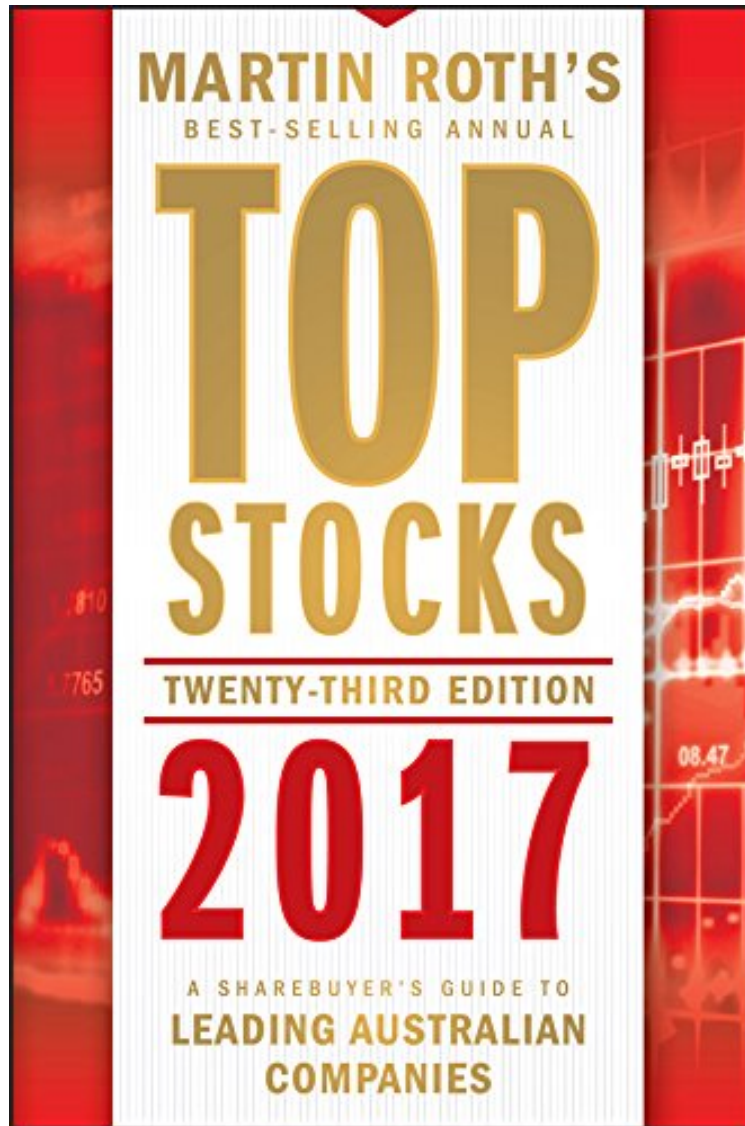


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# Top Stocks 2017: A Sharebuyer's Guide to Leading Australian Companies

*Martin Roth*

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James N Simpson Easily the best of all the books out there on investing in companies listed on the Australian Stock Exchange. I buy this every year (it is tax deductible against dividend income), and there's always a few companies that it steers me in the direction of looking at. A few that were in previous years that don't make the list I look at as well. I do buy shares in companies that aren't in this book but I find this is a good tool to find new ideas of who to look at that I wouldn't have otherwise. Although he does list the current share price at the time of publication which although the title is Top Stocks 2017 was actually October 2016. This means Top Stocks 2017 is a bit out of date the longer you move away from that publication date. There are graphs showing the price of a share over a twelve month cycle so you can see at a glance if a share is trading at a price below its average. If there doesn't seem to be a valid reason for the price being lower and therefore it's likely to return to or above the average I do further research. You still need to do a bit of research with current announcements and stuff like this to make sure you're not buying something that has suddenly turned bad but this book provides some great suggestions. There are 90 companies listed in the 2017 edition (there were 94 last year). Twenty companies that made the cut last year didn't make the 2017 edition. This was due to being acquired by other companies, no longer paying dividends, or their debt-equity ratio rose above 70 percent. There are 16 companies that weren't in the 2016 edition that are in this one. Martin Roth hasn't based selection of stock in this book on percentage of money you get back in dividends (although one of his criteria to make the cut is that the company must pay a dividend), instead Roth uses a set of strict criteria to analyse all the companies on the stock exchange, such as debt level, benchmarks of profitability and other stuff your average guy in the street probably doesn't fully understand or even understand at all. Share price of each company is irrelevant to a company being listed here, as it should be since they often go up and down dramatically throughout a year.

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