



# Bursting bubbles

Jeff Gordon seeks some stunning sparkling wines

I love bubbles: white, pink or red. I have my preferences, but I will at least taste them whenever offered, and as they are not offered all that much I will seek them out anywhere. I once went in for a haircut because I had been told they served bubbles. The drink was worse than awful, but the cut was OK.

The annual bubble tastings are still a few months away but I recently had the Yarrabank Cuvee ('04, \$38 cellar door) and it was seriously good.

This vintage is a great pre-dinner drink. Dry and very delicate with a bit of apple and citrus on the nose and some nice layers of rich peachy flavours, it finished with an acidic bite that I really liked.

Two other very good, albeit pricey wines have also been released. John Duval and David Fatches are very, very good winemakers and their two 2006

McLaren Vale shirazes, Songlines (\$110) and Bylines (\$75), are equally good. The highlight of both is the quality of the fruit and the balance of fruit, wood and acidity. I love the Bylines to drink now and for five years or so while waiting for the Songlines to become one of the great wines of 2006 from any time after 2012.

Alternatively, Chortles Edge ('06, about \$20) from Bendigo is a very drinkable shiraz made from Harcourt and Bridgewater fruit that shows off the talent of the BlackJack Wines wine-makers. Good balance, mouth-filling berry fruit and soft tannins make for great drinking. Try it soon. **mwb**

