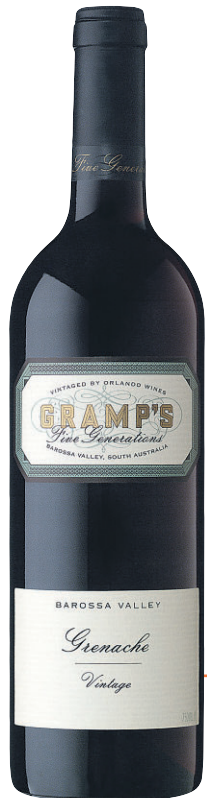


UNCORKED



**\$7.50**  
**De Bortoli 2008 Sacred Hill Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc**  
 DE Bortoli's Riverina-sourced Sacred Hill wines are consistently good value and this youthful white would quaff nicely with a pineapple and ham pizza, curry puffs or fish and chips.  
 It is pale straw with lime green tints and has passionfruit and green pea scents. Zesty gooseberry flavour comes through on the front of the palate and lemon zest and restrained herbal characters join in on the middle palate. Flinty acid features at the finish.  
**Ageing:** drink now



**\$17**  
**Gramp's 2006 Barossa Valley Grenache**  
 TAPAS, meatballs and spaghetti or paella would be perfect with this zingy Barossa Valley grenache from Pernod Ricard's Gramp's label.  
 It is brick red and has scents of morello cherries and potpourri. Sweet, spiced blueberry flavour shows on the front of the palate and plum spearmint and licorice fruit characters meld with spicy oak on the middle palate. Smooth chalky tannins come over at the finish.  
**Ageing:** two years



BOTTLER



**\$55**  
**Grant Burge 2005 Shadrach Cabernet Sauvignon**  
 SINCE the 2004 vintage the Shadrach wines have been all based on Barossa grapes – a contrast to some earlier versions that had as much as 80per cent from Coonawarra.  
 Grant Burge says this is the best cabernet sauvignon he has made and it is certainly of exceptional quality.  
 It is ruby red with deep purple tints and has scents of brandied cherries and black olives. Smooth, intense blackberry flavour dominates the front of the palate and fruit elements of black pepper, mint and mocha coffee harmonise with vanillin oak on the middle palate. Velvety flinty tannins show at the finish.  
 Loin of lamb with beetroot relish, pomegranate-glazed duckling with potato galette or char-grilled eye of beef would be good food matches.  
**Ageing:** seven years



WINE  
**JOHN LEWIS**

# Thommo basks in medal glow

While Tyrrell's partied another party had good cause to celebrate.

IT is typical of Bruce Tyrrell that, the day after Tyrrell's blockbusting 14-trophy, 13-gold medal 2008 Hunter Valley Wine Show triumph, he sent congratulations to Andrew Thomas.

Bruce was ill on the night of the show awards presentation dinner and missed what turned out to be a Tyrrell's 150th birthday party, but he was well aware of Thommo's achievements as the maker of wines that won a trophy and nine gold medals in the Singleton judging.

The wines were made for the Andrew Thomas label and for the circle of small vigneron for whom Andrew is contract winemaker.

The Thomases and the Tyrrells go back a long way. Andrew's late father Wayne regularly used to make the trip from his own McLaren Vale winery to work on vintages at Tyrrell's in the 1970s and '80s and Andrew was a key member of the Tyrrell's winemaking team from 1986 to 1999.

Today Andrew is recognised as one of Australia's ace winemakers.

The point was emphasised last June when he was crowned winemaker of the year at the 2008 Living Legends of Hunter Wine awards and followed up last July when nine of the gold medal-winning wines at the Winewise Small Vignerons Awards in Canberra came from his contract-winemaking hands.

At last month's Hunter show, the **Andrew Thomas 2007 Braemore Semillon** won the Ed Jouault Trophy for the best one-year-old dry white and was awarded a gold medal in the 100 per cent Hunter Valley 2007 and older semillon dry white class.

The wine won't hit the market for six years and two other Thomas gold medal semillons will also undergo extended cellaring before release.

The **Andrew Thomas 2006 Braemore Semillon** won a gold medal in the named vineyard any vintage semillon dry white class and the **Andrew Thomas 2007 Cellar Reserve Semillon** won gold in the 2007 semillon dry white class.

Andrew made three gold-medal wines from grapes from John Hindman's and Richard Friend's 15-hectare Pokolbin Estate vineyard – the current-release \$22 **Pokolbin Estate 2008 Ken Bray Semillon**, the \$50 **Pokolbin Estate 2005 Reserve**

**Shiraz** and the \$25 **Pokolbin Estate 2005 Semillon** – all now available at the McDonalds Road, Pokolbin, cellar door.

The currently available \$23 **Hungerford Hill 2007 Hunter Valley Semillon**, made by Andrew when he was contract winemaker for Hungerford Hill, won a Singleton gold medal in the 2007 semillon dry white class.

The 56-point top gold current-release **Warraroong Estate 2007 Semillon** (\$23) and the gold medal-winning **The Carriages Wine Company 2007 Shiraz** (\$25) and **Mount View Estate 2006 Reserve Semillon**, were also made by Andrew.

The Warraroong 2007 semillon is on sale at the cellar door in Wilderness Rd, Lovedale, or on 4930 7595 or [www.warraroongestate.com](http://www.warraroongestate.com).

The pretty Mount View vineyard was established by Harry and Anne Tulloch and has been owned since 2000 by Sydney Aquarium founder John Burgess and his wife Polly.

Their **Mount View 2006 Reserve Semillon** (gold in the 100 per cent Hunter Valley 2007 and older semillon dry white class) sells for \$24 at the cellar door in Mount View Road, Mount View.

The **Carriages Wine Company 2007 Shiraz** scored gold in the 100 per cent Hunter Valley 2007 dry red

class and can be bought for \$25 at The Carriages Guest House, Halls Road, Pokolbin, or on [www.thecarriages.com.au](http://www.thecarriages.com.au).

Other gold-medal wines that can be bought now are:

The **Krinklewood Vineyard 2004 Chardonnay**, which gained gold in the 2006 and older chardonnay dry white class and sells for \$24 at the cellar door in Wollombi Road, Broke, or on 6579 1322 or visit [www.krinklewood.com](http://www.krinklewood.com).

The **Ernest Hill 2007 William Henry Shiraz** won a gold medal in the 100 per cent Hunter Valley 2007 dry red class and limited stocks are available at \$35 a bottle at the cellar door in Wine Country Drive, Pokolbin.

The **Robyn Drayton 2006 Justin Reserve Chardonnay** (gold medal in the 2006 and older chardonnay dry white class) sells for \$23 a bottle at the cellar door on the corner of McDonalds and Pokolbin Mountains roads, Pokolbin or on [www.robynndraytonwines.com.au](http://www.robynndraytonwines.com.au).

The **Adina 2005 Thomas Charles Shiraz** won gold in the 100 per cent Hunter Valley 2006 and older shiraz class and sells for \$35 at the at the Lovedale Road, Lovedale,



GLASSES RAISED: To legendary Hunter winemaker Andrew Thomas.

cellar door.

The **Poole's Rock 2005 Hunter Valley Semillon** (gold in the 2006 and older semillon dry white class) is available for \$42 at the cellar door, in De Beyers Road, Pokolbin, and in some wine stores.

The **Roche Wines 2006 Premium Semillon** (gold in the 2006 and older semillon dry white class) and the **Roche 2004 Premium IJR Shiraz** (gold in the named vineyard any vintage shiraz dry red class) are both at the Tempus Two cellar door, located on the corner of Broke and McDonalds roads, Pokolbin. The shiraz sells for \$55 and the semillon for \$30.

## DOMAYNE

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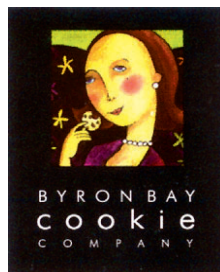
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