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Grape expectations

with KERRY SKINNER



Lindemans 2008 Coonawarra Pyrus \$55

Pyrus is part of the magnificent Lindemans Coonawarra trio which also includes the Limestone Ridge shiraz cabernet and the St George cabernet sauvignon. It's a cracking good blend of cabernet, malbec and merlot matured in mostly new French oak, supple and delicious with layers of blackberry fruit, integrated spice and minty characters, poise and silky smooth tannins. Drink with lamb shanks.



Koonowla 2006 Shiraz \$22

A ripshorter of a red that's incredibly good value - it picked up the trophy for best wine under \$25 at this year's Great Australian Shiraz Challenge. From the Clare Valley it's brimming with class, lashings of blackberry and plum fruit, a dash of spice, chocolate characters, lovely oak and supple tannins. Drink with chargrilled fillet steak.



Mayfield Vineyard 2008 Riesling \$28

The historic Orange-based Mayfield is one of the highest and coldest vineyards in Australia. Crafted by industry journeyman Jon Reynolds it's a classic cool-climate riesling with perfumed blossom notes on the nose, pristine lemon and lime fruit flavours, minerally characters, a lively acidic backbone and a clean, dry finish. Drink with grilled whiting or cellar for another five years.



Saint & Sinner 2010 Adelaide Hills Savvy Blanc \$26

One of four new wines from Saint & Sinner's Calling Card range, brilliantly illustrated and which also includes a Tamar Valley pinot gris, Wrattonbully cabernet sauvignon and McLaren Vale shiraz. This is a terrific wine, fresh and vibrant with passionfruit notes on the nose, tropical fruit flavours, grassy undertones, lively acidity and a crisp, dry finish. Drink with seafood.