



2009 Henschke “Johann’s Garden” Grenache Mourvedre Shiraz

Barossa Valley, SA

RRP \$45

henschke.com.au

This looks good as you pour it, with its glossy, deep, dark and saturated crimson and violets. That can't be based on anything but Grenache from older vines, with lovely perfumes of cherry, plum and almost Provencale aromas of lavender, sage and spices.

The other varieties play their role, with Mourvedre (about 20 per cent of the blend) offering pretty perfumes in addition to the usual shape and grip, and Shiraz (10 per cent) supports the cherry notes and supplies some pepper.

This is such a good look at how much more complete these 2009 reds seem to be (compared to many 08s). This is a lot of bright, complex and almost endlessly long wine. A result of great old vines and a fair amount of study and understanding of the genre. Well worth cellaring.



2010 Torzi Matthews “Schist Rock” Shiraz

Eden Valley, SA

RRP \$20

torzimatthews.com.au

A striking-value red with quality and price that needed a double take. It's not clear if this wine is a freak, but it's hard to forget. Not a beast, but rather a stylish, lithe, persistent and remarkably long-tasting red. A very good, more normal vintage in the Eden Valley has presented typical fruit characters of raspberry, cherry and mocha, which obviously really skillful and educated winemaking has shaped and seasoned a little with older, pre-used oak to leave a natural and bright looking wine.

It's no good trying to find faults or shortcomings in this; they're just not there. That length reveals only gentle and persistently delicious flavours and a nice little grip. Better get some of this.



2009 Coriole Nebbiolo

McLaren Vale, SA

RRP \$37

coriole.com

Under visionary proprietor Mark Lloyd, Coriole has set out to identify important Italian varieties and translate them to an Australian context. It's taken a while (a couple of decades, actually) but each wine is an essay in authenticity of variety, respect for the style at origin, comfort at the dining table and value. Not bad boxes to tick.

This Nebbiolo summarizes all this and frankly catches you by surprise; it's one of only a couple of Oz versions of this premier Italian red variety which you could show with confidence at its spiritual home in north western Piedmont. The Nebbiolo charms and complexities of earth, licorice, black fruits and those difficult tannins are not only controlled but beautifully styled. Getting closer...