

Rich Pickings.

You don't have to break the bank to drink well — just ask Nick Stock

WORDS ROBERTA MUIR

Penfolds

Grange, Australia's most iconic wine, is a blend of shiraz from different growers across several regions. It rates among Australia and the world's top wines year after year — and the current AU\$550 price tag reflects this. But does anything that most of us might actually buy come close? Nick Stock, author of *The Penguin Good Australian Wine Guide 2010*, thinks so. While he scored the 2004 Grange a very respectable 95/100 and called it "...a terrific wine... certainly one of the best", he awarded higher scores to 10 shirazes under AU\$200. Here's what he said and how he scored those drops:



2007 VOYAGER ESTATE SHIRAZ (MARGARET RIVER)

"Superb elegance and poise... red summer berries, lighter perfumed nuances and musky fragrance... pretty, vivacious and alluring... fine sheets of tannin... red berry, blueberry, plum and pastry flavours... anise and liquorice... beautifully crafted and balanced." 96/100 RRP AU\$32



2007 SHAW & SMITH SHIRAZ (ADELAIDE HILLS)

"Strong black fruit and liquorice aromas... richness and ripeness, complex spice and pepper... aromas of blackberry leaf and raspberry fruit... plenty of tannin, juicy and powerful with impressive weight and drive." 96/100 RRP AU\$40



2006 SEPPELTS ST PETERS SHIRAZ (GREAT WESTERN)

"Deep dark spice and soulful old vine shiraz aromas... black fruits and dark roasted spices, complex and complete... lingering dark plum flavour. A superb wine, impeccably balanced." 97/100 RRP AU\$60



2006 MOUNT LANGHI SHIRAZ (GRAMPIANS)

"... this is the stuff that cool-climate shiraz dreams are made of — toasty oak, cinnamon, clove and bright berry fruit aromas... fine, solid tannins... black cherry, blueberry and plum... still on the ascent." 96/100 RRP AU\$70



2006 CASTAGNA GENESIS SYRAH (BEECHWORTH)

"... dark, brooding granitic spice... integrated nicely... dark plum and fragrant cherry fruits, some pepper and grilled meats (aroma)... dark plum flavour on a bed of fine, savoury tannin... dark chocolate-flavoured finish." 96/100 RRP AU\$75



2006 FIRST DROP FAT OF THE LAND EBENEZER SHIRAZ (BAROSSA VALLEY)

"... dark berries, dried herbs and chocolate... really bright, ripe... impressive power and precision on the palate... mouth-coating tannins and a long, dense finish." 96/100 RRP AU\$75



2007 BROKENWOOD GRAVEYARD VINEYARD SHIRAZ (HUNTER VALLEY)

"... superb and impressive... dark, meaty, black-fruited nose, five spice and exotic fragrant complexity... supple, juicy dark plum flavour... dark creamed spices... depth and balance... will age gracefully for many years." 96/100 RRP AU\$140



2008 CLONAKILLA SHIRAZ VIOGNIER (CANNBERRA)

"Super complex... abundant sweet musky aromas, deli meats, light summer berries... effortless balance, elegant structure and gently rounded palate... concentrated red and dark berry fruits, hard brown spice flavours, gentle chocolate and fine-grained tannins... will continue to build beguiling complexity for many years." 96/100 RRP AU\$90



2006 JOHN DUVAL ELIGO SHIRAZ (BAROSSA VALLEY)

"The very best (Duval) shiraz... depth and grace... blackberry, black cherry and cassis... framed in savoury oak and gentle spice... deep tarry blackberry flavours built to spiced blood plum... impressively balanced." 96/100 RRP AU\$100



2006 KAESLER OLD BASTARD SHIRAZ (BAROSSA VALLEY)

"Super concentrated and very vibrant... great deep purple colour... liquorice and some sarsaparilla... lots of depth, really ripe and plenty of deep dark berry aromas. The palate has a spike of acid, more liquorice and anise, some deep flowing tannins and plenty of bright, fruit flavour... will reveal impressive complexity in time." 96/100 RRP AU\$165 ★