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best drink **Jeff Collerson**

Jeff's pick

WHITE

Pizzini 2010 verduzzo, \$22

Verduzzo, a dry white popular in Italy's Friuli and Veneto regions, is seldom found here. The Pizzini family in Victoria's King Valley have produced a textbook example. It has dry, lean and nutty characters but with better acidity than most Italian versions. Good with pasta and clams. Stockists 9331 3671.



RED

Ad Hoc 2009 Etcetera cabernet/merlot, \$22

Margaret River producer Larry Cherubino has blended cabernet sauvignon, merlot and tiny amounts of other, unnamed varieties, to create this tasty medium-bodied red. There are ripe black fruit and floral hints on the nose. Try with a cheesy risotto. Stockists larrycherubino.com.au



RED

Shaw & Smith 2009 Adelaide Hills shiraz, \$40

Adelaide Hills is renowned for chardonnay and sauvignon blanc but it is the area's shiraz which thrills most these days. Intense red fruit aromas have an earthy, spicy edge. The solid, fruit-driven palate gives a warm, sweet mouth-feel. Tops with roast beef. Stockists 08 8398 0500.



WHITE

Fire Gully 2009 chardonnay, \$26

Fire Gully is the second label of Margaret River pioneer Pierro. This is lighter than the more expensive Pierro chardonnay but lovers of chablis will enjoy it immensely. Has a fresh bright fruit nose with a racy citrus palate. Enjoy with oysters. Stockists 08 9755 6220.



BEER

Monteith's Winter Ale, six-pack \$16.99

The latest batch of the seasonal warmer shows it remains a mouth-filling, almost chewable mass of four different dark burnt malts and a lingering finish. At six per cent there's plenty of body, and would match sausages and a pungent, mustardy mash.

Tom Smithies

