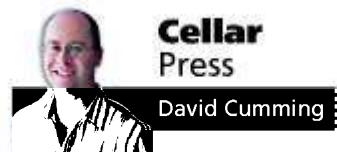




Jumping for joy over Frog Rock pinot gris



Frog Rock Pinot Gris 2009

THE guys at Frog Rock have been rather quiet lately - no doubt concentrating on selling wine and getting ready for vintage 2010.

They make a variety of wines, sourced from throughout the wine region that is Mudgee. The grapes for the pinot gris come from a vineyard located at Nullo Mountain, one of the highest vineyards in the Mudgee region - similar in altitude to many of the Orange vineyards.

It is a minerally pinot gris with heady flavours of ripe citrus, tinned pears and lemon. It is a voluptuous and mouth-filling style, balanced by subtle acid which supports the flavours and adds structure to the wine.

Price: \$18
Cellar: 2010-2012



Pipers Brook Tasmanian Riesling 2009

WITH many predicting global warming will have a detrimental effect on winegrowing, it may be that the cooler climates of Australia, such as Tassie and Orange, will become less marginal.

Maybe Orange will be the next Barossa in 50 years. While these cool climate regions are still relatively cool, look out for varieties such as riesling, chardonnay and sauvignon blanc, and the more elegant shiraz and merlot.

The Pipers Brook Riesling is very varietal with elegant lime and lemon flavours. It is a textural wine that is fresh and crisp, finishing with a touch of grip and good length of flavour.

Price: \$27.50
Cellar: 2010-2015



Tyrrell's Rufus Stone McLaren Vale Shiraz 2008

THE Tyrrell's Rufus Stone McLaren Vale Shiraz is a partner of the Heathcote Shiraz which I commented on last week.

These wines offer outstanding value for money, especially when you consider that there are some serious discounting going on in the marketplace. I have seen them on sale for under \$15 a bottle.

This McLaren Vale Shiraz smells of dark berries, dried herbs, coffee and chocolate with some nicely inter-twined vanillin oak. It's a lovely full wine with attractive, ripe fruit flavours. The tannins are soft and approachable making this an all round good buy.

Price: \$20.99
Cellar: 2010-2014

