PRIMO ESTATE  
LA BIONDINA COLOMBARD 2012  
91 points  
screwcap, 12% alcohol  
Pale-straw green; a wine that has always delivered more flavour and attitude than theoretically possible; intense grapefruit spears through the length of the intensely focused palate. For an alternative to chardonnay (or other mainstream varieties), try this and leave the pinot gris on the shelf. Drink to 2024 with summer salads.

FREYCINET  
PINOT NOIR 2010  
96 points  
screwcap, 14.5% alcohol  
Purple-crimson; a perfect demonstration of the value of fully mature 31-year-old vines; the fragrance of the bouquet has intensified since late 2011; multiple layers of fruit with a silky sweetness to the flavours; tannins are there, as is oak, but the integrity of the fruit makes all the difference to a superb Tasmanian pinot. Drink to 2015 with venison.

WIRRA WIRRA  
MRS WIGLEY GRENACHE ROSÉ  
93 points  
screwcap, 13.5% alcohol  
Vivid crimson-purple; this wine manages to bring intensity and depth to its array of red fruit flavours, but without any hint of sweetness or inappropriate extract; the dry finish lingers long in the mouth, bringing back the red fruits of the mid-palate. Drink to 2014 with paella.

POL ROGER BRUT  
BLANC DE BLANCS 2000  
97 points  
This utterly beautiful wine is made from 100% grand cru Cote des Blancs vineyards in Cramant, Le Mesnil, Oger, Avize and Oiry. Tasted in August and again a month later, it was on each occasion incredibly fresh, vibrant and long, the bouquet and palate with every possible facet of lemon; its acidity is a sunbeam of crystalline purity.

THE BEST OF THE REST

O’Leary Walker  
Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc 2012  
92 points
Wirra Scrubby Rise Shiraz Cabernet Petit Verdot from Adelaide 2011  
92 points
Wirra Wirra Hiding Champion Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc 2012
95 points
Primo Estate Joseph Sparkling Red NV  
96 points

November 2012