

FEATURES

28 SOUTHERN SPLENDOUR

South Australia's Kangaroo Island continues to build an enviable reputation as a fine fare destination, reports Dan Traucki. After *Winestate's* initial regional tasting 12 months ago, which recognised the Kangaroo Island Trading Company's 2015 shiraz as the island's wine of the year, the push to develop the island's food and wine industries has gathered momentum. Trading on its pristine natural environment, the island's movers and shakers have further enhanced its appeal as a "must visit" destination.



32 OUT OF THE SHADOWS

Up until the 1970s shiraz lurked in the dark corners of the Australian wine industry, labelled as "hermitage" or "burgundy," but all that changed when the world discovered Penfolds Grange, writes Dan Traucki. Based on Grange's success, wine drinkers went searching for other Australian-made premium shiraz



and they found plenty they liked. And Australia now claims to be the spiritual home of shiraz.

40 MAINFREIGHT WORLD'S GREATEST SYRAH & SHIRAZ CHALLENGE XIII

A battle of the world's heavyweight shiraz and syrah labels again saw the local hero - Grange - walk off with the top award for the second time in three years. Tasted blind by three judges, it took on 430 shiraz wines from around the world, including Australian stars such as Torbreck the Laird, Bird in Hand MAC and Henschke Hill of Grace, and the finest shiraz from leading French producers such as Guigal la Turque, Paul Jaboulet la Chapelle and Chapoutier L'Ermite. In a nod to the skills of domestic winemakers, our judges awarded 50 five-star wines and 60 four-and-a-half-star wines - the first time we have awarded such high scores for so many wines. And the stars were not confined to the top-end wines, they were spread across a number of price ranges, so there's a winning red for most budgets. *Mainfreight World's Greatest Syrah & Shiraz Challenge XIII* tasting starts page 64.

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44 AND THE WINNERS ARE...

This year's winner's of the *Winestate's Mainfreight World's Greatest Syrah & Shiraz Challenge XIII* all come from South Australia with two directly sourced from the Barossa Valley region, an incredible feat considering the range of this wonderful flagship red. The top award for the second time in three years is the Bin 95 Grange 2013. With our second place-getter hailing from the same \$200 plus category in relative newcomer, Gumpara Hexen. This is rounded out by the amazing value Z Wine Julius, all beating out more than 400 wines in this diverse style tasting.

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For a complete list of what we tasted for this issue please refer to www.winestate.com.au