## Tasted

## Philip White



Unibroue Maudite 94 points 8 per cent alcohol; crown seal \$6 (341ml)

From this infamously quirky Quebec brewer comes another powerful bowl of dark suds that'll be best taken with a few slices of aged parmesan and dried figs. It smells like a sack of malted barley that's got wet on the cart on a muddy medieval lane, with sacks of prunes and walnuts there as well. It's slender of texture for its considerably warming alcohol, and finishes long and slow, with deliciously pert tannins.

For outlets, call 8363 7881



Jeanneret Clare
Valley Riesling 2004
94 points
11.5 per cent alcohol;
screw cap
\$18

After Brian Barry's immaculate 2004, here's my favourite Clare riesling from this year. The two styles will age majestically together. This one's more Germanic than Brian's, vibrantly fruity with lychee, longan, rambutan and lime, all simmering away as if they were in a salad. It's alarmingly fresh, with healthy natural acidity. Perfect for Thai salads and seafood, even with lots of ginger and chilli. For outlets, call 0419 476 543.

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Scorpo Mornington Peninsula Rosé 2004 93 points 13.5 per cent alcohol; cork \$26

Made from the best Mornington pinot fermented in French oak barriques, this lush, scrumptious rosé is miles ahead of the current crop of sweet and sour cabernet jobbies. It oozes roses and raspberry, with that unique cashew nuttiness that comes from the marriage of pinot and good oak. Its juicy middle tapers off neatly to a long finish of extremely fine, dry tannins, ideal for lighter Mediterranean grills and salads.

For outlets, call 0412 250 700



Cullen Diana Madeline Margaret River 2002 94 points 13 per cent alcohol; screw cap \$55

Vanya Cullen grew this cabemet sauvignon/ merlot/petit verdot biodynamically, preserved its immaculate natural freshness with a nice, 18-month snooze in new and aged French barrels and then named it after her dear winemaking mum, who has left us to fend for ourselves. Violets, marshmallow, lavender and musk are just the intro notes to this veritable well of luxury. It's ravishing. Soft cheeses, please. For outlets, check www.cullenwines.com.au