

Uncorked

**Ralph
Kyte-Powell**

\$15
to
\$25



Howard Park Riesling 2000

\$20-\$22

It took Howard Park Riesling only a few years to become an Australian classic – amazing given that these southern vineyards of Western Australia are still in their infancy. The 2000 edition is right in style: exotic, tropical lime fruit of juicy appeal on the nose, and an austere citrus-flavored palate, which is clean, minerally and dry with lemon-like acidity.

Ageing? yes, needs two years at least, could well improve for 10.

Food ideas: grilled fish.

Available: Vintage Cellars stores; Boccaccio, Balwyn and Newmarket; Philip Murphy stores.



The ratings

- ★★★★ A superb example, a near-perfect wine of great character, worthy of the big occasion and the best company.
- ★★★★+ First-class, a wine of distinction not far below the top rating.
- ★★★★ A very good wine of real style and personality.
- ★★★+ Good quality, a cut above average.
- ★★★ A sound, agreeable wine without faults or nasty habits.
- \$\$\$ A wine with a price tag that makes it a steal. It might easily sell for double, so buy up big.
- \$\$ Fair value, a reasonable price relative to the wine's quality.
- \$ Although relative value is a personal thing, this wine's price tag really stretches things.

Indulge
yourself

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drops

Jeni Port

Howard Park riesling is a top Aussie riesling style but wine maker Michael Kerrigan knows he's not going to be selling much in the United States following a tasting there. The tasting was at the home of a wealthy Massachusetts businessman who wanted it held in his barn in order to show off his prized possessions: a collection of fine cars and his prize-winning bull.

"The riesling went down like a lead balloon," recalls Kerrigan. "I got up to talk about the wine but all you could smell was mulched hay and then, you know, some bull artefacts," he says, trying not to put too fine a point on the smell arising from the bull-pen.

"Those characters are OK in a Burgundy pinot but not in riesling," adds Kerrigan.

The Americans don't know what they are missing. An excellent mineral-edged Howard Park 2000 riesling (\$18) is due for release around the end of the year.