

# International Wine Cellar: Australian Report

*Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar*

*July 2009*

*By Josh Reynolds*

Josh Reynolds has just published his New Releases from Australia in Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar. The highest score awarded in this report was 94 points, endowed upon seven wines only - the Graveyard and aged Semillons were up there with the best of them!

Included were the following reviews for Brokenwood:



## **2008 Cricket Pitch Sauvignon Blanc Semillon - 88 points**

Pale gold. Laid-back aromas of apple, quince and melon, with a gentle mineral undertone. Juicy orchard fruit and honeydew flavours possess good concentration and are firm by an element of talc. Finishes on a soft pear note.



## **2008 Hunter Valley Semillon - 90 points**

Bright straw. Pungent, spicy herbal, mineral and citrus aromas, plus a hint of anise. Limeade and pink grapefruit on the palate, with white pepper and bitter quinine notes adding vivacity. Firm, sharply focused and pure on the finish, with the lime note repeating. This uncompromising style will be too severe for some, but fans of truly dry wines will love it.



## **2005 Brycefield/Belford Vineyards Semillon-92 points**

Light yellow-gold. A complex bouquet displays scents of beeswax, pear skin, honey and herbs, with a strong undercurrent of zesty minerals. Dry, finely etched citrus and orchard fruit flavours show very good depth and pick up dusty mineral and lime zest notes on the back end. A wine of noteworthy balance and vivacity, with excellent finishing clarity and mineral thrust.



## **2004 ILR Reserve Semillon - 92 points**

Pungent, mineral-driven aromas of quince, white peach, anise, mint and talc, with a hint of honey adding depth. Vibrant, finely etched citrus and orchard fruit flavours are braced by dusty minerals and pick up succulent herbs with aeration. Finishes very dry, with jasmine and green tea notes and excellent clarity and persistence.



## **2007 Cricket Pitch Cabernet/Merlot/Shiraz - 88 points**

Deep ruby-red. Aromas of cherry, rose and cracked pepper, with a gentle smoky undertone. Red and dark berry flavours are fresh and precise, with a bright mineral quality adding complexity. The finish repeats the cherry and pepper notes and clings nicely.



### **2008 Beechworth Pinot Noir - 90 points**

Light red. Heady aromas of strawberry, raspberry and smoky spices. Lively, supple red berry flavours are complicated by tangy spice and floral qualities. Very suave, with a sweet, lively, persistent finish and no rough edges. This is delicious right now.



### **2007 Area Blend Shiraz - 92 points**

Deep, bright ruby. Deep, smoky nose offers cassis, boysenberry, cola and candied violet. Densely packed, rich and sweet, with a velvety texture and lush dark berry compote flavours. This is drinking well right now and finishes with gentle tannins and echoes of cola and spices.



### **2007 Hunter Valley Shiraz - 92 pts**

Inky violet colour. Cherry-cola, blueberry, new leather, spices and violet on the nose. Densely packed and sweet, with complex flavours of fresh red berries, blueberry and cracked pepper. A rather suave shiraz that already shows good complexity. Finishes classically dry, with silky tannins and a late note of sweet dark berries. I'd still give this a bit of time in bottle.



### **2007 Graveyard Vineyard Shiraz - 92pts**

Bright purple. Brooding, mineral-driven aromas of blackcurrant, mulberry, cola and crushed rock, with a liqueur-like nuance. Supple, lush and sweet but with zesty acidity and a recurring cola quality in the middle palate. Finishes with substantial tannins and a wallop of sweet black and blue fruit qualities. Richer and more powerful than the 2006, but I prefer that wine's energy and floral character.

### **2006 Graveyard Vineyard Shiraz - 93 points**

Opaque purple. Raspberry, blackberry, rose oil, minerals and Asian spices on the high-pitched nose. Sweet, creamy and surprisingly energetic, with vibrant red fruit, floral pastille and mineral flavours and no rough edges. The floral notes come on strong on the finish, which is exceptionally pure, vibrant and long. Many high-end New World cult pinot noirs offer less energy and clarity than this Shiraz.