

'In no other country do we encounter such a range of diversity, innovation and the ability to deliver across such an extreme range of price points'.

Enjoy the wines.



WHITE WINES

Crisp & Fresh Whites

2008 Cullen, Semillon / Sauvignon Blanc, Mangan Vineyard, Margaret River

Still in its infancy, but it has to be said, looking ravishing already, this is one of the most immediately appealing Cullen whites we have seen in years. The deportment and build quality on show in this wine are breathtaking and you could safely let it develop for another three years in the bottle, allowing this diva to perform at her peak.

Succulent & Aromatic Whites

2008 Plantagenet, Riesling, Great Southern

The WA Riesling revival is in full swing this year and Plantagenet, a newcomer to The 100, is perhaps, on one level, a square peg in a round hole. (However that is our problem, not the wine's!) Taste it again and appreciate the angular, cool, mineral-driven nature of this wine and see just how appealing it could be to the greater public. The responsibility might fall to producers like this to introduce Riesling to its true, new audience rather than relying on the more famous Clare and Eden Valleys.

2008 Grosset, Springvale Watervale Riesling, Clare Valley

Another Watervale wine, and this time from the guru himself! Jeff's 08s are all delicious but the wine to buy must be this one, on account of its extraordinary line and length. I am always amazed at just how much passion and craftsmanship goes into these wines and in the greater scheme of things, they are still woefully underpriced.

Rich & Structured Whites

2006 Cullen, Kevin John Chardonnay, Margaret River

Is this a perfect wine - by that, we mean a true 20/20? If it is not it's bloody close because on the ten or so times that Q and I have tasted this wine we have stared goggle-eyed in amazement at each other because of the sheer glory in the glass. Cullen Chardonnay has always been a serious wine, but Kevin John will now be spoken about in the same breath as Leeuwin, Giaconda and Yattarna.

ROSÉ WINES

2008 Charles Melton, Rose of Virginia, Barossa Valley

Always the biggest, richest, most ostentatious and indomitable of our rosé collective, Virginia is a force to be reckoned with and with this in mind choose your recipe wisely and you will enthrall your guests with your culinary acumen. Sweet and sour, hot and spicy, smoked or curried, bring it on because Virginia has got it all - she's a whole lotta rosé.

RED WINES

Weird And Wonderful

2006 Willunga 100, Cabernet / Shiraz, McLaren Vale

This happy-go-lucky wine has no pretensions whatsoever to greatness and so it carries on its way oblivious to the fact that it is winning admirers left, right and centre. This endearing quality has won us over too, with the spice and fruit partnership working its magic in every glass. If only life was as joyous and worry free as Willunga 100!

Shiraz, Grenache, Mourvèdre

2007 Mitolo, Jester Shiraz, McLaren Vale

Jester Shiraz has so much swagger and panache in '07 it is frankly baffling. For an everyday price you can experience an extraordinarily well-honed red with valid delusions of grandeur, because this wine is made from the off-cuts of the likes of Savitar and GAM and it damn well tastes like it, too.

2006 S.C. Pannell, Shiraz / Grenache, McLaren Vale

Steve Pannell mentors his McLaren Vale Grenache sagely, encouraging it to perform at the highest level in his wines. For that reason his blend makes the cut this year over his straight Shiraz. Both wines are showstoppers, but this renegade variety is entranced by Steve's calming influence, making this wine a truly wondrous treat.

2007 Clonakilla, O'Riada Shiraz, Canberra District

One step down from the premium offerings at Clonakilla is this inspirational new wine. What is rather exciting about O'Riada is that I have always 'pointed' it the same as the great Shiraz / Viognier, because the flair and integrity for which this estate is world famous is in evidence in every sip.

SWEET WINES

2008 Mount Horrocks, Cordon Cut Riesling, Clare Valley

Steff can do no wrong as she pulls up her cosy chair to our 100 Best every year. This is Australia's finest sweet Riesling and I wish that there were more besides, but I'm not losing too much sleep, because this sweetie is so heavenly.