

RECOMMENDED NEW RELEASES: AUSTRALIA

Giaconda

Giaconda Nantua Vineyard Chardonnay	2005	Victoria	93
Giaconda Estate Vineyard Chardonnay	2004	Victoria	96
Giaconda Aeolia Roussanne	2005	Victoria	93
Giaconda 'Warner Vineyard' Shiraz	2004	Victoria	93+

I can't say enough about winemaker Rick Kinzbrunner's efforts at this winery, which is one of Victoria's reference point estates. Concentrating on just a few wines, Giaconda produces stunning, individualistic cuvees that combine classic French winemaking with beautiful Australian fruit. They all possess good aging potential, especially the top Chardonnay and Shiraz. The brilliant **2005 Chardonnay Nantua Vineyard** includes approximately 7% Roussanne. It was aged in 30% new oak, and saw 100% malolactic fermentation. The result is an exotic bouquet of rose water interwoven with tropical fruit, lemon oil, peach, and apricots. Rich with good acidity, well-integrated wood, and a blockbuster finish, this impressive Chardonnay should drink well for 2-3 years. One of the finest Australian Chardonnays I have ever tasted is Giaconda's **2004 Chardonnay Estate Vineyard**. Aged 18 months in French oak (50% new, 100% Sirugue barrels), it tastes like a grand cru from Puligny-Montrachet. Steely

lemon oil, popcorn, buttered hazelnut, and subtle smoke scents emerge from the glass of this intense, full-bodied Chardonnay that is bursting with character and soul. This amazing effort must be tasted to be believed. My favorite example of Australian Roussanne is Giaconda's Aeolia. The **2005 Roussanne Aeolia's** stunning perfume smells like a flower garden in full bloom. The floral component is backed up by notes of honeysuckle and rich tropical fruit. Long, heady, intense, and juicy, this succulent wine sees about 10-15% new oak, and spends 11 months in barrel before bottling. Drink it over the next several years. Lastly, the dark ruby/purple-tinged **2004 Shiraz Warner Vineyard** (98% Shiraz and 2% Roussanne) exhibits beautiful blackberry fruit intermixed with hints of graphite, smoked herbs, tapenade, and spicy vanillin. Medium to full-bodied, elegant, and backward, this impressive offering spent 20 months in barrel (60% new French), and it should age nicely for 7-10 years.

