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OUR WINES IN THE PRESS: MAY 2011

OAKRIDGE, YARRA VALLEY

2009 OVER THE SHOULDER CHARDONNAY

"This is the cheapest of Oakridge winemaker David Bicknell's many chardonnay labels, but what a wine! The trademark Oakridge delicacy and low-alcohol lightness are there, and the palate has a piercing intensity, tightness and razor-sharp focus. It's very lightly wooded, and would stand up well beside a village or petit chablis. It boasts a tangy, lively, high-energy palate and is delicious. I'd rather drink it than many chardonnays twice the price. Best within two or three years. Just 12.5 per cent alcohol." **HUON HOOKE, Gourmet Traveller Wine, April/May 2011**

2009 LIMITED RELEASE VIOGNIER

"The colour is light yellow and it's fresh, youthful and low in alcohol at 11 percent. There are spice, pot-pourri and tea-leaf aromas with a faint suggestion of barrel. It's generously sweet and also phenolic, with a firm, high-acid finish." **HUON HOOKE, Gourmet Traveller Wine, June/July 2011**

2010 LIMITED RELEASE FUME BLANC

"A fascinating Yarra Valley example of the trend for wild yeast-fermented, barrel influenced sauvignon-semillon. The wine opens with complex aromas of herbs, floral scents and citrus fruits, with a suggestion of newly iron linen. It has real finesse across a long, texturally interesting palate, finishing savoury and appetising." **Ralph-Kyte Powell: The Age (Epilogue) May 10th, 2011**

BANNOCKBURN SHIRAZ

2006 BANNOCKBURN SHIRAZ

"A slightly advanced colour introduces a mature wine with a leathery, spicy bouquet of great complexity and detail. Full-bodied, savoury and finely textured, fleshy and well-structured. Firm, dry finish. A lovely food wine." **HUON HOOKE, Gourmet Traveller Wine, June/July 2011**

BARONE RICASOLI, TUSCANY

2008 BROLIO CHIANTI CLASSICO, TUSCANY

"Ricasoli's Brolio castle is one of the oldest wineries in Tuscany and the reputed birthplace of the recipe for Chianti blends that held until the 20th century. It was owned by Hardys in the 1980s. The wines are now better than I've ever seen them. This is a typical Tuscan sangiovese-based red wine with smoky, char-oak and walnut aromas, markedly savoury style with sour-cherry flavours and elegant balance. It has abundant flesh, depth and character. Soft enough to drink now, and over the next seven years." **HUON HOOKE, Gourmet Traveller Wine, April/May 2011**

TEUSNER, BAROSSA VALLEY

2009 TEUSNER ALBERT SHIRAZ

"Distinctive Barossa shiraz showing none of the negatives of a very hot year: aromas of dark chocolate and ripe plum with toasty, spicy, earthy nuances. Medium-to-full-bodied and smooth in texture, with penetrating flavour, excellent balance and charm." **HUON HOOKE, Gourmet Traveller Wine, June/July 2011**

2005 TEUSNER MC SPARKLING SHIRAZ

"The finest new Barossa sparkling in years. Masterfully assembled, brim full of black fruits and mixed spice, with dark choc oak sitting obediently behind, and soft, supple tannins doing as they're told." **Tyson Stelzer, Gourmet Traveller Wine, June/July 2011**

CORZANO E PATERNO, TUSCANY

"2009 CORZANO E PATERNO IL CORZANELLO TOSCANO ROSSO IGT is a typically contemporary blend of sangiovese (67 percent), cabernet sauvignon (30 percent) and merlo (three percent) and is fermented and matured in stainless steel. It's a red cherry-scented wine that delivers bright, musky red fruit fragrance and a supple smooth and fleshy palate. Tannins are soft yet juicy and flavours attractively fresh."

As Chianti's go, the 2008 CORZANO E PATERNO TERRE DI CORZANO CHIANTI is a handsomely authentic rendition of 90 percent sangiovese and 10 percent canaiolo. Matured mostly in oak (80 percent) with the balance in stainless steel, it has a deeper colour, darker fruits, earth, wild herbs, a lick of spice and a little oak creeping into the mix. The palate delivers contemplative tannins yet effortless balance, finishing with juicy cherry pip crunch. And as good as the Il Corzanello is, this is where it's really at." **Nick Stock, Gourmet Traveller Wine, June/July 2011**

SPINIFEX, BAROSSA

2010 SPINIFEX PAPILLON

"The 2010 Spinifex Papillon is one of the best value young reds and as good a liquid preview of the overall Barossa red vintage as you could hope for. The blend is built around the charming ways of Grenache, but it's a wine that speaks about Barossa. It simply couldn't be made anywhere else and boasts unmatched drinkability." **Nick Stock, Gourmet Traveller Wine, June/July 2011**

2009 SPINIFEX PREMIUM RELEASES

"Also from Spinifex comes an array of new-release reds, including 2009 Spinifex Tabor, a Mataro; 2009 Spinifex Valle des Roches, a single-site shiraz; and 2009 Spinifex Le Chemin, a five way co-fermented blend of grenache, mataro, shiraz, carignan and cinsault. The latter was made as a way of expressing the region's performance in the 2009 vintage. "The three new wines were some of the most distinctive, charming and complete wines we saw in 2009," says winemaker Pete Schell. "They're naturally more moderate expressions of the inherent power of the Barossa Valley, more understated and distinctive." They're all worthy of your attention, most notably Le Chemin—a wine that conjures up comparison with great Chateaufort-du-Pape. **Nick Stock, Gourmet Traveller Wine, June/July 2011**

The 2009 Spinifex Esprit and 2009 Spinifex Indigene, two regular stars, are both looking every bit the part in 2009, a vintage where it's clear some very handy blended wines have been assembled. Esprit, also made in a five-grape format, is an array of dark fruits, some savoury Mataro driving the finish in a brash flurry of densely sheeted tannins.



Indigene is back to the double act mataro and shiraz and delivers a strikingly spicy deep array of flavours in a lush, velveteen structure. It hits the spot in terms of authenticity, uniqueness and value for money." **Nick Stock, Gourmet Traveller Wine, June/July 2011**

GREENSTONE, HEATHCOTE

2007 GREENSTONE SHIRAZ

"Greenstone reverses the trend of Australian winemakers going to Europe to make wine - the winemaker at Greenstone is Alberto Antonini from Tuscany, a heartland of Italian wine. His international perspective has made Greenstone's wines some of the most interesting to come from Heathcote. This shiraz has complex aromas of minerally earth, leather and spice, berries and cherries. It's not Heathcote fruit-bomb but has an almost Italian savouriness and a well-weighted, medium-bodied palate of spicy cherry and plum-like fruit. Finely textured tannins and fresh acidity enhance its superb mouthfeel."

5 stars, Ralph Kyte-Powell: The Age (Epicure) May 24th, 2011

TENUTA DI CAPEZZANA, TUSCANY

2007 TENUTA DI CAPEZZANA BARCO REALE DI CARMIGNANO

"In the Bonacossi family's hands for almost 100 years, Capezzana has flourished – as has the status of the Carmignano region, to the north of Florence. Barco Reale is 70 per cent sangiovese, 20 per cent cabernet sauvignon and a balance of canaiolo. It's an intensely savoury red with lots of dark fruit flavours, an earthy complexity with hints of forest floor and porcini mushrooms. A fine tannin backbone defines the wine, carrying it to a long-lasting finish".

PETER BOURNE, Gourmet Traveller Wine, June/July 2011

EDEN ROAD, CANBERRA DISTRICT

2009 EDEN ROAD CANBERRA

"Another stellar '09 shiraz that needs time to settle into shape. It's thick and dense, showing complex black fruits and spice, some earthy accents and nicely paced, integrated oak. The palate rolls out sheets of fine ripe tannins carrying dark-plum and black-cherry flavours, with spice twisted through and finishing brightly balanced. Give it time." **Nick Stock, Gourmet Traveller Wine, April/May 2011**