

Young Guns

BY ANDREA FROST

The Young Guns of Wine Award was set up to “champion a new approach to wine for a new age”. First launched in 2007 by founder Rory Kent, the awards look to recognise and celebrate new and innovative winemaking styles, use of grape varieties, viticultural methods and wine regions. In other words, to find the wine zeitgeist. As well as the quality of the wine, the

winners are judged on their approach to the whole product development; from the marketing, packaging, distribution, design, philosophy and “their overall contribution to the culture of wine” says wine judge and writer Nick Stock. “It is also about leadership and demonstrating an ability to play at the leading edge of all aspects of contemporary wine culture.”

The finalists achieve this in spades. Says

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ARFION SMOKESTACK LIGHTNING SKIN CONTACT PINOT GRIGIO 2013

RRP \$33
arfion.com.au

Arfion in Gaelic means “our wine” and is a throwback to Mackintosh’s ancestry. Made from Pinot Grigio grapes from the Yarra Valley, the grapes were fermented on skins for 12 days giving the wine a beautiful pink blush. The wine has a pretty but pronounced nose of musk, red apples and subtle floral characters. The palate is fresh with more floral notes, a hint of wild strawberry and a delicious crunchy texture. Gorgeous, delicious, refreshing and fun.



JAUMA WINES BLEWITT SPRINGS PET NAT CHENIN BLANC 2013

RRP \$28
jauma.com

When I asked James Erskine why he makes wines like this (organic grapes, no additives, almost natural) he looks at me strangely. “Because it is seriously the only way that makes sense. Made like this, naturally and with love, you can actually taste the joy.” The nose is intriguing and smells of fresh grape juice and peeled apples. The palate is super-dry, refreshing, with a slight fizz and a lovely creaminess. Totally gluggable making it a perfect aperitif or fresh summer wine.

THE WINNERS OF THE 2013 YOUNG GUN OF WINE AWARDS, AS JUDGED BY WINE WRITERS AND WINE SHOW JUDGES MAX ALLEN, NICK STOCK AND PHILIP RICH ARE:

- Young Gun of Wine, Taras Ochota (Ochota Barrels)
- Best New Act, Josephine Perry (Dormilona)
- People's Choice, Alex Head (Head Wines)
- Winemaker's Choice, James Erskine (Jauma)



OCHOTA BARRELS THE FUGAZI VINEYARD GRENACHE 2013

RRP \$40
ochotabarrels.com

Taras Ochota took out the main prize for his wife Amber. The Fugazi vineyard lies between the Onkaparinga River Gorge and Blewitt Springs McLaren Vale and comprises of old bush vines planted in 1947. This is a spectacular wine. An evocative, perfumed and elegant nose of crushed red berries and spicy complexity. As it breathes, the palate flourishes adding breadth and flesh – more spice, an abundance of juicy red fruits all wrapped together in beautifully medium-bodied wine. A worthy winner.

BOBAR SYRAH

RRP \$28
facebook.com

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