

WINE LESSON 123

The colour of red wine is important

When tasting wine "blind" (without knowing its identity), look at the colour of the wine by holding the glass against a white background. The hue, intensity and clarity of the wine will give clues as to the age and grape variety. The skin of the grape contains pigment, and smaller berries, with a higher ratio of skin to pulp, give a darker colour. Cabernet sauvignon, for example, has deep colours and a young one will usually be an opaque purplish-red colour; whereas pinot noir has less pigment and tends to be a lighter red than cabernet. As reds age, the colour fades to become a tawny brown. After swirling a wine, a clear film will appear on the sides of a glass, known as the "legs" and the greater its viscosity, the more alcohol in the wine. *Sally Gudgeon*

Taylor's Cabernet Sauvignon 2004, \$17

This vibrant, juicy cabernet from the Clare Valley is a deep reddish-purple colour, with aromas of dark berry fruits and spice, which carry through onto the palate. Match it with braised oxtail.



Moorooduc Estate Shiraz 2004, \$28

One of the best shirazes from the Mornington Peninsula. It's a dark red and smells of black pepper, mulberries and plums. It's elegant with supple tannins. Try it with Greek lamb.



Scorpo Noirien 2006, \$26

"Noirien" is a synonym for pinot noir in Burgundy. This pinot from the Mornington Peninsula is a clear bright garnet colour and has a perfume of dark cherries. It's dry and savoury. Serve it with wok-seared tuna.

