

Heading for the Hilltops

Moppity Vineyard Rosé 2009

THE Hilltops is making some excellent wines, and I reckon that we'll be seeing more of them in the future.

NSW is lucky to have such a diverse range of winegrowing regions, from the cool climate of Orange and Tumbarumba to the warmer Hilltops and Canberra District. In the next 10 to 20 years, the wines from NSW will rival any from across Australia and the world.

The Moppity Rosé was made from 100 per cent Hilltops shiraz grapes from old yielding vines.

It uses only the free run juice, which is the juice from the crushed grapes prior to pressing them. It usually represents the best quality, with more delicate flavours and in the case of rosé, less colour.

This example is juicy and fresh with violets and summer berry flavours and a lovely crisp finish.

Price: \$19.99

Cellar: 2009-2010



Cellar Press

David Cumming

Yarra Burn Blanc de Blancs 2004

BLANC de blanc translates to white wine made from white grapes - seems fairly obvious really.

However, the majority of sparkling wines are made from a blend of chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier; both red and white grapes.

When the juice from the red grape is run off without time in contact with the skin, it remains white. The depth of colour is usually a result of the juice fermenting and spending time with the reddish purple grape skin.

This Yarra Burn fizz is beautifully elegant with a fine balanced structure and flavours of tangy apple with supple yeast and cream. The mousse is fine and restrained. This is a wine with class and style.

Price: \$45

Cellar: 2009-2015



Sharpe Wines Shattered Margot Merlot 2008

MERLOT, or merlot noir (being its correct name), is a variety with great potential in Orange.

It tends to ripen early, thus lending itself to cooler winegrowing regions. Merlot noir got a bit of a battering with the release of the American movie Sideways, in which the lead character Miles, exclaimed "...if anyone orders merlot, I'm leaving. I am not drinking any (expletive) merlot." It's really not that bad.

The Shattered Merlot is a full bodied wine with layers of chocolate and sweet, ripe berry flavours overlaid with soft velvety tannins.

There is a touch of dried herbs adding further interest. This is a luscious, ripe wine that is worth decanting for a while prior to drinking.

Price: \$20

Cellar: 2009-2012

