



REVIEWS AND PRESS

SCOOP, SUMMER 2009

2008 Millbrook Regional Viognier (Awarded: Silver)

This is a lovely viognier – fruity, bright, varietal and clean, but also offering balance and avoiding heaviness and the high alcohol that's often seen in Australian viognier. It has a spice, apricot and ginger lift. The palate is rich, smooth, soft and not overbearing, with clean mouth-cleansing acidity on the finish.

2008 Millbrook Estate Viognier (Awarded: Bronze)

GOURMET TRAVELLER WINE, OCT/NOV 2009

100 Top New Releases

2008 Millbrook Limited Release Chardonnay ★★ ★★

This is big, gutsy and overt. There are nutty, stone-fruit and balsamic wild-ferment characters, while the flavour is concentrated on the palate. It has the richness and depth to carry the feral characters.

THE WINE & SPIRIT INSIDER, SEPT/OCT 2009

Top 40 best buys less than \$20

2007 Barking Owl Shiraz Viognier

Smells like cherry cough mixture with more cherry characters on the long palate. Interesting style.

JOHN JENS, *WESTERN SUBURBS WEEKLY*, OCTOBER 2009

Hills a haven for Rhone refugee

The annual symposiums (this year's was the seventh) pit the three Millbrook viogniers against the finest from Australia, New Zealand, America and France. Against many of the world's most respected names, the Millbrook wines consistently show marvellously. This year, against the world's greatest viognier releases, the mid-range Millbrook Estate Viognier 2008 was placed in the top three on most people's cards. Of the Australian wines my greatest value, and very close to my best wine, was the Millbrook Estate Viognier 2008 (18.7pts and \$35). The wine has everything. It is full, round, soft, luscious and easy. It is elegant, refined and long and has a wonderfully crafted and fine knit texture. This wine has marvellous lingering flavours and it adds graciousness from the winemaking craftsmanship. This is simply delicious.

RAY JORDAN, *WEST WEEKEND MAGAZINE*, OCTOBER 2009

Viognier comes of age

2008 Millbrook Estate Viognier

This is a tight and controlled viognier with a long intensity. Aromas of spices and ginger. Palate has a mineral complexity. The acid is perfectly balanced with a tight control and focus.



Very long in the mouth and layered with complexity and length. Like the touch of lime juice on the finish. **93/100**

SCOOP, SPRING 2009

2008 Millbrook Limited Release Chardonnay (Awarded: Silver 17.5)

This is a subtle wine that gets better with every glass. It seems to show some solid lees influence that adds a savoury complexity to what are otherwise quiet delicate citrus and nectarine fruit characters. Spicy oak is subtly folded into the wine, and the palate is textured, soft and long. A chardonnay of some finesse.

2008 Barking Owl Semillon Sauvignon Blanc (Awarded: Bronze 16.5)

This is a lemony and intensely lifted aromatic wine with Semillon holding sway over the sauvignon. The palate is plump and juicy with straightforward flavour that's clean tasting and tangy, with a long lemon pith finish.

WINESTATE, SPECIAL EDITION 2009

Varietal tasting sauvignon blanc and blends (27 tasted, 16 recommended)

2009 Barking Owl Sauvignon Blanc Semillon ★★★★★½

Distinctly cool climate wine – delicate and floral with some lemonade/citrus characters on the nose and hints of tropical fruit on the palate. Cleansing acidity on the finish.

2009 Millbrook Sauvignon Blanc ★★★★★

Sweaty, funky, tropical bouquet with these characters carried over to the very good “modern” style of palate. Great length and depth of flavour.

NICK BULLEID MW, *GOURMET TRAVELLER*, AUG/SEPT 2009

The best of the West

2007 Barking Owl Shiraz Viognier ★★★★★

Appealed to Hooke, who wrote: “Slightly meaty shiraz, with a trace of spice. Linear palate – taut and fine. Balanced acidity adds to the penetrating quality of the palate.” Bourne and I found the wine's flavours on the oaky side. The tight, medium-bodied style is a good example of the finer style of wine coming from the cool heights of the Perth Hills, when compared with the Swan Valley below. **89/100**

RAY JORDAN, *THE WEST AUSTRALIAN FRESH*, AUGUST 2009

2007 Barking Owl Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot

Big bang for your buck. Plenty of dark fruits, dark chocolate and spice with a deep savoury influence. The palate is medium weight with excellent fruit intensity and length supported with ripe tannin and well-weighted oak. **89/100**

JAMES HALLIDAY AUSTRALIAN WINE COMPANION 2010

Millbrook Winery ★★★★★

2007 Millbrook Limited Release Viognier ★★★★★

At the top of the complexity scale, yet with no oily or coarse phenolic characters; barrel fermentation in older oak has added to texture, complementing the apricot and stone fruit flavours. **Rating 94**



2008 Millbrook Estate Viognier ★★★★★

A fragrant bouquet leads into an interesting palate with apricot and a twitch of ginger, oak not part of a quite complex and satisfying palate. **Rating 94**

2007 Barking Owl Shiraz Viognier ★★★★★☆

Good colour courtesy of Viognier; a terrific wine at the price, at once showing lifted fruit contributed by the Viognier along with spicy/savoury flavours on the medium-bodied palate, which has energy and drive.

WINESTATE ANNUAL 2009

Best of the West – Regional Tasting

2006 Barking Owl Chardonnay ★★★★★

Simple, citrusy varietal smelling of peaches with a subtle touch of oak. Sweetish palate has good concentration of citrus flavours that taper towards the end.

Best wines of 2008 – Style Tasting

2005 Millbrook Shiraz Viognier ★★★★★

Dense, brooding nose that's a mix of briary fruit, chocolate and mocha. The well-structured, robust palate offers lovely long, lingering, ripe blueberry flavours with a firm and sweet finale.

2005 Millbrook Cabernet Sauvignon Malbec ★★★★★

Powerful stewed plum fragrances lift out of the glass. There's also some wood and some mint. Sweet and juicy in the mouth with great flavour length that lingers on. Quite a warm palate with a good tannic grip.

ANDREW JEFFORD, *WINES OF THE PLACE*, AUGUST 2009

2008 Millbrook Limited Release Viognier

One of the two or three finest Viogniers I've tasted in Australia and an inspiring white wine which ought to rearrange the boundary posts for what is possible and desirable here. The scents, almost eerily, seem to convey texture: glycerol, cream, perfumed balm. The flavours then deliver a thick carpet of unctuous, multi-layered late summer fruits infused with floral essences.

TIM WHITE, *INSIDE OUT*, JUNE/JULY 2009

2007 Barking Owl Shiraz Viognier

Has a sort of exotic wood spiciness before getting peppery. Plenty of berries which are stacked on building drying tannins. There's a lovely core of deep fruit and at just 14% which is low for a shiraz these days, the balance is just right. **93/100**

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN FRESH, JUNE 2009

Great red tasting \$15–\$20

2007 Barking Owl Shiraz Viognier

Not hard to see why this scored a gold medal at the Canberra wine show last year. Lush vibrant Shiraz lifted with a sprinkling of floral Viognier spices. Sits beautifully on the palate and delivers to a controlled long finish.



TONI PATERSON, *HOUSE AND GARDEN MAGAZINE*, JUNE 2009

2007 Barking Owl Shiraz Viognier

Gold Medal, 2008 National Wine Show of Australia. This Western Australian wine has vibrant red fruit flavours, generous spice and is a great partner to casual dining.

WBM100, MARCH 2009

2008 Barking Owl Semillon Sauvignon Blanc

This is a fresh value-for-money SSB with a perfumed bouquet of cinnamon, freshly baked peaches and granny smith apples. The palate is fruit and lively with a long finish and a citrus zest texture. A touch of residual sweetness rounds it out without making it cloying.

GOURMET TRAVELLER WINE, OCT/NOV 2008

100 Top New Releases

2007 Millbrook Limited Release Chardonnay ★★★★★

A powerful wine, marvellously layered and full of interest. A light hint of acetate probably from wild yeast, a touch of cedary barrel character allied with grapefruit and melon. An intense, vibrant wine with lots of detail.

HUON HOOKE, *SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, GOOD LIVING GUIDE*, OCTOBER 2008

Top Aussie red

2005 Millbrook Estate Shiraz Viognier

This powerhouse Perth Hills Shiraz has a hint of viognier, ironstone mineral aromas with spices and lush, dark-fruit flavours. Impressive concentration, structure and length. **94/100**

RAY JORDAN, *WEST WEEKEND MAGAZINE*, OCTOBER 2008

Viognier's vagaries

The encouraging thing about this year's tasting was the strong showing of the Australian wines, with local producers Millbrook and Capel Vale right up among the best.

2007 Millbrook Estate Viognier (\$35)

This wine is all about texture and flesh rather than aromas. It's quite muted on the nose but the rich and unctuous palate really bursts into life. It has long rich flavours of cream, nutty and apricot nectar with a little citrus to spruce it up. The palate has a lively zing to the finish which makes it very appealing. A recent trophy winner in Perth. **92/100**

WINESTATE MAGAZINE, SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008 & *WINESTATE ANNUAL EDITION* 2009

Winestate's best wines of 2008

2005 Millbrook Estate Shiraz Viognier ★★★★★

Dense brooding nose that is a mix of briary fruit, chocolate and mocha. The well-structured, robust palate offers lovely long, lingering, ripe blueberry flavours with a firm and sweet finale.



Winestate World's Great Shiraz Challenge III
 (Number tasted: 790, Awarded Gold: 25)
No 1 WA Shiraz, No 1 Australian Shiraz Viognier

2005 Millbrook Estate Shiraz Viognier

An intense wine loaded with very dark inky/briary fruit and spices on both nose and palate. Heaps of fine tannins and well integrated oak.

SPICE MAGAZINE, SPRING 2008

2005 Millbrook Estate Shiraz Viognier

From the classic Rhône blend that we have grown to love in Australia, this is an incomparable example of one made right here in the Perth Hills. Quite an unobtrusive wine on first inspection, but gently unfurls its shimmering wings, viognier providing the lift to power glide over the palate. Rich dark plums and coffee bean characters the tannins distinctly chalky. Very impressive fruit intensity and length flitter about in all seriousness of a larger wine.

JOHN JENS, WESTERN SUBURBS WEEKLY, SEPTEMBER 2008

Viognier comes of age

For the beautifully appointed Millbrook Winery and restaurant in Jarrahdale, just 45 minutes south of Perth, to place two wines among the top seven was an extraordinary achievement in this masked international line up. The Millbrook Regional Viognier 2007 (18pts and \$22), its most reasonably priced wine, also showed outstanding value. The Millbrook Limited Release 2007 Viognier (18.1pts and \$35) is of the modern style. It is long, clean, fresh and dry ... and lingers and lingers.

WINESTATE, JULY/AUGUST 2008

Varietal tasting Cabernet Sauvignon and Blends

2005 Millbrook Cabernet Sauvignon Malbec ★★ ★★

Minty, fresh nose with a bright jubey/tomato leaf bouquet. Cinnamon, nutmeg and black olive flavours capture the attention from beginning to end.

SCOOP, WINTER 2008

Red hot regional wines – top five Cabernet, Shiraz and Merlot

2007 Millbrook Estate Merlot

Pick of the Region

2007 Millbrook Estate Merlot (Awarded: Silver)

This is a grown-up merlot for drinkers who can appreciate a dry, blueberry and redcurrant-laced drink with non-Christmas pudding flavours, built upon a skeleton of big, dusty tannins that carry the wine's flavours from start to finish. Great stuff.

2005 Millbrook Estate Shiraz Viognier (Awarded: Bronze)

As long-time champions of Viognier, the good folk at Millbrook expertly demonstrate that when it comes to blending the white grape with Shiraz, less is certainly more – the Viognier component of this wine is there for texture rather than taste. Beautifully restrained earthy plum flavours are shuttled across the palate by juicy acidity and finely knit tannins to create a wine of grace, length and elegance.



2005 Millbrook Cabernet Merlot (Awarded: Bronze)

An attractive, complex mouthful of spice, blackberries and mulberries makes for delicious winter drinking from the top of the bottle to the bottom. And sure, there might be a smidge of greenness on the nose and palate (in a good way though, think eucalypt complexity), but consider each glass as an extra daily serve of veg.

2005 Barking Owl Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot (Awarded: Bronze)

Cinnamon-like spices and clean berry aromas and flavours are attractive and enjoyable in this fuller style of wine. It's fresh and firm with good palate length.

HUON HOOKE, *THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD*, JULY 2008

Uncool but still tops – Chardonnay's bad press is undeserved: it still sells best

2007 Millbrook Limited Release Chardonnay

Awarded Gold Medal (18.5/20 or 95/100 or better) in line-up of top Australian Chardonnays

RAY JORDAN, *THE WEST AUSTRALIAN FRESH*, JUNE 2008

2007 Millbrook Estate Viognier

Lighter style than previous vintages. Orange blossom and citrus aromas reveal this as classic Viognier. The little touch of ginger and spice adds to the appeal. The palate is rich with opulent fruit intensity and palate weight presented with style. **91/100**

WINESTATE, MAY/JUNE 2008

Cabernet Blends 2005 – 36 tasted, 18 recommended

2005 Millbrook Cabernet Sauvignon Malbec ★★★★★

Powerful stewed plum fragrances lift out of the glass. There's also some wood and some mint. Sweet and juicy in the mouth with great flavour length that lingers on. Quite a warm palate, with a good tannic grip.

2005 Millbrook Estate Shiraz Viognier ★★★★★

An intense wine loaded with very dark inky/briary fruit and spices on both nose and palate. Heaps of fine tannins and well-integrated oak. Needs food!

RAY JORDAN, *THE WEST AUSTRALIAN FRESH*, MAY 2008

Top Chardonnays

2007 Millbrook Limited Release Chardonnay

One of the classiest chardonnays yet from the Hills producer. The fruit is sourced from the Geographe region. It has a fine lean palate structure. Touches of grapefruit and nectarine with a little white peach depth. The oak is neatly merged and overall this presents as a very sophisticated chardonnay. **93/100**

JOHN JENS, *WESTERN SUBURBS WEEKLY*, MAY 2008

Barking Owl has bite – The stunningly situated Millbrook Winery and restaurant are nestled over a large marron dam in the steep tree-covered hills behind Jarrahdale only 45 minutes south of Perth. The views over the hills and valley are so good that visiting tourists could find lunch in the winery to be a highlight of a trip to WA. The winery has chosen to create its imagery around the still reasonable rare Viognier variety, which as the experienced tasters will tell you, has the twin attributes of a viscous texture and the dried apricot flavours on both the bouquet and palate that are dead giveaways to those guessing the variety in masked tastings. Millbrook may not always



get the credit it deserves for its three high quality examples of this variety, the most reasonably priced of which is the estate release from 2007 that is one of the best value examples available in WA.

Millbrook also produces consistent gold medal and trophy winning shiraz viognier and chardonnay and the 2006 Sauvignon Blanc gained the highest points for this variety in the 2006 Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide wine shows. Millbrook's second label Barking Owl, is named after the local owl species. In contrast to many reasonably priced red wines, this youngster shows rich and intense although still closed fruit that is coated by some fine and persistent classy oak tannins. While obviously still very young, the fruit components are already developing a seamless quality and this wine's strong and appealing red berry flavours leave a lovely and clean aftertaste.

RAY JORDAN, *THE WEST AUSTRALIAN FRESH*, MAY 2008

Wine for food and food for thought – top cab merlots

2005 Barking Owl Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot

Medium-bodied blend with stacks of ripe controlled flavour. Blackcurrant and soft fruit cake richness. Soft and supple palate with fine ripe tannins and understated oak. **87/100**

RAY JORDAN, *THE WEST AUSTRALIAN FRESH*, MAY 2008

Viognier adds shiraz-zamatazz

2007 Barking Owl Shiraz Viognier

Very nice example of this blend. Spicy plum notes with supple fleshy fruit on the palate. It's balanced and delicious with abundant dark berry flavours gently merged with older oak. Remains a fruit-driven wine. **88/100**

SCOOP, AUTUMN 2008

Top 5 under \$20

2007 Barking Owl Rosé (Awarded: Bronze 16.5)

The confected bouquet with a hint of murky delight gives way to an intense, yet dry and rounded and perhaps creamy palate crammed with cherry and a sprinkling of herbs. Buy the case and drink by the bottle with food and friends.

GENTLEMAN'S QUARTERLY, APRIL/MAY 2008

2005 Barking Owl Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot

This range is a consistent performer raising the bar in value for money. The excellent depth of colour is a measure of its condition. Has fragrant berry fruit and exotic spice aromas, with liquorice and charry oak underpinnings. Appealing for its moderate weight and smooth lingering tannins.

PETER FORRESTAL, *GOURMET TRAVELLER*, FEB/MARCH 2008

2006 Millbrook Viognier

I first came across this intense yet delicate and fine Viognier while judging at the 2007 Perth Hills Show, where it won the top award: the first time a white had won Wine of the Show in the 11-year history of the event (it beat the 2005 Millbrook Shiraz Viognier). This is delightfully aromatic with lavender and dried herb aromas, rich and concentrated dried apricot flavours, impressive weight and viscosity yet a vibrant core, tight structure, admirable finesse and a beguiling aftertaste.



PETER FORRESTAL, *SUNDAY TIMES MAGAZINE*, MARCH 2009

Best 40 wines produced in Western Australia

2007 Millbrook Viognier

Millbrook has played a major part in raising the profile of the Perth Hills with sublime viognier and velvety textured shiraz viognier. There are three different viogniers in the portfolio and while I love the creamy succulence of the Limited Release and the complexity of the Estate, I'm happy with this cheapie: subtle dried apricot flavours, purity of fruit and an attractive dry finish.

RAY JORDAN, *THE WEST AUSTRALIAN FRESH*, MARCH 2009

2007 Barking Owl Shiraz Viognier

Delicious and highly appealing blend of Shiraz and Viognier. Fleshy and ripe fruit with and exotic softness and plump middle. Spicy rich mulberry flavours with supportive tannins. **90/100**

RAY JORDAN, *THE WEST AUSTRALIAN FRESH*, JANUARY 2009

Great whites

2008 Barking Owl Semillon Sauvignon Blanc

This is a bracing fine and lean semillon-dominant blend. Fresh sprinkling of dried herbs over some nice lime and passionfruit aromas. Zippy crisp acid sustains a nice palate. Persistent and pleasant. **86/100**

PETER FORRESTAL, *SUNDAY TIMES MAGAZINE*, DECEMBER 2008

Top 100 summer wines

2008 Barking Owl Semillon Sauvignon Blanc

Peter and Lee Fogarty's Millbrook produces delicious quaffers under this second label. This is ripe, intensely tropical and balanced.

TONI PATERSON, *HOUSE AND GARDEN MAGAZINE*, DECEMBER 2008

Best of 2008

2008 Barking Owl Semillon Sauvignon Blanc

This is a tight and bright little number. Citrus, white peach and green apple fruits tantalise the senses.

PETER FORRESTAL, *SUNDAY TIMES MAGAZINE*, DECEMBER 2008

Top 100 summer wines

2007 Millbrook Viognier

Peter and Lee Fogarty's winery in the Perth Hills makes three excellent whites. This (the cheapie) is my favourite; pure, juicy and fine, thickly viscous, with a dry finish.

STUART MACGILL, *FMH MAGAZINE*, DECEMBER 2008

2007 Millbrook Estate Viognier

Some of you may have seen Viognier used as part of a blend with shiraz recently, but along with Yalumba which pioneered the variety in Australia, Millbrook is one of the few wineries that presents it successfully by itself. This grape variety is hard for non-experts like me to pin down. It's not sweet but fills my mouth, and it's not acidic but has a really clean finish. Probably one of the rare wines that manages to feel as good as it tastes.



JAMES HALLIDAY AUSTRALIAN WINE COMPANION, 2009 EDITION

2005 Millbrook Estate Shiraz Viognier

Strong purple-crimson; medium-to full-bodied with abundant black fruits, licorice, spice and tannins, the 5% viognier providing that special lift to the fruit profile; good length; will be long lived. **94/100**

GOURMET TRAVELLER WINE, NOV/DEC 2008

100 top new releases

2005 Millbrook Estate Shiraz Viognier ★★★★★

A surprising drop from an increasingly impressive winemaker. Ironstone, mineral aromas lead into a powerful, deep, concentrated palate which has super-ripe sweet fruit and serious structure. It's a wine of real substance, which justifies some cellaring. **94/100**

RAY JORDAN, THE WEST AUSTRALIAN FRESH, NOVEMBER 2008

Great whites 2008

2007 Millbrook Viognier

Plenty of intense viognier in here with smells of orange blossom and gingery spice. Typically exotic bouquet with a full ripe palate. Plenty of sweet ripe fruit characters with a touch of creaminess.