

Clairault Sauvignon Blanc 2007

Tasted as a tank sample and not rated. Looks very promising with stacks of vibrant crunchy intensely flavoured fruit. Has some real zip and will be a beauty.

Clairault Estate Chardonnay 2005

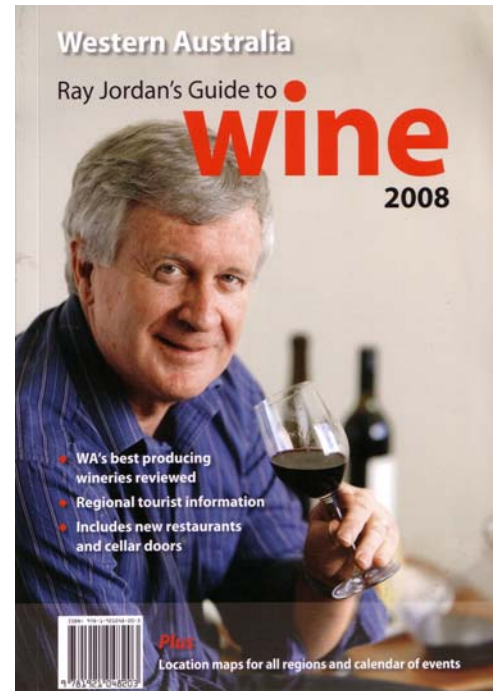
A medium-weight chardonnay full of creamy nutty fruit balanced with some nice oak and acid. It's a pleasant short-term drinking wine with some up-front flavours. **86/100**

Clairault Shiraz 2004

This is a terrific little shiraz. Savoury chocolate and spicy plum aromas with a decent sprinkling of coffee and cinnamon. Lush ripe fruit palate is velvety smooth and perfectly intergrated. Wonderful value. **89/100**

Clairault Estate Cabernet Merlot 2002

Seductive smells of plum and redcurrant with a leafy minty character. Silky smooth palate shows some great oak and fruit intergration with the fine tannins adding subsyance. Controlled and very long. This is a beautiful wine for drinking over the next couple of years. **93/100**



“Clairault has come a long way in the few years since Bill Martin bought the place that many will remember for its quaint winery and cellar door. Both are now thoroughly modernised, with a magnificent bistro-styled restaurant set in lawns and towering gums—one of the most marvellous settings I have seen in any Australian winery.

With a solid base in one of the area's oldest vineyards, and additional plantings undertaken, Clairault is well placed to make a strong assault on the market. In 2007 it won the trophy for the best lighter bodied dry white table wine at the 2007 Sydney International Wine Competition. Considering New Zealand wineries took out 9 of the 24 trophies, it was an outstanding achievement to stand up against the Land of the Long White Cloud's aromatic styles.

The aim is to create well structured wines that reflect all the qualities of a 30-year-old vineyard and it's fruit. This approach has resulted in a range of elegant red and white wines that show exceptional balance, complexity and, importantly, individuality. All Clairault wines are made from 100 percent estate-grown fruit from Margaret River.

Clairault is making a strong move to biodynamic principles, implementing an environmentally responsible regime in the vineyard management through a low-intervention approach. They have engaged the ERA Farming Company, a WA-based agribusiness that advises and educates farmers on growing vines through the elimination of chemical use and the introduction of biological farming. These practises promise a laudable outcome – purity of fruit, achieving optimum flavors.

The ranges offer both quality and value for money, backed by due recognition. A recent high point was 4½ stars in Decanter magazine for the 1999 Claddagh Reserve red wine. Under winemaker Will Shields significant improvements are under way. Recent wines show how far things have come and the place is really humming with quality across the ranges.”

Ray Jordan