

Chris Shanahan - blog  
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2004 ILR Reserve Semillon  
2005 Maxwell Vineyard Semillon

## Chris Shanahan

Australian wine & beer judge, writer and connoisseur

« Pinot set to join trans-Tasman sauvignon pipeline  
Canberra importer finds Italy's sweet spot »

**Wine review – Braided River, The Crossings,  
Brokenwood and Mount Pleasant**

### **Brokenwood Hunter Valley**

- » **ILR Reserve Semillon 2004 \$45**
- » **Maxwell Vineyard Semillon 2005 \$36**

### **Mount Pleasant Lovedale Hunter Valley Semillon 2005 \$65**

We sipped this delicious, maturing Hunter trio over four days without noticeable degradation of wine quality – few whites could achieve this. Brokenwood ILR 2004 (10 per cent alcohol) sits on the austere end of the style spectrum – dry as cucumber skin, brisk as limejuice and showing first hints of age. Maxwell 2005 (11 per cent alcohol) seems a little fuller and softer by comparison and it's lemony rather than limey. Its vintage mate from the 1940s Lovedale vineyard (11.5 per cent alcohol) is a little deeper coloured but dust dry, with jaw dropping flavour intensity and gripping, dry acidity.