

**2007 Craggy Range Block 14 Syrah, Hawke's Bay** (£16.99, or £13.59 by the mixed case, Oddbins) Craggy's Syrahs are as good as anything in the New World – spice, pepper and depth.

### ONE TO WATCH AUSTRIA

Austria finally seems to be making a breakthrough in the high street as well as in top-end restaurants. Good to see a few reds alongside some excellent Grüner Veltliners.

**2008 Nikolaihof Grüner Veltliner Hefeabzug, Wachau** (£13.99, 12%, Majestic) Elegant, minerally, biodynamic Grüner with citrus and white-pepper notes (below).

**2006 Rabi Titan Zweigelt, Kamptal** (£14.99, 13.3%, Waitrose Wine Direct) Light, refreshing, delicately oaked Zweigelt.

### GRAPE VARIETY OF THE YEAR RIESLING

The German stuff is as good as ever from vintages such as 2008 and 2007, but it is

what is happening in the southern hemisphere that is raising Riesling's profile.

**2008 Tesco Finest Tingleup Riesling, Great Southern** (£7.09, 12%)

Outstanding Western Australian Riesling – bone dry, lightly toasty and very crisp (right).

**2008 Vidal Riesling, Marlborough** (£8.99, or £7.19 by the mixed case, 12.5%, Oddbins) Off-dry in a Mosel-meets-Marlborough style, with apple, sweet and sour flavours (above).

### WINERY OF THE YEAR TIM ADAMS

Tim Adams has been making a brilliant, yet commendably well-priced range of wines in the Clare Valley since

the mid-80s. The quality is consistently great.

**2008 Tim Adams Semillon, Clare Valley** (\$9.99, 12.9%, Tesco) Youthful, oaky and restrained, but with lovely honeysuckle and herbal complexity.

**2006 Tim Adams The Aberfeldy, Clare Valley** (\$25.99, 14.9%, selected branches of Tesco) Brilliant, old-vine Shiraz with masses of minty, spicy, plummy, oak-saturated power (left).

### WINEMAKER OF THE YEAR MARC KENT

If the mark of a great winemaker is being able to cater for different consumers, then Marc Kent delivers with great-value Porcupine Ridge and boutique Boekenhoutskloof.

**2008 Porcupine Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon, Coastal Region** (£6.99, 14.5%, Sainsbury's) Classic Cape Cab at a good price, with firm tannins and sweet bramble and cassis fruit.

**2008 Boekenhoutskloof The Chocolate**



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