



The NSW Central Ranges cover such a large and climatically diverse area that its wines vary widely. Cowra is warm, low and flat in comparison with the other two sub-regions, Orange and Mudgee. Orange is a high-altitude, cool district making exciting whites, while Mudgee is more suited to reds. Overall, shiraz seems to be the Central Ranges' key red, while chardonnay leads the whites. In the cooler parts, shiraz can be finely crafted, offer good dark fruit flavours and finish with impressive intensity – very different to the Barossa-style blockbusters. It may not be easy to pigeonhole Central Ranges wines, but that doesn't mean that they're not worth a look.



1. Windowrie The Mill Verdelho 2009

Some tropical notes, melon, orange rind and fig. Good flavours for a typical verdelho. Finishes with a touch of crunchy acidity. **[87/100]**

2. Wallington Petit Verdot 2004 Spice, smoked meat and herbal notes in a briary style with a firm finish. Bright, youthful fruit. **[88]**

3. Swinging Bridge Shiraz 2008 Lean albeit muscular structure with notes of liquorice, dark berries and mixed spices. Good acidity. **[89]**

4. Rosnay Sparkling Rosé 2009 A biodynamic producer making fizz from a blend of shiraz and mourvèdre. Red berry perfume, fresh and frivolous. Drink chilled. **[87]**