



With John Lewis

Tulloch 2004 Pokolbin Dry Red Shiraz

This week I revived an old and valued friendship – by opening a bottle of the Tulloch 2004 Pokolbin Dry Red Shiraz.

It's the new version of a wine that first made its appearance in 1952 and which, along with the more up-market Tulloch Private Bin Pokolbin Dry Red, brought much joy to me and many other red wine devotees during the 1950s and 1960s.

In those days, the Private Bin Pokolbin Dry Reds cost more and were more highly regarded than the now-legendary Penfolds Grange shiraz reds. The Tulloch 1954 Private Bin Dry Red, which was still drinking beautifully when I last tasted it in 1995, caused a sensation by winning both the claret and burgundy classes at Sydney Wine Show.

The Pokolbin Dry Red and Private Bin Dry Red wines were both created by the legendary Hector Tulloch, son of John Younie Tulloch, founder of the 112-year-old J.Y. Tulloch and Sons wine business.

Tullochs owned the company for up to 1969, when the family sold to Reed Consolidated Industries, the first of a series of unsympathetic giant corporate owners. The last of these, Southcorp,

sold the Tulloch Glen Elgin winery and vineyard to David Clarke's Poole's Rock Wines in August 2001.

At the same time the Tulloch brand was bought by a group in which Ross Pitts's Inglewood wine company has a 66.8 per cent shareholding, alongside stakes held by Jay Tulloch and his family and the Angove's family wine company.

Jay Tulloch is the grandson and namesake of John Younie Tulloch. He spent 34 years at Tulloch before retiring as company general manager in 1996.

Jay says that under the new ownership Tulloch is returning to its roots and cites as evidence the release of the 2004 Pokolbin Dry Red and the coming launch of the \$35 2005 Private Bin Dry Red.

The 2004 Pokolbin Dry Red scores immediate points from me for its return of the traditional label with the old logo of two pickers carrying a giant bunch of grapes. The wine has scents of bramble jelly and rose petals and brings sweet, intense plum flavour to the front of the palate. Mint chocolate and black pepper characters combine with an underlay of toasty oak on the middle palate and lingering plum fruit and earthy tannins combine at the finish.

It was made from old vine grapes from the Oakdale-Audrey Wilkinson vineyard at Pokolbin and would be ideal with deep-fried veal and olive meatballs, chicken cassoulet or scotch fillet steak and mushrooms.

The Tulloch wines are made at the First Creek-Monarch Winemaking Services winery by Jim Chatto.



Available: in some wine stores and restaurants and from the Tulloch cellar door, corner of McDonalds and De Beyers roads, Pokolbin.

Price: \$25

Rating: