

HEADING FOR VICTOR

The Advertiser, 2001; Phillip White

Mt. Jagged Fleurieu Peninsula Shiraz 1997 – 87/100

There is a new winery born every 72hrs in Australia, so it should come as no surprise that Mt. Jagged has suddenly poked up 4km from the Goolwa turnoff on the main Victor Harbor Road. What is surprising is that the vineyard has been there since 1989. Jerry White now has some of his fruit vinified by the great Mike Farmilo, at Boar's Rock, and sells it from his new cellar door at the vineyard. This shiraz opens the batting: mellow, deep and plush, with pretty marshmallow sugar offsetting slightly sappy but largely subdued American wood. The fruit is strapping and slick, juicy and lip smacking, the finish long and supple. A very good start.

Mt Jagged Fleurieu Peninsula Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot 1997- 90/100

This is the real treat from the new stable. It's more Bordeaux than Fleurieu, but still shows the lovely softness of fruit that seems to mark the Fleurieu, and diminishes as you head north through it into the ranges where the wines gradually become harder and tougher. This wine is perfumed and delicately heady, with soft mushroom tones decorating the deep blackcurrant and blueberry of the blend. The palate's smooth and soft and offers an unusually supple and seductive drink, with no coarse intrusion from oak or added bits and pieces, such as the acid and tannin that's now shoveled into far too many wines by rote.