



Semillon is out of this world

Xanadu Margaret River Semillon 2009

Having spent time in Margaret River over the new year break, I have been reinvigorated by chardonnay and reckon that Orange is fast closing in on them in as far as quality. Pricing is still an issue, with many Margaret River chardonnays fetching over \$40 a bottle. One underrated variety from Margaret River, and therefore a heap cheaper, is semillon. This is often blended with sauvignon blanc, however, it works very well on its own.

The Xanadu Semillon is a cracker. Made by Glenn Goodall, it is a wine with character, flavour, finesse and longevity. The flavours are pure and vivid with lovely herbal and citrus characters and a long, very dry finish.

Price: \$20
Cellar: 2010-2018



Deen Debortoli Vat 9 Cabernet Sauvignon 2008

I recently tasted a range of red wines in the \$12-15 price bracket. Considering there is an oversupply of grapes on the market it was rather disappointing. I was expecting better. However, a number of the Debortoli wines gave me hope. The Deen Debortoli range included a shiraz, durif and the cabernet sauvignon. The wines are varietal, balanced and offer plenty of flavour for the price. The cabernet sauvignon shows a range of dark berry flavours with a good amount of mint and savouriness. The oak is well balanced.

Price: \$12.90
Cellar: 2010-2012



Optimiste Mudgee Pinot Gris 2009

I wasn't too sure about tasting the new pinot gris from Mudgee. Pinot gris can be bland at the best of times, and if it comes from a region that is not renowned for the variety then I often go around them. However, having recently tasted the Robert Stein Mudgee riesling, I was heartened that this region, on occasion, can do these floral whites well.

This wine was matured in older French oak, which has added some palate weight and certainly some interest in the finished wine. It has all the hallmarks of pinot gris, with a spectrum of pear and stone fruit flavours with some musk. The alcohol pokes out a bit, however, chilling it down will sort that out.

Price: \$20
Cellar: 2010-2011



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