

# Cellar Talk

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*From the time Jeff Dewar established Willow Bridge in the picturesque Ferguson Valley, he sought to do things right. The site has proved an excellent choice and is suited to several varieties. He also has the advantage of engaging excellent winemakers, each of whom has put their individual stamp on the wines as the vineyard has matured over the 23 years since it was planted back in 1997.*

*Kim Horton the current winemaker, is armed with a mature vineyard that continues to be tweaked in the pursuit of even better fruit is putting his own touch to the wine. In general, this is about dialing back the oak and other winemaking influences to achieve wines that are both expressive and refined.*

*I have chosen just three this week covering three price points, and each is excellent value. **Ray Jordan***



## Willow Bridge Estate GSM 2019 (\$22)

This is terrific. It has real Grenache confectionary character. The raspberry jubey and confectionary character is evident on the nose. Terrific balance and poise showcasing the qualities of Grenache. It is poised, medium-bodied and gets no new oak. Soft and fleshy with a round, soft palate. Like the grainy mouthfeel.

93/100



## Willow Bridge Estate Dragonfly Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot 2019 (\$17)

Vibrant and lively with beautiful red fruits. Tough year for cabernet and yet the varietal aromatics are very good. Quite perfumed and more in the red fruit spectrum. Has more mulberry characters than black currant. It is about 80/20 mix. The tannin structure is good and there is good impact in the middle palate. Gets between 10 and 15 per cent new oak. The tannin is quite important here. Excellent for this price.

91/100



## Willow Bridge Estate Bookends Fume Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2019 (\$24)

Gets about eight weeks in barrel and some of it new. Stays in tank for six months and then bottled. You can see the oak here, yet it is well managed. Has retained its mineral crunchy mouthfeel. It is a more restrained fume style with the oak playing a role, but it has a fresh vibrancy and purity about it. Appealing wine with some ageing potential. The grass savvy is evident and the lemon Semillon then backs it up.

93/100