



Eat, drink and be merry

Bloodwood Chardonnay 2009

ORANGE has once again delivered the best of its food and wine with FOOD Week. Many of the local winemakers are teaming up with chefs and food producers to showcase this fantastic region. Bloodwood is both a founding winemaker and the region and one of the leading instigators of FOOD Week. If you've got a spare hour or so, give the winery a call to arrange a tasting. The wines are outstanding and you'll learn a lot about the food and wine of Orange. Check out their new 2009 chardonnay while you're there. It's a fine, minerally style with crisp acidity and lovely fruit flavours. If you're looking for a variety that Orange does particularly well, you've found it - go around the sauvignon blanc and grab a bottle of this.

Cellar: 2010-2020
Price: \$19



Cellar Press

David Cumming

Orange Highland Pinot Gris 2009

ANOTHER cellar door to visit whilst sampling the bounty of the region, is Orange Highland Wines and Gardens. This relatively new operation is owned by Ross and Helen Harrison who have a great passion for gardens. This is evident when you visit the cellar door, as the gardens are looking spectacular and, considering that it is quite youthful, promises great things. They have already won a couple of awards in the Orange Garden Competition. The latest pinot gris from Orange Highland is a full flavoured wine with pear and citrus fruit aromas overlain with rose petal, honeysuckle and spice. It has a soft mouth feel and crisp finish.

Cellar: 2010-2012
Price: \$16



Stockman's Ridge Merlot 2008

ORANGE is no longer a quiet, secret winegrowing region. There are more and more winemakers from other areas looking at the region and sourcing fruit from some of the local vineyards. The beauty of this is that it helps build awareness of the quality of the wines, especially when their wines are labelled Orange. These winemakers include Logan from Mudgee, Swinging Bridge from Canowindra, Cofield from Rutherglen and Stockman's Ridge from Bathurst.

The 2008 Stockman's Ridge Merlot is a promising, richly flavoured wine with mulberry, chocolate, coffee and tobacco leaf flavours and toasty, charry oak. Further time in the bottle will help integrate the fruit and oak flavours.

Cellar: 2012-2016
Price: \$22

