

GASH

Wineletter 109 May 2006

The Barossa Valley Goldwater Estate Laroche Glenfarclas Moa Noir Moët & Chandon Mother's Day Gifts May Top10



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A quick phone call in mid-April, round the wineries we work with throughout the country's key growing areas, tells us all indications are that the fruit quality of the 2006 vintage is excellent, the flavours well-developed and the grapes 'clean' of any diseases. While the steady rain over a few days at the beginning of the month may have restricted the cricket in Hawkes Bay, for the winegrowers and makers, while it caused some disquiet, in the words of Sacred Hill winemaker Tony Bish, 'nothing has been compromised.'

2006 has proven to be an early vintage, too, with fruit in both Hawkes Bay and in parts of Marlborough coming in three weeks ahead of last year's harvest date. And the fruit, Tony says, has 'come home in spades. 'The Marlborough Pinot looks brilliant,' he says, 'and the fruit from the sheltered sites in Awatere is some of the best I've seen.' As for Hawkes Bay, he is bristling with excitement to get his winemaking hands and techniques on the 'sensational' fruit that's been picked, both red and white. 'We got the chardonnay and savvy off before the rain and it's absolutely primo,' Tony says, and with slightly lower yields than normal, the result is concentrated flavours in the fruit and a good balance of acid and sugars. As for the reds, it was, he says, 'a game of two halves,' with the crew making the decision to bring the fruit that was ready in before the rain, leaving the rest to ripen and survive the weather. He's pleased they gambled, with the fruit they brought in 'showing great colour in the vats' and the fruit still out showing no sign of rain damage whatsoever. And with the wind turning back from the east to the northwest, and a dry autumn predicted, the flavour development will continue as brilliantly as it began.

Central Otago winemakers also report a cracking vintage, and again they were out early with the secateurs, as the fruit ripened in excellent weather and proved itself to be ready ahead of schedule. Which reminds us, after all, that you can't dictate to Mother Nature. But you can reap the riches of her work, and with 185,000 tonnes predicted to be harvested this year, the word seems to be: excellent wines across the regions and varieties, and plenty of it. Which, as wine drinkers, is the news we wanted to hear.



Jak Jakicevich

Evendan Prinking

A quartet of smart wines that won't tax your wallet but will deliver a great mouthful

Te Whare Ra Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2005

was \$23.95 now \$17.95

TE WIAZE RA

One of Marlborough's oldest wineries, and one of its hidden gems. While they have produced brilliant wines since '79, this is only their second vintage of Sauvignon Blanc. Clearly they can turn their hand to the Marlborough stalwart while maintaining their individuality, for it's a characterful offering, all jumpy gooseberries and ripping red peppers surging on a palate that is weighty and concentrated. A thin vein of minerality keeps the interest up to the fabulous end, and hey, isn't it nice to know that you won't find this next to the chippies in the grocery aisle?

Trinity Hill Hawkes Bay Chardonnay 2003



At the rate this sort of top-flight chardy races out the door, it is a rare and wonderful occasion when we can hold back a wine and offer an older vintage to y'all. '03 was a low vielder for HB chard, meaning this hard-to-come-by baby is ripe and concentrated, beautifully balanced, rich and harmonious. The palate is broad and deep, while some barrel characters add colour and class without ever overshadowing the fine fruit, a good portion of which comes from the renowned Gimblett Gravels region. This roly-poly grapefruitinfluenced mouthfiller is a winner from go to whoa and back again.



Hanging Rock Petit Verdot 2003

was \$16.95 now \$14.95₂₁₇₅



This puppy won best 'Under \$15' vino in Cuisine, and a sumptuous slurp will show you why Petit Verdot is arguably one of the great (though less championed) varieties of Bordeaux: and it has shown a liking for Australia's hot and dry conditions. If you think fragrant, really ripe Cabernet Sauvignon, you're about there. She's a hefty brute that balances strength with starbursts of gorgeous blackberry flavours, and swathes of Easteregg vanilla and chocolate; which means that, despite its size, it is inordinately drinkable on a very regular basis. Ace a case and make hav in May.

G Windy Peak Victoria Pinot Noir 2004



Sourced from Victoria's, as well as Australia's, finest growing regions for Pinot, this is a class act. Its price-tag beggars belief, especially as it blew a number of Pinots twice the price right out of the murky water at our recent Tasting Panel. A slippery smoothie, it delivers yum-loads of juicy, dark cherry flavours, which mingle tinglingly with some strawberry and spice notes. These are all wrapped up in a sound, but not stifling, oak/fine tannin structure, on a mouthfilling palate that has plenty of weight and length. The perfect accompaniment to watching the leaves fall and packing away the BBQ.





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Kim Crawford Liebling is just the thing for Glengarry Card customers for Mother's Day; during May, when you purchase Liebling you'll also receive a Crawford Liebling T-shirt (while stocks last).

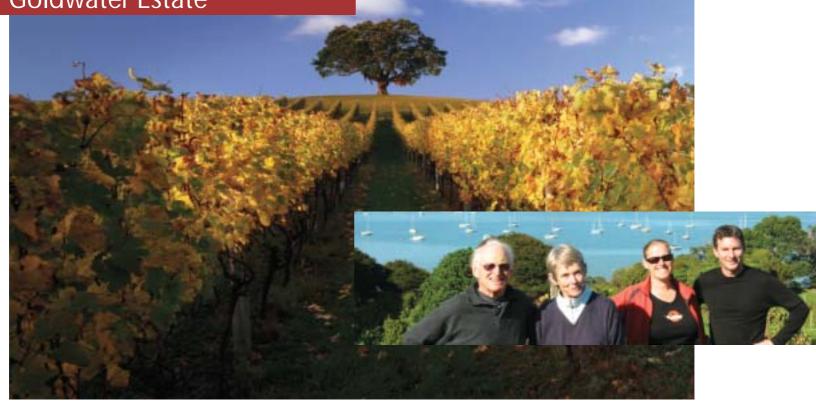
Winery Of The Month for May is Waiheke's Goldwater Estate; purchase any Goldwater wine during May and go in the draw to win a signed bottle of Goldwater Goldie.

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Goldwater Estate



Around the time of the punk rock revolution, invention of the Apple computer and the first Star Wars movie, Kim Goldwater started rowing some winemaking bits and pieces ashore at Putiki Bay on Waiheke Island. He and his wife Jeanette ferried cuttings and netting and all the other vineyard paraphernalia required to their small site overlooking the water. They planted some Bordeaux varietals and everyone thought they were certifiable; until, that is, the first glorious claretstyle red rolled out of the makeshift winery. Suddenly, with a glass of deep, dark red in front of them, the local, and soon enough global, wine drinkers realised what Kim & Jeanette had suspected all along: you can make great red wine on the right sites on Waiheke Island.

Subscribing to the theory that if you're standing still you're going backwards, the Goldwaters, along with daughter Gretchen and son-in-law Ken Christie, have expanded a fair bit since those pioneering days. Realising that the world demand for their wines would never be satisfied by a few hundred cases of top-flight Cabernet from Waiheke, the team have bought, leased and contracted growers to produce Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay out of Marlborough since 1992.

Over 90% of Goldwater production now comes from the Marlborough region, with the initial growers in the Wairau Valley augmented by vineyards in the renowned Sauvignon district, the Awatere Valley. With the company's recent merger with The New Zealand Wine Fund, Goldwater are poised to be one of New Zealand's largest and most influential brands, with predicted volumes of around 300,000 cases over the next five years. The deal also means Goldwater have a one-third ownership of the key Rapaura Vintners facility, a complex responsible for processing huge volumes of the South Island's premium wine.

While some may fear the corporatisation of the brand is imminent, Kim has been a tireless campaigner across the globe's boardrooms right from the very beginning, and the family have always been astute business people and marketers. This was never a #8 fencing wire operation, despite its humble beginnings. The host of trophies and medals, and the international acclaim, speak for themselves. The influential Wines & Spirits Magazine in the US voted Goldwater 'The International Winery of the Year' in 2001, an extraordinary achievement. Equally respected journal Wine Spectator has awarded the Goldwater Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 'Spectator Selection' status for three consecutive years, consistently awarding it points in the 90's.

Vineyards are now coming onstream in Hawkes Bay's legendary Gimblett Gravels region, with Goldwater's first release, the G Block Gimblett Gravels Merlot 2004, taking silver at the Air New Zealand Wine Awards and 4½ stars in Cuisine's March edition, a rare feat for a sub-\$20 NZ red.

Goldwater

Roseland Marlborough Chardonnay 2005

was \$19.95 now \$16.95₁₂₉₇₅

Successive releases of Roseland Chardonnay have been awarded a host of medals, high star ratings from magazines and innumerable accolades from around the world; New York wine enthusiast Joe Czerwinski awarded it 90/100, and Wine Spectator 89/100. This latest outing also deserves high praise; besides being excellent drinking, it represents exceptional value. It is vibrantly fresh and deliciously complex, emanating waves of tropical fruit, peach and subtle toasty oak. The overall impression is of freshness, mellowed and enriched by butterscotch nuances and a silky texture, and balanced at the end by a glowing lime finish.



Goldwater Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2005

was \$19.95 now \$16.95

There is no shortage of quality Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc in New Zealand; it's possibly what we do best. But this wine from Goldwater has the X factor and stands out from the pack. We are not alone in this belief; it has, on several occasions, been rated by eminent wine authorities in Europe and the United States as one of the top 100 white wines in the world. Packed with a striking fruit presence that echoes through to the very last drop, it is magnificently aromatic, exhibiting classic regional passionfruit, gooseberry and herbal aromas that bounce onto the equally intense, beautifully balanced and superbly refreshing palate. Fantastic value.

Goldwater Zell Waiheke Chardonnay 2004





Goldwater's stated philosophy of producing wines expressive of their origins is most evident here. This was hand-harvested solely from their hillside Zell Vineyard on Waiheke Island. The wine was barrel fermented and matured in French oak, lees aged and partially malolactic fermented to provide depth and complexity. It is a class act, with a supple heart of ripe stonefruit, lime and spicy oak aromas that cascade across from the bouquet to the palate. The complex range of flavours is complemented by mealy nuances and a refreshing lime finish.

Goldwater wood's Hill Waiheke Cabernet Merlot 2004

was \$29.95 now \$25.95

If you are looking for a red wine that is generously flavoured and has plenty of depth, then this could be just the thing. It is an elegant, moderately complex package with Bordeaux-like plum, cassis and cherry aromas surrounded by subtle vanillin oak characters. Built around a solid core of ripe fruit, it is well-priced and an excellent food wine, particularly with lamb. You can comfortably drink it right now, but it has the structure to suggest it would make an excellent cellaring candidate as well.



Goldwater Goldie Waiheke Cabernet Merlot 2002



Last year, our Tasting Panel was treated to a remarkable vertical tasting of twenty vintages (from the initial 1982 release onwards) of Goldwater's legendary signature wine. During the tasting, it became clear why the wine critics Robert Parker and Tom Stevenson have both described it as one of the best reds in the world. Blackcurrant, cassis and spicy oak aromas and flavours are framed in an elegant. artfully-crafted structure that is cleverly balanced by intelligent use of tannin. The equal of a First Growth Bordeaux, but much more

\$69.95

1 A TOFE THE PLSS

New releases, the strangely exciting or new vintages of old favourites out this month

Carchello Mourvèdre Merlot 2004



This spankingly new beauty is grown in the appellation of Jumilla, Spain's most arid wine district. Lordy, it must be like the Gobi. All good, though, because Mataro, Spain's version of Mourvèdre, which makes up the bulk of this flavoursome wee beastie, loves rocks and stones and stuff. And being old vines, this means lashings of concentrated berry flavours draped over a sturdy, but restrained, tannic structure and so much ripe and spicy flavour, it'll damn near knock you over. If you think Spanish wines are dusty, flavourless and grippingly tannic, think again.

TALA MARK

CASE OFFER

\$13.9581040

Villa Maria Private Bin Hawkes Bay Merlot 2004

\$15.95₁₉₆₁₂

The sort of wine that is worth snapping up in case lots. There's not a lot of it about, it's very well made and brilliantly priced. Full of blindingly bright, dark plum and cherry flavours and aromas, the punchy, concentrated fruit is first class, with the predominant portion coming off Villa's exceptional Omahu vineyard in the famed **Gimblett Gravels region. Tannins** support the outstanding fruit and round off the picture, leaving you with a lasting impression of soft spice and fruit notes, and plenty of dollars in your pocket.

Nga Waka Three Paddles Pinot Noir 2004



As Pencarrow is to Palliser, so Three Paddles is to Nga Waka. First class, second label wine, then, from a vintage that resulted in fruit of excellent ripeness and balance. Affordable, brilliant, Pinot: three words you'd not normally see together, but the Paddler is exactly that. Richly flavoured with spice, cherry and dusty/earthy notes, it is as soft as a plush rug, mouthfilling, luscious and velvety all in one. Eighteen months in barrel has added a toasty complexity, and will ensure good cellaring potential, should you be so inclined to incline a few beneath the stairs.

\$21.95

Wild South Barrel Fermented Marlborough Chardonnay 2005

\$16.95

Each new release from this outstanding winery has one clutching for epithets and reaching for a glass. This would stand comfortably next to a number of thirty to forty dollar offerings of similar style and construction. Intensely aromatic, the nose exudes punchy peaches and creamy vanillin oak, while the palate is a fruit and nut mix of the most exquisite balance, elegance and power. Complex, and rich, this is a broadly-framed wine of indecently clever construct that is a joy to drink, savour, cellar and drink some more of.

OFF THE YE



BUY THE HOT OFF THE PRESS PACK 65576 3 BOTTLES OF EACH WINE FOR ONLY \$180 save \$59.40 off retail





The Australian wine industry may have had its beginnings in the colonial settlements of New South Wales, where the decision taken to plant vines grew from a need to stem the rum-soaked degeneracy of the locals, but it is South Australia, and more importantly the Barossa Valley, where the big players are and where the big volumes come from. Hot as a day on the bank at the SCG, the Barossa has climatic conditions ideal for the production of ultra-ripe fruit, vintage to vintage, while the cooling sea breezes from the south mean that the ripeness develops slowly, ensuring the fruit is fully-flavoured. Growers around the world would give their dead arm for so propitious a theatre within which to perform the sacred art of winemaking.

The Barossa was settled and planted in the late 1800's, and with the consistent viticulture performed since that time, there is immense knowledge about the terroir to draw on. And the vines, well, some of them are as old as Vince Martin. Shiraz and Cabernet are the big thrivers in the region, and work with remarkable synergy when blended together, the Cabernet providing an all important backbone and structure for the fat, spicy and ripe Shiraz fruit. Note, too, the introduction of Grenache and Mourvèdre; the southern Rhône varieties are showing themselves to be especially adaptable to the Barossa climate, and are thriving as more and more winemakers seek to produce the best possible Barossa beastie. Some of the Grenache-Shiraz-Mourvèdre blends featured below rival the Rhône for their power, earthiness and sweet fruit appeal.

Not to forget the whites, Eden Valley is the cooler part of the big Barossa, and the Rieslings from this region are as good as any from around the world: lean, minerally wines that age beautifully. Which is the final plus: the hugely concentrated fruit occupying that unique space that so many would like to attain: wonderfully vibrant and approachable, the wines will also age magnificently, ensuring that when you buy your case you can watch the art develop in front of your own eyes, straight out of your favourite goblet.



They might have fewer than ten vintages under their belt, but Torbreck have captured the wine world's imagination and attracted the kind of respect that would be a dream for any producer. Parker calls winemaker David Powell 'unquestionably one of the world's greatest wine producers' and it has been the rave ratings bestowed by Roberty-Bob that have helped Torbreck's stocks to soar. So much so, that paying \$1,000US at auction for a bottle of an older Torbreck vintage is not uncommon.

However, and in a good way, where there's smoke there's fire, and the single element responsible more than any other, the one thing that has made Torbreck wines spoken of in hushed tones in the plush tasting rooms of the world is this: the wines are individually and uniformly excellent. Grown on small patches, the (largely old vine) Grenache, Shiraz and Mourvèdre are cropped low and thus yield fruit of extraordinary concentration. Powell's skill is that he turns this concentration into wines of unbridled power, but also of outstanding finesse and balance. So while they are Barossa blockbusters, they have a European sensibility and class and, above all, are an utter delight to drink.

Torbreck

Woodcutter's Barossa Valley Shiraz 2004

was \$31.95 now \$25.95

Robert Parker: 91/100, October 2005

A serious, spicy, savoury Shiraz deliberately fashioned in a drink-now style. Such a term doesn't for a second mean that there's a shortage of depth, power or structure; it simply means that the fruit is the focus, with the wood component well back in the mix. Beautifully fragrant, with an onslaught of plum, pepper, charcoal and dark fruits, the palate is rich and beautifully balanced and the tannins finely wrought, while the flavours - berries, charcoal and a hint of citrus - are intense, complex and almost overpowering. In a good way. An exciting, unique take on Barossa Shiraz that delivers a dam-burst of flavour.



Torbreck cuvée Juveniles Barossa Valley Grenache Shiraz Mataro 2004

was \$39.95 now \$29.95₂₀₀₁

Robert Parker: 90/100, October 2005

This classic Rhône blend is hand-constructed from some of the oldest vines in the Barossa; the concentration and intensity of flavour are no surprise then, but that sure doesn't make them any less exciting. Waves of exotic characters float heavenwards, meaty, savoury and berryfruity all at once, with a brushing of dried herbs and earthiness that you'd swear was French. It has been described as an unwooded yet high-class Côtes du Rhône which, while not far off the mark, damns with faint praise. Parker's comment, 'a sexy, heady wine with a meaty, long finish' says it better. Fulfilling now, it will unfold magically over the next six years.

Torbreck RunRig

Barossa Valley Shiraz Viognier 2003

\$315.00₂₁₀₄₂

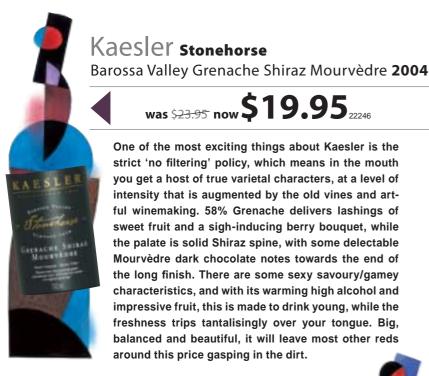
Parker, 99/100 for 2001 and 2002 ; yet to rate the 2003 The Torbreck flagship, RunRig epitomises what the company, and David Powell, set out to achieve. The jammy fruit comes from dry-grown, non-irrigated, bush-vine Shiraz, giving the wine an unmistakable Australian flavour. A dash of Viognier at the end of blending nods at the Rhône, but ultimately this wine is unique and peerless. While it is hugely flavoursome and exquisitely structured, there is an almost sensual character as well, the surging, smooth, dark chocolate and plum characters coating your palate lovingly, the whole smothered gently with tasty, toasty oak. A gamey and meaty finish of inordinate proportions completes the experience. Immaculate.

2003TorbreckThe Steading Barossa Valley Grenache Shiraz Mataro 2003\$42.9521041TorbreckThe Struie Barossa Valley Shiraz 2004\$66.952005TorbreckThe Factor Barossa Valley Shiraz 2003\$160.002009TorbreckDescendant Barossa Valley Shiraz Viognier 2004\$166.00



Anyone who calls one of their wines 'Old Bastard' has to have a bit of character about them. The winery, like so much of the Barossa, has a fascinating history, having been planted in 1893 by the Kaesler family; current owners Toby & Treena Hueppauff took it off their hands in the mid 1980's. With just 60 hectares under vine, much of it preserved from original plantings (70% of the vines being more than 40 years old), Kaesler produce wines of scintillating beauty in very small quantities, which is exactly the way winemaker Reid Bosward wants it.

Frustrated by the statistic that three wineries in Australia control 70% of the output, Bosward is keen to stress the character of Kaesler's selection, priding himself on creating individual wines of great finesse that could only have come from this tiny piece of precious, scrubbed dirt. Like Torbreck and Hewitson, Kaesler's small output is snapped up by eager drinkers worldwide, a situation intensified by some excellent Robert Parker reviews and scores. 'One of my favourite Barossa wineries, Kaesler is run with great attention to detail,' Parker says. And you can taste that, and over a hundred years of history, in the glass.



Kaesler Barossa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2003

was \$31.95 now \$25.95

After a coolish 2002, 2003 offered up a vintage of ineffable beauty, marred by a slight dash of late rain that the thick-skinned Cabernet grapes just drank up. All in a day's work, then. This is a robust baby, with plenty of colour and extract and some pretty firm, gripping tannins. You won't have to prise your tongue from your teeth, though, because the head-rush of fruit gushing across the palate is a richly warming experience, a jam tin of blueberries, blackberries and plums. Restrained use of oak lets the fruit shine, and while it'll keep a good number of years, it's offering up superb drinking this very second.

22233KaeslerStonehorse Barossa Valley Semillon 200222245KaeslerOld Vine Barossa Valley Riesling 200422247KaeslerStonehorse Barossa Valley Shiraz 2003/2004

\$9.95	
\$17.95	
\$29.95	

HEWITSON

After zipping around the globe, a decade of vintages at Petaluma and getting more than a few letters after his name, Dean Hewitson called on some strong grower relationships and started to release wine under his own label in the late 90's. These grower relationships are crucial to the Hewitson story; having access to some of the Barossa's oldest and best fruit - he produced a Mourvèdre from 145-year-old vines grown at Rowland Flat - Hewitson is not restricted vintage to vintage by variety or volume. As with most small producers he has a big heart, and passion drives him relentlessly on, helping him chalk up nearly a decade of extraordinary releases from the parched soils and ancient vines of the Barossa.

If all this sounds a bit dry, it's not; the man loves his chosen gig in life, and it shows in the wines and the intoxicating pleasure that can be derived from Big D's meticulous and artisan-like dedication to his task. The wines are individualistic, characterful and, to use an Aussie term, bloody enjoyable. Of course they're in demand the world over at ever ridiculous prices, so we're delighted to have an association with Hewitson. Means we can all get to taste a bit of the magic.

> Hewitson Miss Harry Barossa Valley Grenache Shiraz Mourvèdre 2004



21779 Hewitson

21772 Hewitson

21776 Hewitson

was \$23.95 now \$19.95₂₁₇₇₇

From 80-year-old, dry-grown vines, and a vintage that brought huge fruit concentration, you could be forgiven for thinking Dean just threw this baby together and let it do its thing. But the different varieties are carefully and separately handled, with no racking, fining or filtering so that, once again, full fruit flavour is the desired and delightful outcome. When asked recently why he charges so little for a wine this good, Dean said: 'I could charge more for it, but I think people should drink more of wine like this.' Bless him. The fruit swells to extraordinary intensity levels, while an astounding acidity gives the whole thing a vibrancy and raciness that amazes and delights.

G Hewitson Ned and Henry's Barossa Valley Shiraz 2004

was \$27.95 now \$24.95₂₁₇₇₈

Dean wanted to create a 'lunch-time' Shiraz; not sure what time they lunch in Adelaide, but you'd want an entire afternoon to enjoy a wine this fab. A cheeky flicker of Mourvèdre brings the already well-defined fruit into focus and adds a further complexity to this multi-faceted, generous red. Deliberately styled so as not to be intimidating, this is medium to full-bodied, the blackberry fruit softened by some gorgeous, Rhône-like, earthy characters. Spicy, with plenty of punch and no shortage of follow-through, everything is there in perfect balance, leaving a long-lasting impression and an insatiable desire for more.

Eden Valley Riesling 2005

Old Garden Barossa Valley Mourvèdre 2003

Mad Hatter McLaren Vale Shiraz 2003

HEWETSON Mad & Kinneyson Baracton Santas

\$19.95 \$44.95 \$49.95



Laroche



Michel Laroche, he of the movie-star good looks and JP Getty sense for business opportunities, represents the new breed of French winemaker. Having established a worldwide reputation for his steely, minerally Chablis wines, Laroche has also been responsible for dragging a region mired in mediocrity back to a level of great international recognition. While the family have been producing top-flight Chablis since 1850, it was Michel's helming of the ship from 1967 onwards that saw the company start to make waves. From owning a mere seven hectares in the late 1960's, Laroche is now a huge brand owning 130ha in Chablis alone, giving Laroche unheard of operational control over the wines they produce. And from the AC Chablis through to the heady heights of the Grand Crus wines, they produce something stunning at every level.

Not a man to sit staring at his Gucci loafers, Michel has continued to expand the company at a steady rate. He cast his eyes beyond the crushed oyster shell soils of the rather chilly Chablisean climes to take in the potential of the South of France where, instead of seeing Languedoc labouring under the epithet 'could do better', he saw the opportunity to produce exciting wines in a New World style. He snapped up the Mas de Chevaliers winery, near the ancient town of Béziers, in 1995, and set about producing the wines he knew the region was capable of: refreshing whites, brimming with the flush of youth and as far removed from the 'dusty old French' image as one could imagine. And deeply scented reds, with ripe approachable fruit and the structure and depth to age ten years or more. Chilean vineyards in the Casablanca Valley were acquired shortly after, while the company recently announced the purchase of the L'Avenir Estate, a 70ha site in the famous South African region of Stellenbosch.

Most people take a villa on France's southern coast, but our Mickey bought himself some primo vineyard land instead. From this site, near the Roman town of Béziers and officially within the sprawling Languedoc-Roussillon appellation, he can probably see the sea anyway. Under the company label, Laroche produce Chardonnay, Merlot, Syrah and a dinky little Rosé here, as well as a few proprietal wines. While production in the region has risen hugely since it became di rigeur in the 1980's to have a block or two of dirt down this way, it is worth remembering that this area has had vines planted since around 1AD. What those Roman vintners worked out, and what Michel knew, was that there is a great and diverse range of soils and climactic conditions, and hence a range of varieties will prosper under the southern sun. With a world wanting variety, quality and volume, Laroche realised that by expanding into this fascinating region, he could provide all three.

With winemaker Richard Lavanoux, Michel went searching with a few key aspects in mind: the best fruit would come from the highest altitudes, the stoniest soils and the most precariously precipitous vineyard sites. That's what they purchased in 1995 and have since expanded upon, their winemaking philosophy being one of picking late, reducing yields for maximum flavour concentration and training canopies for maximum sun exposure. The depth of local knowledge from this out-of-towner may have had locals scratching their berets initially, but Laroche is a wily man. Whatever the conditions, he was always going to produce quality, something that had been sadly lacking in a region where rivers of mediocre wines flow to the sea of tourists. Laroche are one of the few wineries in the region who pay the growers by vineyard area rather than by grape weight, the latter helping to ensure that yields are low and fruit quality is high.

> Laroche South of France Merlot 2004



By golly this is smart stuff. A very modern wine from this Medieval region, the oenological facts are this, m'lud: despite the weight and resoundingly wellframed structure, only 20% of the wine saw any oak, the rest being stainless steel fermented to retain the phenomenal, natural, bright red colour and plummy flavours of the fruit. 2004 was a cracker down these parts, and your glass will tell you this: an intense pepper and spice nose layered with red fruits shows hints of mocha and chocolate, and leads to a selfsame palate with great acidity and a velvety mouthfeel. Delicate, soft, yet fully-flavoured, this is a dream wine, especially for so few centimes, mes amies.

48526 Laroche 48527 Laroche

8

CHABLIS

Millions of years ago, before Chirac, student riots and the 'threat' of a female French President, the crushed remains of oyster shells fossilised and eventually became the unique soil that lies under the vineyards of Chablis. A few years after that, in about the nineth century, monks (of course) hunkered down in the chilly Chablisean spring, planted some vines and made the first barrels of Chablis at the monastery named l'Obédiencerie. This is where Laroche now lives; the observant amongst you would have noted (the lucky amongst you would have drunk) their Grand Crus wine Réserve de l'Obédience. Indeed, the family's winemaking traditions in this renowned region go back five generations.

And from being a small player for a hundred-odd years, Michel's helming has seen a huge regional expansion and a continued relationship with growers with the best vineyard sites, relationships that go back generations in many cases. And if you thought Chablis was a by-word for tasteless Chardonnay, get in amongst these wines and see what true Chablis is about. Subtle, yet piercingly distinctive, the appley, vinous fruit is invariably run through with a wet stone or mineral quality, while the overall impression is one of finesse, class, style and, particularly with time, no shortage at all of substance.

If the last Chablis you had was out of a cask, well, two things: it wasn't Chardonnay, and it was nothing like these outstanding wines.

Laroche Chablis 2005

was \$36.95 now \$29.95₄₈₅₂₉

Wines such as this reaffirm your faith that, despite the general impression that all may not be well with the world, a silvery sip tells you it is. There is nothing like Chablis, and this is as pure and straightforward an example you're likely to find. A steely, limpid greengold in the glass, this is already showing classic Chablisean characters of mineral, spicy apple and a subtle creaminess that becomes more profound as the wine airs. No wood, of course; this being Chablis, stainless steel best preserves the freshness and the varietal Chardonnay characters. Extraordinary value at under \$30, it is a delightful change from new world styles, and partners fresh fish inimitably.

Domaine Laroche Saint Martin Chablis 2003

was \$41.95 now \$36.9548518

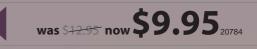
CHADL16

Remember the heatwave of 2003? The Continent sweltered. Cooling off in the local fountain with English football louts became a European pastime, but the wines? Twelve consecutive days of 40-plus degrees might have reduced yields by a quarter, but the vines here are deep rooted, their average age twenty five years, so, ohh the flavours. Chablis glints like no other wine, I swear, and this is a deep, cool pool green, while the fragrant beauty is hinged around a wee bit of cloddy earth and a gentle squeeze of lemon and lime. The palate, after the subtle nose, is rich and generous, buttery almost, and balanced by some wonderful mineral and acid.





Deakin Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2003



You can be fearless indeed in securing yourself a case of this fab little package. In fact to show that you have the courage of your convictions, and an eye for a bargain, buy a couple of cases. Ole Deaks pack in everything your heart could possibly desire: a colour splash of exquisite crimson, a nose that bursts apart with ripe berries and a bit of cab spice and tobacco, and a rich, sumptuous palate that's all about fruit. Plenty of weight and finesse, loads of flavour (it is brilliant with spicy lamb); just dial your local Moroccan and drape your feet across the ottoman.

Wally's Hut Chardonnay 2004

was \$41.95 now \$9.95 28421

Granted, our Walter doesn't stand on ceremony: the label was drawn by a deranged Rhesus monkey, the name probably came to light after a few vision-inducing VB's down the local, and was then carefully inscribed on the back of a beer coaster. But that's all OK, because, well, the wine, kids, the wine! It's a bleedin' winner. It's got flavour to burn, all melon and citrus, and little canoodling oranges and lemons that wash your palate with joy. A dab of oak to ensure you can eat with it and some life-affirming and balancing acid means this vibrant baby zips along at a Harley pace. For a moped price.



Brut Taché Premium Vintage 2003

was \$24.95 now \$19.95 27783

Wally's Hut

9

Now the word 'stained' normally has us all running for the Frend to get last night's pasta of our stiff white shirt front, but here its connotations are all at the positively delightful end of the spectrum. 'Taché' means stained, and goes some way to explaining the way in which this fascinating wine acquires its salmoncoloured glow. While that process is a secret, this baby is as open, honest and approachable as your financial adviser, with vibrant strawberry fruits, refreshing acid and yet a silkiness so fetching that you could fashion a nice frock from it, if you so desired. Buzzing as it does with lashings of fruit flavour, neatly curlicued about a yeasty/toasty core, it's so beautifully put together it'll make you sit straighter.

48532Domaine LarocheLes Fourchaumes Premier Cru Chablis 2004\$64.9548496Domaine LarocheLes Clos Grand Cru Chablis 2002\$125.9548508Domaine LarocheRéserve de l'Obédience Grand Cru Chablis 2000\$175.95

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TALTARNI

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May 2006

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Monday 8th May

Alex Gambal Burgundy Tasting

Alex Gambal, a name new to us here, has brought such a fresh approach to Burgundy that we had to share the wines with you. Alex is an American who discovered Burgundy in 1993. Being young and brave, he became deeply involved in this famous region; he hasn't looked back, and is turning out some impressive wines. Come along to our Jervois Road cellar and try a range from Bourgogne, through Vosne-Romanée, Chassagne Montrachet and Chambolle-Musigny.

6:30pm Glengarry Herne Bay, 54 Jervois Road Cost: \$15

Tuesday 16th May Glengarry Malt Whisky Tasting Club: Matching Single Malts and Cheese

Presented by Michael Fraser Milne, whisky expert from Whisky Galore in Christchurch, and Martin Aspinall from Canterbury Cheesemongers, this tasting will explore the matching of malts and cheese, with all cheeses available from Dida's Food store on Jervois Road. It should be a highly educational tasting of both wonderful cheese and superb malt whisky, so book in for an experience to remember.

7:00pm Glengarry Victoria Park, cnr Wellesley St & Sale St Cost: \$20

Thursday 18th May

Yalumba Exposed, with Superhost Jane Ferrari

Too extraordinary to be trapped in a winery, born entertainer Jane Ferrari has been Yalumba's marketer at large for a number of years, coasting the globe and wowing wine drinkers with her infectious enthusiasm. With Jane, we will learn about some of Yalumba's specialty wines, including some of the Viogniers (the superb Virgilius for one) and reds like the Octavius, Menzies and the perennial favourite, Signature Cabernet Shiraz. If you come to one tasting this year, make sure it is this one!

7:00pm Glengarry Victoria Park, cnr Wellesley St & Sale St Cost: \$15

Tuesday 30th May Oh Madeira

10

Famous for centuries, Madeira is a wonderfully seductive alternative to other fortified wines, and deserves attention. Liz Wheadon in Auckland and Phil Rowe in Wellington will present a line-up of Madeira wines from the lodges of Blandy's. The tastings will cover eight different Madeira, amongst them the 1975 Terrantez, which retails at over \$250 a bottle.

7:00pm Glengarry Victoria Park, cnr Wellesley St & Sale St

6:30pm Glengarry Thorndon, 232 Thorndon Quay Cost: \$20

Bubbles & Hearts 65463 \$24.95

Taltarni Brut Premium Vintage Methode 2003 Chocolate Hearts



\$79.95



There's a whole world of beer out there; we try them, then let you know what not to miss

Moa Noir

Premium Dark Lager 375mL

each \$7.9591317

MOTHER'S DAY

Dishy Delight 68545

Four issues of Dish Magazine

Champagne Delamotte Brut Non-Vintage

You've probably seen the Moa beers by now; if you're lucky you'll have supped one or two as well. If you marvelled at the crown seal and champagne-like closure, you have indeed spotted what sets them apart from the rest. Of the world, as it happens. Yip, Moa Noir is the latest release from the only brewery on the planet to make wines in a Methode Champenoise style. Instead of artificial carbonation, known by the French as pump bicyclette, for obvious reasons, Josh 'son of Allan' Scott puts his winemaking expertise to good use and ferments these babies in the bottle. Mental, huh? Means you get a bottle-conditioned beer without the sediment. Admire the sentiment. The 100% NZ hops have been slowly roasted, hence the colour and the flavours, which are kinda coffee-like, chocolaty, toasty and well, yummy.





Throughout the history of Champagne, the ebbing and waning fortunes of the Grand Marque houses have been absorbing; but little compares to the phenomenal success of Moët & Chandon, which is very much a case of big being beautiful.

WORTH

\$5.000

The company was established in 1743 by Claude Moët, when the vogue for 'saute bouchon', or cork popper, wines was fast developing. Moët's progressive approach, marketing nous and indefatigable attitude had, by the first quarter of the 19th century, placed them at the forefront of vineyard and wine development, a

Moët & Chandon is the largest, and one of the most technologically advanced, of the region's growers, with over 1000 hectares of vineyards. It is the biggest-selling champagne in the world; annual production is close to two million cases, the bulk being their Brut Impérial Non-Vintage. Blended from Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier, the beautifully focused NV has a persistent, luminous sparkle and delicious, nutty notes on the nose. The Pinot-dominated palate is elegantly structured, with a creamy, toasty richness and a clean, lime-influenced finish.

The most remarkable aspect is not the size of Moët & Chandon, but the quality and consistency of its cuvées.

Purchase a bottle of Moët and go in the draw to win a Champagne Lifestyle Weekend for two in Queenstown worth \$5,000. Prize includes luxury accommodation, a late-model Porsche to drive and \$500 spending money

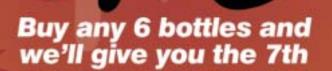


Glenfarclas 10-Year-Old Single Highland Malt Scotch Whisky 750mL

\$74.95₉₃₄₆₆

There is no denying the craft, the art, the skill six generations of Grants have bought to bear on this single malt. From the heather covered hills of Ben Rinnes, the water drifts down to the Glenfarclas distillery in Banffshire. Barley is grown locally and malted by specialist maltsters. The whisky is made in the largest pot-stills you will find; great gleaming copper vessels standing as high as a house. Still owned by the founding family, Glenfarclas haven't got carried away trying to capture every niche market. They produce a firm, malty whisky bottled as a 10-year-old at 40%. It's a strong gold colour with a sherry sweetness on the nose and a dry finish. The 12- and 15-yearolds carry this promise to fruition, with the smoke and oak merging and a beautiful balance achieved with these older, more powerful bottlings.

MALT WHISKY TASTING CLUB: 7PM, TUESDAY 16TH MAY, GLENGARRY VICTORIA PARK - MATCHING SINGLE MALTS AND CHEESE



MAKE YOUR OWN 7 FOR 6 COMBO FROM THESE 3 WINES

Deen De Bortoli Vat 4 Petit Verdot 2004

In its native home of Bordeaux, Petit Verdot is used mainly as a blending variety to add colour and scent to Cabernet-based blends. but it also makes superb wines in its own right, as so resoundingly demonstrated here. With its beguiling scents of violet, coffee and vanillin oak, its fleshy, ripe fruit flavours and its focused, tannin finish, this beautifully aromatic Australian is well worth a look.



Deen De Bortoli Vat 8 Shiraz 2004



It takes just one sip of this Shiraz to appreciate why Winestate Magazine named De Bortoli Wine Company of the Year in 2005. Sourced from New South Wales' Riverina region (which enjoyed an excellent 2004 vintage), it is a dark, intense wine with a spicy pepper-plum bouquet. The generous flavours are complemented by spicy oak and balanced by a well focused and lengthy aftertaste.

Deen De Bortoli Vat 9 Cabernet Sauvignon 2004

Harvested in prime condition from selected South Eastern Australian vineyards, this cabernet was partially fermented in new French and American oak barrels and matured in oak for twelve months. With currant, cassis, plum and spicy oak nuances playing across the nose, the forward fruit flavours, hints of cedar, smooth texture and long finish all add up to a great Australian red.

SINGLE BOTTLE PRICE





10

a taste of France

A monthly selection of affordable French wine from our extensive range

G Georges Duboeuf Vin de Pays Cabernet Sauvignon 2004

was \$15.95 now \$10.95

Don't prejudge this by its price; try a bottle, and you'll probably want to buy a case or two. Drop for drop and dollar for dollar, this is simply too good to pass up. It's a vivid ruby wine with a classic varietal bouquet displaying berry and cassis aromas edged by a touch of herb. Satisfyingly flavoured and smartly focused, it winds up on a firm note. We don't know how Georges does it at this price and we don't care, because this is simply outstanding value.

Château Ludeman La Côte AOC Graves Grand Vin de Bordeaux 2003

was \$22.95 now \$16.9541801

WHAT GUILDING

This Chateau-bottled Bordeaux is further proof that quality French wine is accessible at well under \$20 a pop. A classic blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 5% Malbec, it is a very attractive, easy to enjoy red, particularly with full-flavoured foods. With its fragrant nose displaying berry, herb and spicy oak nuances in the background, the palate is fresh and clear, with juicy berry and plum flavours sweeping and building through to the finish.

Georges Duboeuf

New Generation Beaujolais 2004





In one of her Viva columns, Joelle Thompson wrote of Duboeuf's New Generation Beaujolais, 'If you have yet to drink a decent Beaujolais, pick up a bottle of this soft, peppery and almost syrah-like red wine.' Duboeuf's New Generation wines are unashamedly fruit-driven styles made to be enjoyed shortly after release. This was produced from the Gamay grape, using the semicarbonic maceration process that extracts great fruit flavours and colour without any of the harsh tannins. A vivacious, fragrant wine with spicy raspberry and crushed pepper aromas, it's well balanced and satisfyingly weighted. The juicy berryfruit flavours sit comfortably astride some spicy nuances, a mellow texture and an easy finish.



Bosquet des Papes Côtes du Rhône 2003

was \$27.95 now \$22.95

Bosquet des Papes wines have been rated by Robert Parker in the high eighties and nineties, and they are regarded as one of the most consistent producers of Côtes du Rhône reds. This traditional blend has a good dollop of Syrah, which gives the wine body and flavour. There are plenty of ripe plum and spice aromas on the nose, and it has a shade more depth than most to be found at this price. The palate, too, shows excellent depth and balance, with ripe, peppery-edged berry and plum flavours that roll on and on.

Paul Jaboulet Les Sauvagères Marsanne 2003

was \$26.95 now \$23.95

'Les Sauvagères' is the name of Jaboulet's 2-hectare vineyard situated on torturous hills in a deep valley in the northern Rhône's Saint-Péray. The nature of its location means that it enjoys a cooler climate than the surrounding properties; these beneficial conditions suit the Marsanne, the grape variety responsible for this barrel-matured wine. Displaying an intense, peachy bouquet and pineapple-lemon hints, the rich, full, fruity palate, with its mineral edge, is nicely balanced by a long citrus finish. In February this year, Robert Parker rated the wine 87/100. Terrific value.

A FRENCH FIELDTRIP TO THE VINEYARDS OF TUSCANY

"BLOODY ITALIANS! ALWAYS DESIGNING, DESIGNING. DESIGNING

G



was \$18.95 now \$16.95



a taste of

Harking from the southern coastal flank of Tuscany, spiritual home of the Renaissance, this boasts plenty of black cherry, violets and a rasp of herbs on the nose. The palate is deliciously balanced, with an abundance of spicy fruit flavours and a hint of tomato-like savouriness enhanced by the smooth texture and the focused finish. Superb value, and great with hearty foods such as roasts, grilled meats and pasta.

Pasqua Terre del Sole 1-5 LITRE Merlot 2004

1.5 LITRE

Comp

2003 Indy Wine

Dessert Wine Champion,

Gold Medal.

Concordance

FONTANAFREDD

BARHERS D'ALLS

was \$19.95 now \$16.95

The time for comfort foods is fast approaching, and there is no better wine to accompany winter fare than a mellow Italian red. A 1.5 Litre magnum, and costing about the same as a standard bottle, this one is exceptionally priced. Exuding plum and berryfruit, it is a medium-bodied wine with an excellent mouthfeel and a lovely aftertaste. Ideal for entertaining.

> Cecchi Chianti Classico DOCG **2004**

was \$24.95 now \$21.95

This is Cecchi's flagship wine, made with consummate care and attention to the traditions of Chianti, which is arguably ltaly's most famous red. Fermented and matured in selected oak barrels, it's packed to the brim with a bounty of currant and sweet fruit aromas and flavours. The full bodied palate shows hints of chocolate and sliced mushroom, woven around a texture that verges on the velvet.

Fontanafredda Barbera d'Alba DOC 2004

was \$27.95 now \$24.95

This is from favoured vineyards in the Langhe hills around Alba, the epicurean capital of Piedmont and renowned for its red wines and white truffles. The wine is characterised by fresh cherry aromas and flavours enhanced by a touch of spice and subtle oak. Being Italian, it is of course made to be enjoyed with food, and is a beautifully rounded wine with an excellent depth of flavour and a persistent finish. Extremely good value.

Instalz

A look at less well-known, new and intriguing grape varieties

Malmsey is the Anglicised version of Malvasia, and is pronounced 'Mormsey', although 'Mumsy' could be a cute aberration if you so chose. Originally responsible for the rich, incredibly sweet wines of Greece (it is popularly believed the name is derived from the Greek port of Monemvasia), the grape spread throughout the Mediterranean, its viscous, thickly liquid offerings becoming hugely popular as they were traditionally long-lived, being very high in sugar and alcohol. To give a modern example, if you've ever had the pleasure of drinking Vin Santo from Italy, where the Malvasia grapes are often dried to a raisin-like state and then massaged to produce the most delicious dessert wine, you'll have some idea what this wee beauty is capable of.

Like so many great wines, Malmsey carries a nominal history, with the name used interchangeably and often affixed to wines that contained no Malvasia grapes whatsoever. Once Portugal, to where it had spread, entered the (then) EU in 1986, regulations meant that any wine with Malmsey on the label must be at least 85% Malvasia. And so a name that originally simply meant any strong, sweet wine has now been hauled in by the red tape and is specifically used for the sweetest style of Madeira.

Now that's a wine with which we are all more than familiar. The island that bears this name sits in the Atlantic Ocean just off the coast of Portugal, and it is the Portuguese who have mastered turning the Malvasia grape into wines that are some of the most sturdy and everlasting in the world. I recall tasting an 1895 Madeira/Malmsey a few years ago, and while it was obviously not as fresh as a daisy, it was beautifully rich and still carried enough of the variety's distinctive, sweet opulence to make for a fine sup.

And so, from Malmsey/Malvasia to Madeira we have a twisted route, but an important one, for while such wines aren't hugely popular here, they are drunk consistently across the Mediterranean, while the grape itself is planted from California to Australia. And, a Trivial Pursuit pie for you, madam: George, the Duke of Clarence, who was brother to King Edward IV of England, was said to have drowned in a 600 litre barrel of Malmsey in the Tower of London in 1478. Not drowning, waving, I'm sure. Way to go, George.



truly contemporary. Rich, powerful, impressive.

70900Blandy's Rainwater Madeira70901Blandy's Duke of Clarence70904Blandy's 10-Year-Old Malmsey70903Blandy's 15-Year-Old Malmsey

Not seen here before.

\$48.95 \$51.95 \$91.95 \$116.95



Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon 2004

was \$22.95 now \$18.9522613

From the famed Barossa, where they know their reds, comes this complex, full-bodied Cabernet with plum, blackcurrant and mint supported by vanillin oak and a long, flavoursome finish.

Cheviot Bridge Adelaide Hills Pinot Grigio 2004

was \$16.95 now \$12.95

Fresh as a daisy, with an aromatic bouquet displaying sliced pear, stonefruit and touches of spicy oak. The fruit flavours are balanced by a tastful, limey edge at the finish. Superb value.



CHEVIOT BRID

OKFIELD



Chapel Hill il Vescovo 8 Sangiovese Cabernet 2004 was \$24.95 now \$19.95

McLaren Vale Merlot 2002

was \$24.95 now \$18.9522107

Generously ripe, with the concentrated plum

aromas and flavours supported by spicy oak nuances. Velvety smooth, the flavours keep

unfolding throughout the lengthy finish.



SACRED HILL

HAWKES BAY

Geoff Merril

A full-bodied, 70-30 Sangiovese-Cabernet blend; the palate is a seamlessly integrated meld of cherries, violets and spicy fruit. Put together with finesse and a nice sense of balance.

10 Sacred Hill Basket Press Hawkes Bay Merlot Cabernet 2004

was \$19.95 now \$15.95

Another class act from Sacred Hill, this is packed with lush currant, plum and chocolate aromas and flavours complemented by a hint of smoky oak. Smoothly powerful.

THE MAY TOP10 PACK 65583 **1 BOTTLE OF EACH WINE FOR \$160** save \$62.50 off retail



Barrel Fermented Chardonnay 2005 was \$19.95 now \$15.95

Brookfields Bergman

An excellent food wine, with vivid peach and tropical fruit aromas and flavours supported by subtle oak enhanced by overtones of butterscotch. Rich and elegant.



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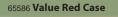




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may 2006

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To view all 9 of Glengarry's Case Offers, go to www.glengarry.co.nz