



Under \$18

Jacob's Creek Pinot Noir 2008 \$9-\$12

INEXPENSIVE pinot noir showing true varietal quality is a rare thing. This South Australian version misses out on most of pinot's fragrant varietal mystery but is still a sound, light, dry red (and cheap!). Raspberry, earth and spice aromas lead through a light to medium-bodied palate of good balance and attractive softness.

(13.5 per cent alcohol; screw cap)

Ageing? No.

Food ideas Chicken and ham pie; gnocchi with vegetables.

Stockists include Safeway Liquor stores; Dan Murphy's.

★★★☆☆ \$\$\$



Ad Hoc Wallflower Riesling 2009 \$16-\$18

AT THE bottom end — in price terms — of talented WA winemaker Larry Cherubino's range, this succulent young riesling opens with a surge of passionfruit and floral aromas. There's citrus and apple in the background and these flavours track through a dry, limey palate that finishes with attractive austerity.

(12.3 per cent alcohol; screw cap)

Ageing? Drink over three years.

Food ideas Prawns; nasi goreng.

Stockists include Seddon Fine Wines, Seddon; King & Godfree, Carlton.

★★★★ \$\$\$



\$18-\$30

Jim Barry Lodge Hill Shiraz 2007 \$18-\$20

THE '07 edition of Jim Barry's Lodge Hill was bolstered by material normally reserved for the upmarket McRae Wood, due to falling demand for it in the US. It is an inky, solidly satisfying red with eucalypt and minty notes, concentrated dark berry fruit, a dab of high-toned oak, good freshness and depth and soft tannins in support.

(14.5 per cent alcohol; screw cap)

Ageing? Drink over five years.

Food ideas Lamb sausages; beef, mint and chilli stir-fry.

Stockists include Nicks Wine Merchants, Doncaster; Prince Wine Store, South Melbourne.

★★★★ \$\$\$



Villa Maria Private Bin Sauvignon Blanc 2009 \$18-\$20

THE first of the 2009 Marlborough sauvignon blancs are arriving; perfectly timed for spring sipping. This pale youngster has lime essence, blackcurrant and herbal varietal cues of pristine freshness. In the mouth it has a balance between ripe, juicy fruit and zesty acidity, finishing with good length and a dry signature.

(13 per cent alcohol; screw cap)

Ageing? Drink in the next year.

Food ideas Felafel; Vietnamese spring rolls with mint and lettuce.

Stockists Include Randall's stores; Star City Liquor, Melbourne.

★★★★☆ \$\$\$

