

THE WINE FRONT
TOP 101
RED WINES
2007

This list is personal. It's the TOP 101 RED WINES that I'd take to the table to prove exactly how great wine can be, for quality or value or just straight-out excitement. It contains a lot of bargains, and a lot of luxuries, and regardless of price it's an overwhelming thumbs up for both the quality of wine available right now, and the quality of the 2005 vintage. From Margaret River to the Barossa Valley, from the Yarra Valley to the Hunter, this is a great vintage. Make hay. Cast your red wine drinking net wide. So many of the wines here push their sense of individualism to the limit. Never has Australian red wine quality been so good, or so diverse

96. TULLOCH POKOLBIN DRY RED PRIVATE BIN SHIRAZ 2005 (\$40)

A prime Hunter Valley red in a gloriously old-fashioned style. This, I am quite sure, is how the old Hunter classics looked as young wines. Expressly earthen, savoury and yet fruit sweet, with raspberries, almonds, licorice, twigs and vanilla flavours moulded into a medium-weight, unprecocious, easy-going package. It's a bespoke shiraz, tailored to drink well with food at any stage of its life. I love it. This is another example of both a great Hunter vintage, and the new wave of outstanding wines coming from the region. Drink: 2007-2020. 94 points.