

**Kirrihill Clare Valley Cabernet Sauvignon | Vintage 2008 RRP \$15****91**

**TS:** Here's a great value Clare Cabernet with plush plum and blackcurrant fruit embraced by dark chocolate flavours derived from French and American oak. It's a finely-structured, juicily-fruited style with layers and layers of crowd-enthraling appeal.

[www.kirrihillwines.com.au](http://www.kirrihillwines.com.au)

**OTHER REDS****La Curio Reserve Bush Vine Grenache | Vintage 2007 RRP \$24****93**

**NS:** This red-fruited beauty is outstanding quality and value. There's a waft of darker berries and lighter perfumed nuances too. The palate has fleshy, easy-going Grenache appeal with long, fine, sturdy tannins that deliver handsomely. Drink now or over the next four years.

**Mount Towrong Nebbiolo | Vintage 2007 RRP \$30****92**

**TS:** New on my radar this month, this high altitude Macedon vineyard is the source of an expressive, gorgeously perfumed Nebbiolo. Rose petals, truffles, forest floor, star anise, red berries and tomato leaf all star in this firmly structured but integrated style.

[www.mounttowrong.com.au](http://www.mounttowrong.com.au)

**Turkey Flat Butchers Block Shiraz Grenache Mourvèdre | Vintage 2008 RRP \$27****92**

**TS:** The best Butchers Block ever? You be the judge. Plush stewed plum, rhubarb and cherry fruit, lovely Christmas spice, persistent finish and fine, soft tannins all present a compelling case. You might just find you'll need a second bottle to confirm.

**Chapel Hill Il Vescovo McLaren Vale Sangiovese | Vintage 2008 RRP \$20****91**

**TS:** McLaren Vale lends its stamps of dark plums, black cherries, black olives and bay leaves to this otherwise red-fruited variety. But in the talented hands of Michael Fragos, Sangiovese's signature fresh acidity and fine, mouth-coating tannins triumph in the end. Great value.

[www.chapelhillwine.com.au](http://www.chapelhillwine.com.au)

**Roundstone Gamay | Vintage 2008 RRP \$22****90**

**NS:** A brambly, blue-fruited Gamay from the Yarra Valley that has an appealing array of wild forest smells. Some gentle fluffy tannins fuzz through the palate with plenty of berry flavour that lingers appealingly. Drink now, chilled or at cool room temperature.

**SWEET & FORTIFIED WINES****Pyramid Valley Vineyards Growers Collection Hille Vineyard Late Harvest Marlborough Semillon | Vintage 2007 RRP \$40****94**

**TS:** Pyramid Valley is home to NZ's most sublime dry Semillon, and now the source of this ultra-complex late harvest wine. Multi-faceted, it melds wild yeast funk with butterscotch, almond bread, lavender and zesty citrus fruits, with structure and restraint to tame its wild side.

**Scarborough Late Harvest Semillon (375mL) | Vintage 2009 RRP \$20****92**

**TS:** This clean, expertly assembled dessert style strikes the ideal balance between luscious sweetness and refreshing acidity. With flavours of lemonade and glacé peach lingering on, it's a gorgeous, fruit-driven style that's ready to drink now and over the medium-term.

**Vasse Felix Cane Cut Semillon (375mL) | Vintage 2008 RRP \$23****92**

**NS:** Another golden cane cut Semillon but this is distinctly Margaret River with its grassy nuances across lemon citrus, pith and peel. The palate is nicely balanced with punchy lime and lemongrass flavour. Finishes clean and even.

**Flaxman Wines Dessert Semillon (375mL) | Vintage 2008 RRP \$20****91**

**NS:** Flaxman Wines is a tiny, empassioned producer in SA's Eden Valley and here they've delivered a cordon cut elixir of old vine Semillon. Lemon custard, gently fragrant and spicy, with a neatly balanced palate and plenty of ripe citrus fruit flavour, finishing clean and pure.