



Ten of the best new wineries

Each one of these wineries making its debut in the *Wine Companion* has earned a five-star rating. They are thus the leaders of the 94 new wineries in this edition, although a number of other first-up wineries also achieved five stars. The ultimate selection criteria included the number of wines earning 94 points or above, and also value for money.

ELDORADO ROAD North East Victoria Zone / PAGE 248

This is a busman's holiday for Bailey's winemaker Paul Dahlenburg (nicknamed Bear); in a win-win scenario, he has leased a paddock with 2ha of shiraz planted in the 1890s. The owners were not able to look after the vines, and were happy that Paul and family would do so. Four years of rehabilitating the old vines has paid an appropriate dividend, and the family has also planted a small area of nero d'Avola and durif. In the meantime they are purchasing small quantities of nero d'Avola and durif.

Australian Wine Companion 2014 249



Eldorado Road

★★★★★

1317 Eldorado Road, Eldorado, Vic 3678 (postal) **Region** North East Victoria Zone
T (03) 5725 1698 www.eldoradoroad.com.au **Open** Not

Winemaker Paul Dahlenburg, Loretta Schulz **Est.** 2010 **Dozens** 215

Paul Dahlenburg (nicknamed Bear), Loretta Schulz (Laurie) and their children have leased a 2ha block of shiraz planted in the 1890s with rootlings supplied from France (doubtless grafted) in the wake of phylloxera's devastation of the Glenrowan and Rutherglen plantings. Francois de Castella (head of the Department of Agriculture) was foremost in the importation, but Lindemans (and one other) were also involved. Bear and Laurie knew about the origins of the vineyard, which was in a state of serious decline after years of neglect. The owners of the vineyard were aware of its historic importance, and, while unwilling or unable to look after the vineyard themselves, were more than happy to lease it. Four years of tireless work in the vineyard, reconstructing the old vines, has finally resulted in tiny amounts of exceptionally good Shiraz. They have also planted a small area of nero d'Avola and durif. In the meantime they are purchasing small amounts of nero d'Avola from Glenrowan and durif from Rutherglen, allowing the release of tiny quantities of three wines.



Persévérance Old Vine Shiraz 2010 One of the inspired decisions was the picking date, investing the wine with effortless balance in the wake of open fermentation and basket-pressing, the mix of one new French oak barrel, one used, more of the same. Don't be fooled into drinking it today or tomorrow just because it is so delicious now. Screwcap. 13% alc. **Rating** 96 To 2030 \$60

Onyx Durif 2010 Deep, dense purple-crimson; from a single mature vineyard in Rutherglen, it is a wine in heroic style, built for heroic customers. It has all but dismissed the new and used French oak in which it was matured, and simply needs time for the tumult to die down, and for its black fruits to relax – as they will. Screwcap. 14.5% alc. **Rating** 94 To 2025 \$35



Quasimodo Shiraz Durif Nero d'Avola 2010 **Rating** 93 To 2023 \$28