



2006 Koonowla 'Ringmaster' Cabernet Sauvignon \$14.95

This may be a new label for many although Koonowla have been sending me wine for three years. It's now a large 100-hectare Clare vineyard, not far from Auburn, on land that was originally planted to vines in the late nineteenth century. So it's an historic property (which explains the unmarketable name), revitalised. O'Leary Walker vinifies some of the fruit which is sold under the Koonowla label – with 'The Ringmaster' being the budget-priced label for shiraz and cabernet, both of which are rated 'bloody good'. I found the 2006 'Ringmaster' pretty restrained on the nose but better on the palate: there it has raspberry, redcurrant and blackberry flavours, silky smooth texture, and ripe but firm tannins.

2006 Koonowla 'The Ringmaster' Shiraz \$15.95

Koonowla is a large 100-hectare Clare vineyard, not far from Auburn, on land that was originally planted to vines in the late nineteenth century. So it's an historic property revitalised. O'Leary Walker vinifies some of the fruit which is sold under the Koonowla label – with 'The Ringmaster' being the budget-priced label for shiraz and cabernet. The wine has redcurrant, dark plum, blackberry and vanillin oak flavours, is soft and fleshy, so smooth it's almost silky, rich and concentrated, with a supple, approachable finish.