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# HAWKSHEAD WINES

## NEW RELEASES - MAY 2010

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### GALAN Vineyards Chardonnay 2007, Lontue Valley, Chile 13% CL1227W £5.75

This wine is from a Chilean winery called Siete Tazas, but since it is owned by the Galan family, their own bottled wines are released under the Galan label. The winery is based in Molina, in the Lontue Valley some 200km south of the capital Santiago. In Chilean terms Siete Tazas is not large, having a maximum capacity of a million cases, and it remains quite traditional. Though a large proportion is sold in bulk, the Galan label is retained for the best wines. This Chardonnay is in their entry level range and is quite different from the intense tropical fruit-flavoured wines produced in Chile's Central Valley. Lontue, being that bit further south and higher up, is much cooler, resulting in wines with a more elegant, European character to which is added the merest hint of oak.



*Bright straw colour with subtle aromas of peach, melon and spicy pear. Supple rounded pear, peach and fig flavours with a gentle creaminess and a touch of hazelnut. A relatively restrained wine with some elegance, minerality and a refreshing finish. Enjoy through to 2012.*

### BERTON VINEYARD 'Silkwood' Pinot Grigio Rosé 2008, South East Australia 11% AU1938P £6.99

Bob and Cherie Berton started Berton Vineyard in 1996 with 75 acres in the High Eden district of the Barossa Valley. They first planted 17 acres of Shiraz and Chardonnay but struggled with a lack of water leading a friend to quip that they were growing *bonsai* vines! The low yields meant the focus was on quality rather than quantity and slowly they increased in reputation and vineyard area. The next step was the purchase of a state-of-the-art winery at Yenda in the Riverina. From here they could produce premium wines from their own as well as buy in grapes to extend their range, which is how we have this rather unusual Pinot Grigio rosé.



*The grapes naturally turn slightly pink when fully ripe and so leaving the grape juice in contact with the skins gives the wine an attractive pink blush. Delicate aromas of rose, raspberry and floral notes. There is good body and weight on the palate with raspberry, tinned strawberry and pomegranate flavours, and a crisp apple freshness. Now to 2011*

### HAZENDAL Estate Cabernet Merlot 2002, Stellenbosch, South Africa 13.5% ZA0952R £7.99

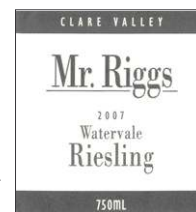
The historic Stellenbosch estate of Hazendal was founded in 1699 but lost its way somewhat until purchased in 1994 by Russian-born German, Dr Mark Voloshin. Together with business partner and friend Leo Schmacher, they upgraded the 52 ha of vineyard and invested in a new winery. The final piece was to bring in the talented Ronell Wiid as winemaker, a previous winner of Diner's Club Winemaker of the Year. She is an advocate of natural, non-interventionist winemaking, which is reflected in the purity and balance of her wines. This is our first red from Hazendal, a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Aged in French oak barrels for 12 months it is now showing some impressive complexity and drinking very well indeed.



*Bright ruby colour with no sign of age. Pure, lively aromas of cassis, cedar, tobacco and vanilla spice. Very smooth and quite complex on the palate. Red berry fruit flavours notably cassis, redcurrant with a touch of damson and spicy cinnamon. Good structure and subtle tannins make this a rounded, complex wine. Drink now to 2012.*

### Mr. RIGGS Watervale Riesling 2007, Clare Valley, Australia 13% AU2077W £9.99

Mr. Riggs is a unique and ambitious new venture for Ben Riggs, formerly winemaker at Wirra Wirra. Working with the contacts he has made over the years, he is developing a range of premium wines from specific parts of Australia. The grapes for this outstanding dry Riesling come from arguably the country's best *terroir* for this variety: the cool yet sunny Watervale sub region of the Clare Valley. The vineyard is owned by Kerri Thompson, now winemaker at Leasingham, but previously also at Wirra Wirra and the Riggs/Thomson winemaking talents have united to create something rather special. In common with the very best dry Rieslings from this area, it is crisp and tangy with 'nervous' acidity and the potential to age many years.



*Pure and delicate nose with citrus and soft floral characters that carry seamlessly on to the palate. Lively and refreshing flavours with lemon and lime nicely balanced by ripe stone fruits. Enjoy now for its vibrant fruit or keep through to 2015 for more complex characters.*

### Domaine ST. NAZAIRE 2006, Cotes de Duras, South West France 12.5% FR3486R £6.49

The Cotes de Duras is a small appellation in south-west France. Though it neighbours Bordeaux and the wines are often "Bordeaux-like", it is quite separate and with a long and distinguished history was one of the first to be given AC status back in 1937. The region is slightly warmer than Bordeaux, which helps the wines avoid the 'weediness' that is often a characteristic of lesser Bordeaux wines. The Cotes de Duras is also a source of great value, particularly with wines from meticulous estates like Annie and Elois Marty at Domaine St. Nazaire. Situated some 25 miles south east of St Emilion, they grow the typical Bordeaux mix of varieties (Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot). Elois is very much a traditionalist and his wines are quite tannic in their youth.



*Fresh and youthful red with aromas of cassis, cherry, wild strawberry and hints of dried herbs. Savoury berry fruit flavours with notes of exotic spice, currant leaf and gentle tannins on the finish. A light, elegant and relatively complex wine to enjoy to at least 2013.*

### BOTTER Merlot Riserva 2004, Piave, Italy 13.5% IT1154R £8.99

Luca Botter is now the third generation of his family to run this dynamic producer, founded in 1928. The company began as a retailer of wine in casks and demijohns before moving on to bottled wine in the 1950s. Gradually sales increased and the production from the family estate, La di Motte, had to be supplemented with grapes from neighbouring vineyards. In time this extended to the whole of Italy, especially Puglia in the south. Even so, the family's heart remained in the La di Motte estate, in the hills of Piave, north of Venice. In the 90s, Luca invested heavily in the estate's vineyards and renovated the old winery. Today it is the source of the company's best wines and it is from here that we selected the Riserva Merlot, an impressively rich wine, aged 12 months in oak barrels.



*Spicy plum and fruit cake aromas with a touch of nutmeg. Silky smooth berry fruit flavours with notes of damson, redcurrant and mocha. Weighty, full-bodied style with purity, fine tannins, good mouth-feel and impressive length. There is fruity enough to be enjoyed on its own, but would be best with cheese and red meats. Enjoy now to 2012.*

**NEW RELEASES CASE: 2 bottles of each wine - just £88.39 with FREE DELIVERY – save up to £10 Ref: NRC021M**