

Clairault

MARGARET RIVER

Paddy Kendler—Herald Sun—17 March 2009



Clairault Cabernet Merlot 2005, \$24
Clairault may not yet be in the prestigious first division of Margaret River wineries, but it's surely knocking on the door and regularly receives show awards and critical acclaim. As a bonus, both the reds and whites are remarkably good value for money. The latest cabernet merlot blend features plenty of dark berry fruit infused with intriguing hints of chocolate, dried herbs, plums and cherries. For availability, email marketing@clairaultwines.com.au
★★★★★

Clairault Cabernet Merlot 2005

★★★★★ = unbeatable

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heraldsun.com.au Herald Sun extra 5

Paddy Kendler uncovers some bargain buys with plenty of attitude

- 1 Aradon Rioja 2007, \$8.50**
Aradon is a medium-bodied Spanish red imported by Cullen which thoroughly deserves a stamping. Versatile and approachable, it holds smooth sweet and savoury fruit flavours balanced by just enough dry tannins. As a more than reasonable price, it's an interesting and exotic alternative to the locals.
★★★★★
- 2 # Aradon The Stamp Jump Red 2008, \$11.50**
Four new whites have been added to the popular Stamp Jump range including this juicy red. Those who usually find Australian reds too dry and starchy in their youth — or too much like chewing on a flame — need have no fears here. The new Stamp Jump is a softer style with a little grapey sweetness and has clearly been made for enjoying right now, not a few years down the track. Top value.
★★★★★
- 3 New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc 2008, \$14.50**
Having initially had some difficulty with the pronunciation of this quirky name, I zoned in on the wine and was quite impressed. It's one of more than a few Marlborough Sauvignons imported by Cullen and definitely one of the best. Typical passionfruit and nectarine fruit aromas and flavours with hints of green grass and fresh herbs.
★★★★★
- 4 Clairault Cabernet Merlot 2005, \$24**
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★★★★★
- 5 Wedgetail Valley Pinot Noir 2008, \$21**
Winemaker Guy Lamothe terms this a "minimalist wine", a reference to no more than the bare essentials of winemaking artifice and intervention. Made from biodynamically grown fruit from Gembrook and Cottles Bridge, there's an instantly appealing simplicity about it. Fresh, clean and precise varietal fruit fragrance and flavour, fine, silky texture and neatly balanced, it's a bargain by pinot-pricing standards and should be available via Vintage Cellars and Dan Murphy's.
★★★★★

The verdict: ★★★★★ Unbeatable ★★★★★ Fair drop ★★★★★ Good value ★★★★★ Thirsty? OK ★★★★★ Don't bother

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