

FOOD & WINE

October 2006 issue

Best Reds from Australia

By Ray Isle

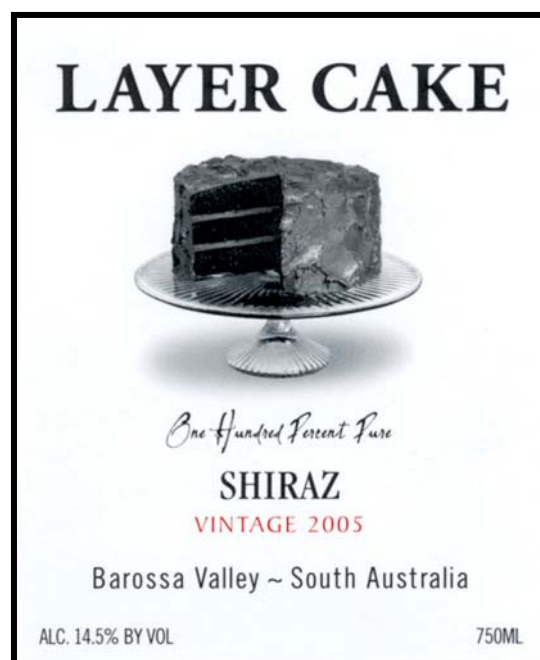
“Tasting through 137 Australian reds in about five days is a good way to get a very clear picture of what’s happening in Australian winemaking. What this intensive tasting of both affordable and benchmark bottlings revealed...is that...ripeness is not all when it comes to Australian reds. The best wines from my tasting **offer rich, delicious fruit flavors**, ranging from bright cheery to ripe blackberry and plum...**yet at the same time they maintain a balance of acidity and tannins...**”

Australian wine’s rise to popularity in the U.S. has been astonishing. About 1.6 million cases were imported back in 1995, a number that has rocketed to cover 23 million cases in 2005. The wines I’ve recommended...**show exactly why Americans have come to love Australian wine so much.**”

AUSTRALIA’S BEST REDS FOR \$20 AND UNDER

2005 Layer Cake Shiraz (\$15)

The inaugural release of this new Shiraz from Jayson Woodbridge, proprietor and winemaker of cult California cabernet producer Hundred Acre, is made with grapes from four vineyards strung along a winding five-mile section of the Barossa hills. The violet-and-blueberry scent leads into sweet black-cherry flavors.



For more information about Layer Cake and other Pure Love Shiraz wines contact www.vintagepoint.com