

# The STM Guide: HotDrops

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**STM wine writer PETER FORRESTAL and beer writer ANDREW BENNETT go in search of WA's best drops for the third of our special 5th birthday guides.**

**The STM Guide: HotDrops** nominates the best 40 white and red wines produced in WA, and 15 of our best locally brewed beers. It also suggests five of the best wine bars and boutique pubs where you can go to try them.

**PETER FORRESTAL:** Here is my pick of the best 40 wines produced in Western Australia. Many have an international profile and the best of these are world-class wines. The criteria by which I judged these wines was, first, their quality then their track record over five or more vintages. A few exceptional wines have made the lists ahead of their time because I'm convinced they will still be among the state's best in years to come. Prices are for the latest vintage.

## **FABER RESERVE SHIRAZ, \$50**

At last, the Swan Valley has a table wine to match the seriousness of its fortifieds. Faber's John Griffiths uses his extensive experience of viticulture to take the premium patch from his 11-year-old family vineyard and fashions it into a powerful, richly concentrated, weighty shiraz.