

## Commentary

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**HEADLINE:** Top 20//09

**AUTHOR:** Philip Rich

Australian largest wine companies are having a tough time, with outgoing chief executive of Constellation Wines, John Grant announcing that Australia had a wine surplus of 476 million litres. Constellation has made more than 300 jobs redundant and closed the Leasingham winery in the Clare Valley. It has also closed the Stonehaven winery and cellar door Padthaway. Foster's is also suffering after acquiring Southcorp for \$3.2 billion, and now plans to slash jobs and divest assets in Australia and the US. Much of the blame has been pointed to brands like Yellow Tail, which put in the minds of British and US drinkers that our wines were cut-rate and generic.

This year top 20 list includes wines from producer that have put in a lot of effort in focusing on what goes in the bottle, like Shaw+Smith and Hurley, Henschke Mount Edelstone, Domaine de Marcoux and SC Pannell.

This year's top 20 list includes

Delamere Chardonnay 2008, Tasmania

Hoddles Creek 1er Pinot Blanc, Yarra Valley

Paradise IV Chardonnay, Geelong

Bell Hill Chardonnay 2006, NZ

Domaine de Marcoux Chateauneuf du Pape, France

Altos Las Hormigas Malbec, Argentina

Saltram 1959 Vintage Rare Tawny

Pieropan Soave 2008, Italy

Henschke Mount Edelstone 2006, Eden Valley

SC Pannell Nebbiolo, Adelaide Hills

Peter Lehmann Stonewell 2004, Barossa Valley

Shaw+Smith Shiraz 2007, Adelaide Hills

Hurley Vineyard Garamond Pinot Noir 2007, Mornington Peninsula