

There are Alternatives

to shiraz, cabernet sauvignon and pinot noir. Here are some of them.



2014 Centennial Vineyards Reserve Barbera Sourced from Orange, this wine is strongly varietal – bramble and raspberry with a long, dry, savoury palate finished off by a touch of oak. Very impressive. (\$30.00)

★★★★☆

<http://www.centennial.net.au/product/2014-Reserve-Barbera?pageID=0257E6CB-C8DE-2011-7CC0-EA8F894AE343&sortBy=DisplayOrder&maxRows=99&>

2011 d’Arenberg The Athazagoraphobic Cat (Sagrantino Cinsault)

There’s only 5% cinsault in the blend, so this can be viewed as a sagrantino. We’ve declared before that, although Australian winemakers have had very little experience with sagrantino, they’re achieving more with the variety than most (maybe all) Umbrian producers. Here we have not only an excellent expression of sagrantino, but a triumph from a difficult vintage. It’s medium-weight, balanced and Italianate in style. However, the price would make most potential buyers blink. (\$200.00)

★★★★☆ (Only Chester Osborne could think of a name like that.)

http://shop.darenberg.com.au/index.php?option=com_platform&view=crm&layout=productdetails&productId=3440&Itemid=102

2014 Yangarra McLaren Vale Old Vine Grenache The nose, showing red berry and toffee apple aromas, suggests sweet fruit, but the palate is savoury and dry, with admirable length of flavour. A wine of balance and complexity. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

2014 Centennial Vineyards Reserve Sangiovese Another Centennial from Orange. The cherry of sangiovese shows clearly and the fruit-tannin balance is spot-on. It's drinking well. (\$28.00) ★★★★★

2016 La Linea Adelaide Hills Mencía Made from the grape variety that gives rise to deliciously "juicy" reds in the north-west of Spain, it shows some of that suppleness and drinkability. However, it's a little hollow on the palate, almost certainly due to the youth of the vines. The potential for mencia is great. We've only just begun. (\$29.00) ★★★★★

2015 Mount Avoca Limited Release Pyrenees Sangiovese The nose reflects attractively ripe fruit with a faintly herbal background. Rich varietal characteristics make a favourable initial impact on the palate which just fades a little on the finish, giving way to fine, lingering tannins. (\$38.00) ★★★★★

2015 Mount Avoca Limited Release Pyrenees Nebbiolo The aromatics are distinctly varietal, suggesting potpourri. The tannins are typically firm on a very fresh palate, but the fruit just lacks a little intensity. (\$46.00) ★★★★★

2013 Cantico Rioja Crianza A very easy to drink Spaniard offering fresh red-fruitiness and soft tannins. (\$23.00) ★★★★★

2014 Aventino Ribera del Duero Tempranillo Another one from Spain. The flavour is fresh but slightly short. It slips down easily and finishes with fine tannins. (\$23.00) ★★★★★

2013 d'Arenberg The Derelict Vineyard Grenache An attractively fragrant red with "sweet" fruit backed up by savoury, puckering tannins which linger. It needs a little time and is a sturdy interpretation of grenache typical of the producer. (\$29.00) ★★★★★

2015 Mount Avoca Limited Release Pyrenees Lagrein Attractive plum jam notes show on the nose, and there's good initial flavour tapering to a dry, fairly acid finish. (\$38.00) ★★★

2015 La Linea Adelaide Hills Tempranillo This very fresh wine shows red berry, licorice and spice overtones, but is a little lean and acidic. (\$27.00) ★★★

2015 Yangarra McLaren Vale Mourvèdre Dark berries and tilled earth feature on the nose and promise a palate of substance. However, it doesn't deliver the anticipated intensity. (\$35.00) ★★★

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