

Our panel – Max Allen, Peter Bourne, Bob Campbell MW, Peter Forrestal, Huon Hooke and Jeremy Oliver – recommend great-value wines from home and further afield.

\$20 AND UNDER



2008 Over the Shoulder Pinot Grigio, Yarra Valley, A\$19.50/NZ\$25

Although winemakers around the country still struggle to find the right grigio groove, Dave Bicknell at Oakridge has absolutely nailed it with this well-priced Yarra example. Not much to smell (suggestions of white grapes and some creamy lees), it saves its impact for the mouth, with steely acidity, ground-up limestone and assertive, lingering minerality. Exactly the kind of bracing white you want to have in the ice bucket to go with your charcoal-grilled, lemon-drizzled sardines. MA



2008 Belgravia Gewürztraminer, Orange, A\$20

At its best, and this is all too rare in Australia, gewürztraminer combines riotous beguiling fragrance with lush viscosity and alluring flavour. Ultra cool is good for the variety so it's not surprising to see excellent examples from Tassie and Orange. Belgravia has an impressive, sizeable vineyard near Orange, a stunning 'cellar door' at the Union Bank in town, and a classy, well-priced chardonnay. The 2008 Gewürztraminer has bright honeysuckle aromas, rose petal flavours and a refreshing, dry-ish finish. PF



2006 Heartland Shiraz, Langhorne Creek, A\$18/NZ\$21

Ben Glaetzer is a busy boy, with his family label (his father, Colin, is a Barossa winemaking legend) and projects such as the Heartland brand. The fruit is sourced from mature Limestone Coast and Langhorne Creek vineyards and it's up to Ben to do the rest. The result is fantastic in terms of quality and value. The '06 Shiraz is bright-fruited with lots of redcurrant and raspberry aromas, a lick of sweet oak and dark chocolate. The palate is silky smooth and succulent with a gentle squeeze of tannins. PB



2008 Innocent Bystander Pinot Noir, Victoria, A\$20

Produced in the Yarra Valley by Phil Sexton, whose other brands are Sexton and Giant Steps, Innocent Bystander is his entry-level range. This one was blended from eight cool-climate Victorian vineyards. It is excellent value for money, with a fragrant floral aroma with sappy, lily-like notes combining with the more usual cherry. It's light-to-medium bodied and has depth and presence over and above its price, with good palate length and a fleshy tannin/fruit profile. It's probably best drunk young. HH



2008 Terrace Edge Pinot Gris, Waipara, NZ\$19

Terrace Edge is a new, small Waipara winery that made its first wine from the 2005 vintage. This rich and creamy pinot gris gains added complexity from extended yeast lees contact and oak fermentation. Pear, spice, toasted brioche and lanolin flavours provide an attractive mix. The wine is dry-ish, has a lovely silken texture and a lingering finish. Together with the 2008 Riesling, it represents my first taste of Terrace Edge. Both are high-quality wines at reasonable prices. Clearly a winery to watch. BC



2007 David Hook The Gorge Shiraz, Hunter Valley, A\$18

Simply a brilliant sub-\$20 bottle of red, this elegant, savoury, medium-weight Hunter shiraz backs its earthy expression of blackberry and dark cherry with meaty nuances and dark chocolate/vanilla oak. It's vibrant and supple, with lingering brightly lit fruit and licorice-like notes underpinned by dusty tannins. Drink any time over the next four years. JO