

100 TOP NEW RELEASES

**90**★★★★★  
2009 Wedgetail Estate  
Single Vineyard Shiraz, Yarra  
Valley, A\$40

Dusty, smoky, mixed spices and pepper are all apparent in a fragrant bouquet. It's medium-bodied and elegantly structured, taut and understated, with a long, linear profile. **11**



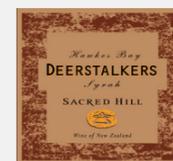
**97**★★★★★  
2009 Escarpment Kupe  
Pinot Noir, Martinborough,  
A\$76/NZ\$85

Dense yet supple wine with savoury, nutty, plum and spicy oak with a hint of wild herb character. Very complex, with sweet tannins that are nicely managed by strong sweet fruit. Terrific wine with a great future. **8**



**96**★★★★★  
2008 Sacred Hill  
Deerstakers Syrah,  
Hawkes Bay, NZ\$50

Strong, ripe berry flavours show a seasoning of white and black pepper. Dense, rich wine with a chewy texture and sweet fruit. This is a big red with an exciting future. One of the better vintages of this high-profile label. **8**



**95**★★★★★  
2009 Escarpment  
Te Rehua Pinot Noir,  
Martinborough, A\$60/NZ\$60

Big, dense pinot noir with an almost chewy texture and layers of ripe fruit, chocolaty oak and savoury characters. Powerful, generously proportioned wine with strong sweet fruit and good length. **8**



**89**★★★★★  
2009 Sevenhill Inigo  
Barbera, Clare Valley, A\$19

This isn't varietal, nor Italianate, but unashamedly Aussie in style, with its dark-chocolate and mint aromas, soft fleshy tannins and rounded palate shape. There's a touch of alcohol heat in the finish (it's 15.5 per cent) and again dark chocolate is the main flavour. **7**



**96**★★★★★  
2006 Destiny Bay Mystae,  
Waiheke Island, NZ\$115

A blend of cab sav (57 per cent), merlot (22 per cent), cab franc (17 per cent) and malbec (4 per cent). Dense yet elegant, with dark berry, cassis, mint, cedar wood, violet and nutty oak flavours. A fragrant wine with a seamless texture and lingering finish. **10**



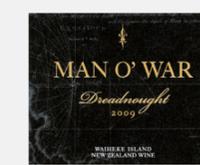
**95**★★★★★  
2008 Church Road  
Reserve Merlot Cabernet,  
Hawkes Bay, NZ\$37

Dense, rich and powerful red with a nice mix of ripe dark berry and savoury flavours. Reasonably closed at this stage but with masses of clear cellaring potential. Strong sweet fruit is balanced by firm, ripe tannins. A classy wine. **10**



**95**★★★★★  
2009 Man O'War  
Dreadnought Syrah, Waiheke  
Island, A\$50/NZ\$50

Fine-boned, perfumed syrah in an elegant style. Red fruits, floral and white and black pepper. Fine-grained backbone with a pleasantly drying finish. Good cellaring potential at least for the mid-term, but very approachable now. **7**



**89**★★★★★  
2009 Tcharke The Master  
Montepulciano, Barossa Valley,  
A\$34

Here's a big red with lots of glycerol viscosity and fruit sweetness born of super-ripe grapes. It has a sandalwood, blackberry aroma that doesn't bring to mind any Italian renditions I've tasted, but it's a good full-bodied Aussie red. **7**



**96**★★★★★  
2009 Escarpment Pahi  
Pinot Noir, Martinborough,  
A\$60/NZ\$60

Only 200 cases. Stronger cherry and plum flavours than in the Kiwa label. Attractive sweet fruit interwoven with subtle savoury characters. A moderately complex wine that will age well. Quite supple and elegant. **7**



**95**★★★★★  
2008 Black Estate Pinot  
Noir, Waipara, A\$50/NZ\$42

Richly textured wine with lovely flavour depth. Layers of dark fruits with some spice and nutty oak. A very classy pinot noir – seamless and long. Delightfully drinkable but promises to develop even more complexity with age. **6**



**95**★★★★★  
2005 Martinborough  
Vineyard 30th Anniversary Pinot  
Noir, Martinborough, NZ\$100

Attractive, bottle-developed wine still with sweet primary plum and cherry flavours with toasty, savoury characters. The texture is a key feature of this wine – smooth and rich, delicious. Only 756 bottles produced. **8**



NEW ZEALAND REDS

**98**★★★★★  
2009 Te Mata  
Bullnose Syrah, Hawkes Bay,  
A\$54/NZ\$45

An elegant yet dense red with white and black pepper adding spice to red berry flavours. There's also a touch of floral characters. It has a rich and velvety texture. Will age splendidly. **10**



**96**★★★★★  
2009 Muddy Water  
Slowhand Pinot Noir,  
Waipara, A\$80/NZ\$75

Dense, ripe pinot noir with a velvet texture and layers of red berry and spice flavours. It's seductively accessible now but don't be fooled by its "drink me" charms – it promises to develop even greater complexity with bottle-age. **6**



**95**★★★★★  
2006 Destiny Bay  
Destinae, Waiheke Island,  
NZ\$75

A blend of cab sav (46 per cent), merlot (22 per cent), cab franc (16 per cent) and malbec (16 per cent). It has a richly perfumed nose of dark berry fruits and smoky oak. Weighty wine with fruit sweetness supported by fine, ripe tannins. **10**



**95**★★★★★  
2009 Martinborough  
Vineyard Pinot Noir,  
Martinborough, A\$80/NZ\$70

Sleek, elegant pinot with strong, sweet fruit that has a subtle floral, wild herb and nutty oak undercurrent and ripe, fine tannins. Powerful, linear wine with lovely flavour length. **8**



**97**★★★★★  
2009 Burn Cottage  
Vineyard Pinot Noir, Central  
Otago, A\$85/NZ\$60

Dense, powerful pinot noir that's loaded with flavour. Layers of red and dark fruits, spice and an interesting savoury edge that's harder to define. Long and seamless. This is clearly a winery with a great future. **8**



**96**★★★★★  
2009 Neudorf Home  
Vineyard Pinot Noir, Nelson,  
NZ\$79

Similar in style to the Moutere Vineyard Pinot Noir but with slightly more weight and intensity. Delicate red berry, cherry, strawberry and floral violet flavours supported by peppery tannins. A taut, youthful wine. **8**



**95**★★★★★  
2009 Dry River  
Pinot Noir, Martinborough,  
A\$135/NZ\$125

Dense, supple wine with appealing aromatics suggesting floral violets, cherry, raspberry and spice. Layers of fruit, floral and spice flavours continue on the lengthy palate. Sweet fruit is restrained by fine acidity and ripe tannins. **8**



**95**★★★★★  
2009 Muddy Water  
Hare's Breath Pinot Noir,  
Waipara, A\$70/NZ\$65

Dense, silken-textured pinot noir with slightly less fruit sweetness than the Slowhand label although there's certainly enough to smother the wine's firm ripe tannins. Big and potentially complex wine with good ageing potential. **7**

