



TASTE

FOOD

& WINE

2008

choose the right wine
every time

Review No.4

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TYSON STELZER

don't attempt this wine without the finest cuisine, otherwise you will let yourself and Gembrook Hill down. Australia is not necessarily known for its world-class Sauvignons, but it only feels natural for us to talk about the great wines of Chavignol (Sancerre, France) and Gembrook in the same breath.

\$33 Dog Point Section 94 Sauvignon Blanc 2005

This is – literally – one of the most technical and cleverly worked wines in the world. With a completely different shape to the standard wine (above), there is an awful lot more weight and power behind its seemingly innocent veneer. You must ensure that you provide the correct backdrop, food-wise, for the sheer, unexpected impact that Section 94 brings to the party. Its spicy, waxy, beautifully polished hazelnut and walnut cream flavours demand heady cuisine like veal chops with wild mushrooms, roast chicken with farragon and even serious cheese soufflé.

\$35 Pegasus Bay Riesling 2006

Pegasaurus Riesling is made in a softly sweet style, with raspberry nipple fruit and red apple skin flavours. The 2006 is slightly drier than the 2005. Matt and Lynette have hit just the right balance this year. The fruit spills over the top of the glass – a little like the captivating Lynette.

Marlborough,
New Zealand

Cork

AU: CBD Era
Kem NSC
PWS SMWM
Star

NZ: Allan
Casa Muns
MV PV RWM
RWS SC
Seek VFC
WTCO

Canterbury,
NZ

Screw Cap
NZ\$25

AU: CBD Era
GPO Kem
Sum

NZ: Allan
Casa FGWS
Hills Muns
MV MWLM
RWS SC TWF
VFC WTCO



Petaluma Viognier 2006

\$36

Adelaide
Hills

Screw Cap

AU: Bóc
CBD Ed Kem
McG PWS
SMWM Star
VCs

You're in the eye of the storm when you put this wine in your mouth, but if you take a step sideways you are suddenly in the middle of mayhem, with a chaotic maelstrom of flavour surrounding you. This is the best Viognier that Petaluma has ever made. There is now a rival to the Yalumba Viognier crown (it took a while!) and the honour goes to those hairy surfer dudes and dudettes at the Academy otherwise known as Petaluma. This Viagra is splendid, with layered, crunchy-peach and sweet spice notes, and it ties down its apparent lushness with mighty guy-ropes of minerality. This could challenge all the nose-bleedingly expensive Viogniers from Condrieu, this grape's spiritual home in the Northern Rhône in France.

Mornington
Peninsula

Cork

AU: CBD Era
NSC VCs
WLC

Scorpo Wines Merricks North Pinot Gris 2006

\$36

This is the best Australian Pinot Gris we have tasted in this or any other year – TS + MJ.

Pinot Gris/Pinot Grigio/Tokay-Pinot Gris (Pee-no Gree/Pee-no Gridge-ee-oh/Tock-eye Pee-no Gree) is the flavour of the moment in Oz. It falls somewhere between Pinot Blanc and Gewürztraminer on the taste scale, with its distinctive nose of spice, fruit and honey. The palate can vary from light, fresh pear juice to oily and dizzyingly alcoholic. It doesn't have the rose-petal, perfumed element or the sweet notes of Gewürz.

its release dates that it's still hanging around on the shelves, and we still more than adore its jagged acidity and plush orange zest fruit. Belinda Thomson takes care of this grand vineyard, and kindly gave us a 2007 vintage report. In short, with the expletives deleted, the severe frosts decimated the crop, so there will be very little wine to go around. You'll just have to buy more 2006 and drink it over another year instead. Life's tough these days in all walks of life – but it's ever so good with a glass of this in you.

\$31 Leeuwin Estate Prelude
Margaret River
Chardonnay 2006

You might be forgiven for thinking of Prelude as a "poor-man's Art Series" (read on) but in fact it's a good deal more than half the wine for a third of the price. Save the big boy for the next time you're entertaining royalty (or tricky in-laws), or finish the bottle in the kitchen before your guests arrive (hee hee) and then serve Prelude when they rock up. Either way, bathe yourself in this stunning wine's grapefruit blossom, fresh lemons and mellifluous texture.

\$31 Scorpo Aubaine
Mornington Peninsula
Chardonnay 2006

It is our great pleasure to introduce Scorpo Aubaine. This is probably your

Western
Australia

Screw Cap

AU: Aus CBD
Chalk DMs
EEC Kem
McG SMWM
Star

NZ: Allan
RWS VFC

Mornington
Peninsula

Cork

AU: 1st CBD
EEC NSC
VCs



first acquaintance with this delightful Chardonnay, but as soon as you learn of the company it keeps, you'll be getting along like old friends. Scorpo is the child of Sandro Moselle, whom you got jiggy with when no less than six of his Kooyong wines rocketed into our inaugural edition. If you're anything like us, you've been busy getting well-oiled with his wines ever since! We now feel that you're ready for a deeper relationship with something a little more intellectual. Aubaine is a complex wine that you'll need to sit down and think about for a while. But don't worry, there are some nice footholds and handholds of familiar flavours that you'll find as you climb up its body. It will also taste like something completely different every time you turn around, but you'll love every facet of its enigmatic personality.

Gembrook Hill Yarra
Valley Sauvignon Blanc
2005

\$32

Yarra Valley

Screw Cap

www.gembrookhill.com.au

AU: PWS VCs

Is this Australia's finest Sauvignon? It all depends on your own personal taste, of course, but there is no question that this is an incredible wine by any standard. Heroic concentration and a power pack of flavour signal a youthful wine which is just starting out on its five year trek. It has a prickle of acidity and energy that sends a shiver through your body, leaving you feeling exhausted and ravished in one swift move. Please