KEEP AN EYE ON THESE

Pinot gris

The hot favourite this summer, but style still tends to be all over the place. Go with strong performers such as Shadowfax, Scorpo, Redbank Sunday Morning, T'Gallant, Delatite and Spy Valley (NZ).

Pinot grigio

Not as well placed as its sister pinot gris but actually a better summer wine, especially in the hands of T'Gallant, Yarra Ridge, Brown Brothers, Scotchmans Hill and Italians such as Bortoluzzi.

Viognier

Enjoys the patronage of such passionate believers as Petaluma and Yalumba, which might just get it over the line. Problems with flabby wines and pronunciation of the name continue to hold it back. Producers such as Tahbilk getting on board will help.



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Sangiovese

After all the talk, this Italian variety is finally getting the runs on the board with consistent and savoury performances from Dal Zotto, Chrismont, Castagna, Neagles Rock, Crittenden and Hamiltons Bluff (plus others).

Tempranillo

Early offerings look most promising indeed, but numbers are still low and wines generally hard to find. Exciting newcomers such as Mount Majura, Cascabel and Pondalowie offer hope for the future.

Cabernet sauvignon

Hasn't enjoyed the winner's circle for some time, which means it might just be ready for another star turn, with great performers including Penfolds Bin 407, De Bortoli Yarra Valley and Majella.



Featuring at long odds, but with potential winners such as Mount Horrocks, Kilikanoon, Brokenwood and Moss Wood, might just cause an upset. If a wine deserves underdog status, it's semillon.

