

James Halliday

Australian Wine Companion

Winery

Pokolbin Estate

ADDRESS [McDonalds Road, Pokolbin, NSW 2321](#)
REGION Lower Hunter Valley
TELEPHONE (02) 4998 7524
WEBSITE www.pokolbinestate.com.au
OPEN 7 days 9-5
WINEMAKER Andrew Thomas (Contract)
ESTABLISHED 1980
CASE \$3500

If you go to the lengths that Pokolbin Estate has done to hide its light under a bushel, you end up with something like seven vintages of Semillon, six of Riesling, eight of Shiraz, three of Tempranillo, three each of Nebbiolo and Sangiovese and sundry other wines adding up to more than 40 in total. Between 1998 and 2000 Neil McGuigan and Gary Reid shared the winemaking tasks; since '01 Andrew Thomas has skilfully made the wines from vineyards planted between 1960 and the early '70s.

JAMES HALLIDAY TASTING NOTES



Reserve Hunter Valley Shiraz 2007

Deep colour; a seriously good Hunter shiraz that is absolutely certain to age wonderfully well for 40 years or more; it has a deep well of varietal fruit, great texture and structure, and even better line and length. Screwcap.

14.4% alc. **Rating 97 Drink 2047 \$50 Date Tasted Dec 09**

Ken Bray Hunter Valley Semillon 2009

Yet another semillon to underline what a great vintage it was for the Hunter, a riesling cross-dresser with its delicious citrus flavour and long finish. Now or in 15 years. Screwcap.

11% alc. **Rating 96 Drink 2024 \$25 Date Tasted Dec 09**

Phil Swannell Hunter Valley Semillon 2009

A delicious semillon, lighter and crisper than the Ken Bray, albeit with less fruit intensity; grass and mineral notes accompany some citrus. Definitely a wine for the cellar. Screwcap.

11% alc. **Rating 95 Drink 2024 \$25 Date Tasted Dec 09**



Belebula Hunter Valley Sangiovese 2007

Excellent colour; no-holds-barred sour cherry varietal character on both the bouquet and remarkably intense and long palate. Great Italian food red. Screwcap.

13.9% alc. **Rating 93 Drink 2015 \$22 Date Tasted Dec 09**