

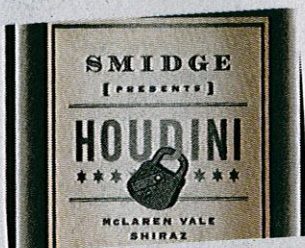
REVIEWS

by Tony Love

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Ratings:

- ☆☆☆☆ No thanks
- ☆☆☆☆ If you must
- ☆☆☆☆ Decent drop
- ☆☆☆☆ A cut above
- ☆☆☆☆ Top class



JUST MAGIC
\$18 Smidge 2008
 Houdini Shiraz
 McLaren Vale, SA
www.smidgewines.com

The story: Smidge is the inventively packaged and excitingly crafted set of wines by Two Hands winemaker Matt Wenk. This Houdini range offers great value particularly this shiraz not to be confused with another, a Barossa blend of shiraz and zinfandel.
The flavour: Weighing in at 15.3 per cent alcohol, there's no doubting this has a lot of power, yet there's vibrant purple fruits colour, glorious fragrance, concentrated plum and blackberry and cream flavour and mouthfilling generosity.

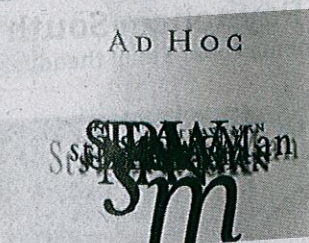
RATINGS: ★★★★★
 VALUE: Brilliant
 VERDICT: Knockout



FRUITY BEAUTY
\$19 Pizzini 2010
 Pinot Gris
 King Valley, Vic
www.pizzini.com.au

The story: The varietal names that pour out from this proud Italian family business say it all: arneis, verduzzo, brachetto, nebbiolo and sangiovese. But don't pass up the other more recognisable styles too, from this terrific PG as well as good sangio-shiraz blends.
The flavour: It's all about the apple aromas to begin, with cinnamon adding intrigue but not masking a beautiful pinot grigio purity of flavour, white crunchy stone fruits and apple freshness with excellent light tannin-grippy mouthfeel.

RATING: ★★★★★
 VALUE: Good
 VERDICT: Watch it disappear



GO WEST
\$22 Ad Hoc 2009
 Straw Man
 Sauvignon Blanc Semillon
 WA various
www.larrycherubino.com.au

The story: Winemaker Larry Cherubino formerly at Tintara, then Houghton, has an exciting range of wines under the Cherubino, The Yard and value-laden Ad Hoc labels.

The flavour: There are plenty of WA sauv-sem blends around and this stands tall among them with a sauvignon blanc-driven nose, clean and pure lime zest with herbal lifts, while there's a fancy gin-fizz twist in the palate profile and good line and length.

RATING: ★★★★★
 VALUE: Very good
 VERDICT: Barbecue the prawns please



SITTING PRETTY
\$22 Logan 2010
 Sauvignon Blanc
 Orange, NSW
www.loganwines.com.au

The story: The Orange district in central NSW is garnering attention as a form player in the sauvignon blanc business, and this is a fine example of why, with the grapes grown above 900m on the slopes of Mt Canobolas, and vintage conditions forcing early picking.
The flavour: My tasting notes use the word "pretty" several times, from the very start, pretty spring flowers and herb gardens with a delicately cast and pretty palate with grapefruits, green pears and fresh finish.

RATING: ★★★★★
 VALUE: Fair
 VERDICT: Suits a lazy Sunday afternoon

