The youngest vintages (2010-2012) epitomised youthful, energetic, concentrated riesling characters, all three are quite simply outstanding.

The remaining screwcap-sealed bracket (2004-2009) displayed honey/jammy/creamy/caramel bottle-developed characters, graduated as they aged, with remarkable consistency. All were delicious, balanced, stylish wines worthy of the finest dessert or contrasting savoury partner. Serve them with pride.

The decade of wines to follow (1993-2003) reflected the older dry riesling bracket, with considerable bottle variation in those under cork, the general consensus being they are best at less than ten years of age. That said, the best bottles were fascinating curios, tasting more sherry-like with their rancio notes and in the right environment, will provide an intriguing and satisfying sip indeed.

