



Courier Mail
Saturday 19/06/2010

Page: 30
Section: Qweekend
Region: Brisbane, AU
Circulation: 211230
Type: Capital City Daily
Size: 129.65 sq.cms.



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CELLAR NOTES
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Clare Valley shiraz is seriously underrated, perhaps because focus on the Clare inevitably falls on its gorgeous rieslings. Some valley locals consider cabernet the most suitable red and while Clare cabernets are attractive wines, to me they seem a little four-square in comparison to the often exotically flavoured shiraz. Clare shiraz tends to the medium to full-bodied, yet exhibits a delightful softness with cashmere-like tannin structure. As with most of the region's reds, the wines can throw up a slight minty or eucalyptus character. Expect some blackberry and dark fruit flavours, and wines that generally age well.



- 1. Koonowia The Ringmaster Shiraz 2007' (\$20)** Black fruits, chocolate, leather and earthy notes. Finishes with fine tannins. **[89/100]**
- 2. Clos Clare Cemetery Block Shiraz 2006 (\$25)** Dried fruits, briary notes and hints of smoked meats make an intriguing nose. **[92]**
- 3. Tim Adams Shiraz 2007 (\$26)** Plum pudding notes, new leather and dark fruits, mid-length finish with some dusty tannins. **[89]**
- 4. O'Leary Walker Claire Reserve Shiraz. 2006 (\$90)** Refined yet intense with hidden depths of flavour that keep emerging. Warm earth, black fruits, spice, dark chocolate. Impressive length with silky tannins. **[94]**