



**97** **2010 RESERVE CHARDONNAY** | This wine was made by Rick Kinzbrunner of Giaconda fame, who is able to craft chardonnay with exceptional texture and flavour complexity. He is happy to walk a later-picking highwire, bringing together grapefruit zest and juice, white peach and cashew, bound by strong mineral acidity. It shares the length with other Yarra Valley chardonnays, but was far less easy to recognise. To 2020.

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**97** **2011 BLOCK F CHARDONNAY** | The grapes come from the block that, year in, year out, provides the top quality chardonnay for Toolangi. This is the classic iron fist in a velvet glove, the sheer power and intensity on the back-palate and finish striking without warning on the finish and aftertaste; the flavours are three-dimensional, encompassing every flavour and nuance of perfectly ripened chardonnay fruit, which has eaten 11 months in oak. To 2024.

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**97** **2012 PAULS LANE CHARDONNAY** | Hand-picked from estate vineyards, made at Oakridge, barrel-fermented and aged in French oak for 11 months. Here the flinty reduction of the bouquet is more obvious than the standard version, but still well within bounds so far as I am concerned. Greater concentration and intensity of the fruit is very obvious; from this perspective, a prime example of the importance of terroir. Will live for an inordinately long time. To 2025.

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**97** **2013 BLOCK E PINOT NOIR** | Made at Giaconda from the best block on the vineyard. MV6, hand-picked and sorted, one-third each destemmed, whole berries, and whole bunches, open-fermented, wild yeast, matured for 12 months in French oak. The perfumed bouquet of roses and cherry blossom sets the scene for all that follows; elegance and purity are the cornerstones of the perfectly balanced palate, spicy/powdery tannins and cedary oak providing the structure for the now and the hereafter. To 2025.

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**96** **2014 ESTATE CHARDONNAY** | Mendoza and 10V3 clones, hand-picked, crushed, wild-fermented in French oak (40% new), matured for 11 months, made by David Bicknell at Oakridge. It has a particular feel and flavour that is hard to describe/differentiate from others in the superb chardonnay vintage of '14 - perhaps a little more white peach and nectarine flesh, but not losing its finesse or length. To 2025.

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**96** **2013 PAULS LANE CHARDONNAY** | Mendoza, 110V3 and P58 clones, hand-picked, crushed, wild-fermented in French oak (30% new), matured for 10 months, made by Franco D'Anna at Hoddles Creek Estate. As befits and wine at this level, this is an exercise in taking high quality grapes, making them without expense, but with incredible attention to detail, and ending up with exquisite harmony and balance, the length a celebration of the essence of Yarra Valley chardonnay. To 2025.

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**96** **2010 RESERVE SHIRAZ** | Full purple-crimson; the grapes come from the low-yielding 30-year-old vines of the Hamer Vineyard near Yarra Glen; the wine was made at Oakridge, and spent 10 months in French oak. A powerful and complex wine, showing just how much varietal expression can be achieved at this alcohol level, for it is medium-bodied, not full-bodied; the black cherry/blackberry fruits are framed by quality French oak, the tannins judged to perfection. To 2030.

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**95** **2014 ESTATE PINOT NOIR** | MV6, hand-picked, destemmed and crushed, 30% whole bunches, open-fermented, wild yeast, matured in French oak (20% new) for 9 months, made at Coldstream Hills. Detailed viticulture and careful winemaking has paid handsome dividends. This is a very good pinot with excellent structure and texture, the varietal flavours ripened to perfection, with spice, plum and cherry all having their say. An unhesitating 95 points. To 2029.

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**95** **2012 PAULS LANE PINOT NOIR** | Estate-grown, hand-picked grapes from especially low-cropped vines, made at Oakridge, aged in French barriques for 10 months. The colour is a little deeper than its sibling; the bouquet is fragrant and expressive, the medium-bodied palate following suit, with cherry and plum fruit in the ascendant, oak evident, but in balanced harmony; silky tannins sustain the long finish. To 2021.

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**95** **2013 PAULS LANE SHIRAZ** | Made at Coldstream Hills and at Hoddles Creek Estate, where it was blended and bottled after 18 months in French oak; the colour is deep, the plate with considerable presence and complexity, its savoury assemblage of red and black cherry fruits and supporting tannins providing a mouth-watering finish and aftertaste. To 2038.

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**95** **2014 ESTATE SHIRAZ** | Estate-grown, made at Dominique Portet, matured for 12 months in French oak. An exercise in elegant restraint, the supple medium-bodied palate with a pure stream of juicy black fruits, tannins and oak guards standing by if needed - and they aren't. Just because it can be enjoyed now is no reason to dissuade you from cellaring as much as you drink. To 2034.

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**94** **2014 PINOT NOIR** | The name notwithstanding, is in fact estate-grown MV6, hand-picked, destemmed and crushed, 15% whole bunches, open-fermented, wild and cultured yeast, matured in French oak (10% new) for 9 months, made at Coldstream Hills. This is a delicious pinot, only a small margin behind its Estate sibling, and in similar confident style. Will go the distance. To 2025.

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