

Sandra Silfven February 14, 2007

Passionate wines for Valentines: A guide to great buys

Time is running out to find a Valentine's Day gift that says "I love you." If you are short on imagination, hate to go to the mall or have limited (or unlimited) cash reserves, you can always go shopping for the fruit of the vine.



Layer Cake Shiraz from the Barossa Valley is made by an American winemaker, who moonlights in Australia. He also makes the cult Hundred Acre wines in Napa Valley.

Layer Cake Shiraz, Barossa Valley, Australia, \$15: This wine is so hot-out-of-the-oven in Metro Detroit, it's just rolling into stores this week. The first outlet is Holiday Market in Royal Oak; the distributor is Viviano. Layer Cake Shiraz is made by Jayson Woodbridge, owner-winemaker of the cult Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, Hundred Acre, and his wine company called Pure Love. **Food & Wine Magazine voted Layer Cake one of Australia's best reds under \$20, and the April issue of Wine Enthusiast magazine is giving it 90 points.**

Woodbridge honors his grandparents with this **intense, dense, complex, decadently delicious red wine**. His granddad made and drank wine in the Ice Wine belt of Ontario for 80 years, and always told him that great wines were like layer cakes because of the complexity of the soils and the layering of flavors. Plus his grandmother was high on his list for her layer cakes. The wine, from the Barossa Valley, is **lovingly produced off low-yielding vines, hand-crafted every inch of the way.**