



Scorpo Shiraz (\$31): A brand new producer, and one of the reasons why the reputation of the Mornington Peninsula is so significantly on the rise. This shiraz is in the spicy, meaty, elegant mould and, even better, it leads the way for a seriously impressive new range of wines that includes pinot noir, pinot gris and chardonnay. Phone (03) 9813 3312.

Main Ridge Estate Half Acre Pinot Noir (\$48): In good years, this battles Paringa pinot for the mantle of the Peninsula's best wine: it's tight, restrained, ageworthy and beautifully structured, with sour cherry and cedary spice its hallmarks. Since 1995 it's been made using wild yeast fermentation, and while the effect isn't obvious, it is part of the wine's magical complexity. Phone (03) 5989 2686.

Main Ridge Estate Chardonnay (\$44): Nat White is the ultimate specialist, picking over a tiny vineyard planted almost entirely to chardonnay and pinot noir (there are a couple of rows of merlot). Both are of exceptional quality. The chardonnay is made to age, with fruity, citrusy flavours strapped down by a belt of yeasty savouriness – hot vintages age quicker, but the best examples can reward 10 years' cellaring. Phone (03) 5989 2686.

Kooyong Chardonnay (\$38): Newcomer to the area with serious intentions – evidenced in the wines themselves. The pinot shows great promise but the chardonnay is the goods: it's a strong, powerful, fruit-strapped wine with searing length and just enough playmaking in the winery to keep it interesting. Phone (03) 5989 7355.

Eldridge Estate Pinot Noir (\$34): A soft, supple wine that in good years builds both power and focus into a style that is excellent drinking from the outset. Characterised by juicy acidity and plummy fruit depth, it deserves better recognition. Phone (03) 5989 2644.

T'Gallant Tribute Pinot Gris (\$30): Full-throttle, hedonistic wine that's ripe and glycerol yet tangy, almost salty. It's a wine that occupies a unique place in the Australian wine scene; our sphere of wines would be lesser without it. Phone (03) 5989 6565.

BEST CELLAR DOORS

Tuck's Ridge: A spectacular outlook. Peer out the front window and be confronted by a landscape that cuts down into a deep valley before rearing back up towards the horizon – all covered in vineyards. It's a great place to taste and to drink chardonnay, consistently the winery's best wine. 37 Shoreham Rd, Red Hill South. Phone (03) 5989 8660.

Stonier: Home to some of the Peninsula's best wines, the Stonier cellar door is one of the most family-friendly (there's an outside play and equipment area) and roomy, with a long tasting bench and vines that reach up near the windows. 362 Frankston-Flinders Rd, Merricks. Phone (03) 5989 8300.

Moorooduc Estate: Only open at weekends, but it's worth arranging your schedule around. Terrific, complex chardonnay and