



drink

Paddy Kendler finds some excellent value, from Argentina to Irymple

1 Bodegas Norton Torrontes 2007, \$9.50
Torrontes is a Spanish white grape that has flourished in South America. This Bodegas Norton bottling is from Argentina and is a light and lively dry white with fresh, fruity flavour and a sunny disposition. Exclusive to Vintage Cellars and 1st Choice stores. At this price, definitely worth a punt. ★★★★★

2 Commissioner's Block Shiraz 2006, \$11.50
The wines under this label usually originate from the broad Murray Darling region and are made at Irymple. Attractive black berry, plum and sweet spice aromas and flavours stand out in the '06 shiraz and the texture is marked by soft, dry tannins. It's eminently quaffable and reasonably priced. The '06 Cabernet Sauvignon is also worth a thorough sampling. ★★★★★½

3 Tulloch Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 2008, \$16
Having observed the success of the SSB blends in the market — and in the knowledge that though the Hunter Valley may produce excellent semillon, the climate is unsuited to sauvignon blanc — the Tullochs opted to go west, chequebook in hand, in search of grapes or wine. The result is a Hunter, Margaret River combination, and it works well. The sauvignon gives an aroma and flavour boost to the milder semillon, specifically some passionfruit,

nectarine and guava characters that work well with the citrus and hay features of the semillon. A handy dry white.

★★★★

4 De Bortoli Gulf Station Pinot Grigio 2008, \$17
Perhaps the Gulf Station range has not yet gained the market traction De B's had hoped for, but it will happen because the various wines are remarkable value for money. The company's Windy Peak grigio was a beaut introduction to the varietal style, but the Gulf version is a step up the ladder. It's spotlessly clean and polished, redolent of green apples, pear, hay and citrus. At least some of the final blend appears to have spent time in used oak, but more for texture than flavour. Impressive stuff. ★★★★★½

5 Tarrawarra Estate Tin Cows Pinot Noir 2006, \$22
Tin Cows is more than just a second label for Yarra Valley winery, Tarrawarra. The wines appear to be designed and produced with a clear concept in mind: they are fruit-driven, relatively simple and dangerously drinkable upon release. If you are in the mood for a seriously hedonistic experience, try the Reserve Pinot '06 (\$50). But for more casual occasions, the Cows will fit the bill. Lovely fruit flavour, neat balance and better than any French burgundy at this price. ★★★★★½



ENJOY your wine with the help of **extrafood** and leading Australian wine club Cellarmasters; The Wine Cellar. For a chance to win a dozen New Eden Riesling 2007, worth \$216, **ph: 1900 966 382**. To find out more about Cellarmasters; The Wine Cellar, ph: 1800 500 260 or visit www.cellarmasters.com.au



Competition calls cost 55c, incl GST. Dialect Solutions. More from mobile or public phones. Competition closes midnight today. Winners notified by mail.