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# Italians are just the job

Light wines made from fiano, arneis and pinot grigio grapes are perfect for summer drinking

**A**t the end of another nose-to-the-grindstone day, I like to put my mind and tastebuds into neutral. The mind is easy and some would say that it never actually gets into gear anyway. But the tastebuds take a little thought because I spend so much of my week slicing and dicing through the many samples of wines that cross my tasting bench.

I didn't have to look very far, however, with three Australian wines using classic Italian white varieties and designed to fit my summer needs.

The wines are made from fiano, a southern Italian variety; arneis, which comes from Piedmonte; and the more common pinot grigio, which has its origins in the north-eastern corner of Italy.

Each of the wines I have featured this week share a common thread of fine restraint and a keen edgy acid with delicate, slightly simple, flavours ideal for current quaffing.

The Ducks in a Row fiano is a new wine sourced from the Murray-Darling region and you can check out how to get hold of some at [www.ducksinarow.com.au](http://www.ducksinarow.com.au).

Rose is another style that is ideal for summer drinking and the Paxton Wines McLaren Vale shiraz rose 2010 and Dominique Portet Fontaine rose 2010 are brilliant drier-style quaffers that you should try well chilled — even with a liberal amount of crushed ice.

## **DUCKS IN A ROW WINEMAKERS MURRAY DARLING/SWAN HILL FIANO 2010 (\$25)**

A lovely Aussie example of this fragrant southern Italian variety. It's lifted and light with subtle tropical fruits and a light-bodied palate. Has a subtle nuttiness but largely it is pure, delicate fruit. 89/100

## **FIRST DROP BELLA COPIA ADELAIDE HILLS ARNEIS 2010 (\$25)**

A terrific example of this lovely alternative variety. It's fine and delicate with an appealing mix of apple and pear lifted with a delightful, fresh lime zest. Crisp fine acid to finish. 91/100

## **LARRY CHERUBINO AD HOC NITTY GRITTY PEMBERTON PINOT GRIGIO 2010 (\$22)**

A beautiful lightly fragrant example of this variety from the Pemberton region. Has a delightful purity on the nose and palate with lifted aromatics and a minerally clean palate that carries to a long finish. Light and airy sort of wine that's great drinking. 90/100

## **ELDERTON BAROSSA SHIRAZ 2008 (\$27)**

This was quite a challenging vintage for the Barossa, with the extreme heat, yet this has turned out rather well. Plenty of ripe fruit but it's been harnessed well with excellent oak treatment in American oak puncheons. The flavours of ripe plum and chocolate vanilla essence are appealing and with some extra time in the bottle this should stack up very nicely. 91/100

## **FROGMORE CREEK FGR TASMANIA RIESLING 2010 (\$24)**

This is a sweet Mosel-style riesling. But the key is the freshness and the fine keen acid that sustains the palate so well. It has a lovely citrus and stone fruit aroma with tonnes of lemon blossom fragrances. The palate is crisp and pure with that sweetness balanced with a lovely lingering acidity. 90/100

## **KILIKANOON MORT'S BLOCK CLARE VALLEY RIESLING 2010 (\$22)**

Lovely fine and precise riesling that gently carries through the palate to a long finish. Lemon zest

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characters with a zippy acid to finish. An excellent riesling from a very good year in Clare. 90/100

### KINGSTON ESTATE RIVERLAND PETIT VERDOT 2009 (\$14)

This ripe year has suited this variety perfectly. It's rich and luxurious with tonnes of plum and violet characters merged with a touch of dark chocolate. The palate has an appealing suppleness with soft tannins and a plush mouth feel. 89/100

### PAXTON WINES MCLAREN VALE SHIRAZ ROSE 2010 (\$20)

Beautifully fragrant and lifted floral notes on the nose showing light strawberry and raspberry characters. A deceptive richness for

this style, coming from a small amount of barrel fermentation, fills the middle palate. Finishes quite dry and pure. Lovely light food wine. 90/100

### DOMINIQUE PORTET FONTAINE ROSE 2010 (\$20)

Now one of Australia's best roses. Light onion skin and pale pink colour that's brilliant and bright. The palate has a light fresh richness, crisp fine acid and a lovely mouth feel. Much in the style of Provence. 92/100

