



REVIEWS by Tony Love



CRISP TASTE
\$15 Primo Estate 2010
 La Biondina
 Adelaide GI, SA
www.primoestate.com.au

The story: A perennial summer favourite released midwinter to seep into our seasonal imagination, this colombaro took up to nearly 10 per cent sauvignon blanc added a few years back. Now it's back to a few dollops at less than 2 per cent and is looking pure and simple again.

The flavour: Lemon zest and flowers mingle with more tropical wafts – almost savvy-like passionfruit and pineapple. An engaging crisp palate tension between fresh fruit acidity and sweetness, leaning perhaps to the latter.

RATING: ★★★★★☆
 VALUE: **Good**
 VERDICT: **Sunny**



PERFECT BALANCE
\$24 Shelmerdine
 2009 Sauvignon
 Blanc
 Yarra Valley, Vic
www.shelmerdine.com.au

The story: We all know the pulling power of this variety, and a few dedicated producers are looking to lift its style and substance with wild yeast ferments and barrel maturation – this one is one of the best examples going around.

The flavour: Feel like you've entered the tropics with wild, rich, ripe fruits – kiwifruit, pineapples in the bowl. As well there's a whiff of some expected herbals, but not green and harsh, and lots of palate interest with an astounding finish.

RATING: ★★★★★
 VALUE: **Excellent**
 VERDICT: **Big, gutsy savvy**



CREAMY FLAVOUR
\$30 Forester 2008
 Chardonnay
 Margaret River, WA
www.foresterestate.com.au

The story: Grown and nurtured by a small and smart business group that consistently punches above its weight in wine terms, this winery is based in the northern end of the region that attracted plenty of attention for this variety - here's another worth noting.

The flavour: A lovely innocent fruit style with the most subtle barrel influence – stone fruits with cashew nut creaminess – and no overbalancing. It works a treat without too much winemaking getting in the way.

RATING: ★★★★★☆
 VALUE: **Pretty honest**
 VERDICT: **Easy going, friendly**



SMART BLEND
\$23 Turkey Flat 2010
 Rosé
 Barossa Valley, SA
www.turkeyflat.com.au

The flavour: Always of interest, this rosé combines 54 per cent grenache, 28 per cent shiraz, 12 per cent cabernet and this year 6 per cent dolcetto, the final tweaking creating a smart pinkie that comes into its own with nibbles and tapas-like bits as well as smallgoods platters.

The flavour: There's an intriguing herbal edge to the aromas that immediately engages the senses, though in the end it's a fun, red fruit slurper with a touch of grenache spice to finish with an adult lift.

RATING: ★★★☆☆
 VALUE: **Smart package**
 VERDICT: **Bring on spring**



taste com.au

THE WINE LOVER'S SHOPPING LIST

WHITES
 Primo Estate 2010 La Biondina, \$15
 Shelmerdine 2009 Sauvignon Blanc, \$24
 Forester 2008 Chardonnay, \$30

REDS
 Turkey Flat 2010 Rose, \$23
 Yellowtail 2009 Merlot, \$10
 Krinklewood 2008 Wild Red, \$16
 d'Arenberg 2007 d'Arry's Original, \$19



NEAT AND FRIENDLY
\$10 Yellowtail 2009 Merlot
 Australia (various)/ Riverina-based
www.yellowtailwine.com

The story: Yellow tail might be the Riverina mega-factory pouring millions of litres at American cookouts, but its latest batch of '09 reds including cab sav and shiraz are all neatly made for right now party drinking.
The flavour: Just right blue to purple fruits, plum and a touch of chocolate, friendly weak tea-like tannins, reasonable palate presence, sweet without being excessive. Everything in place as a tidy budget style.

RATING: ★★★☆☆
 VALUE: **Right**
 VERDICT: **Easy and accessible**



ON THE WILD SIDE
\$16 Krinklewood 2008 Wild Red
 Hunter Valley, NSW
www.krinklewood.com

The story: Krinklewood is a biodynamic producer from the lower Hunter, off to the west in a distinctive geographic/ climatic set-up to the heart of the region. The Wild Red is a starter style shiraz, but still has plenty of winemaking packed into it for a rustic Euro style.
The flavour: Bright, vibrant ruby colours and similar fruit vitality to follow. Spicy oak in the background, delicate, medium-bodied structure with lovely red currant and raspberry fruit flavours.

RATING: ★★★★★
 VALUE: **Brilliant**
 VERDICT: **Incredibly slurpy**



SO EASY DOES IT
\$19 d'Arenberg 2007 d'Arry's Original
 McLaren Vale, SA
www.darenberg.com.au

The story: Essentially following the same varietal mix of shiraz and grenache from well-known and well-read vineyards that have made this wine for decades – still terrific with a friendliness and ease not overworked showing plenty of power and presence.
The flavour: Nice, generous fragrance – all grape and berry juiciness, fresh and tasty, with good grip in mouth for plenty of food styles – winter braises to Japanese grilled steaks. Just good, honest red wine pleasure.

RATING: ★★★☆☆
 VALUE: **All good**
 VERDICT: **Dependable**