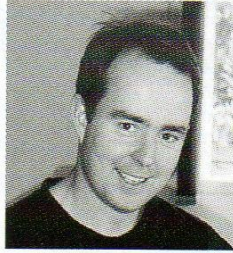


WINES TO WATCH



TEXT CAMPBELL MATTINSON

Pride of Place

Wave the flag for regionality with four exceptional wines from Western Australia.

2008 Faber Vineyard Shiraz is a plum, violet and ferrous-flavour wine with juicy acidity.

FABER VINEYARDS

I was lucky enough to taste through a 10-year vertical of Faber Vineyard Reserve Shiraz recently, and to say that I was stunned by the quality is an understatement. I dare say that if Western Australia's Swan Valley, where the grapes for this wine are grown, was a more fashionable region we'd all know a lot more about them.

The man behind Faber Vineyard is John Griffiths – formerly of Houghton, and something of a winemaking guru in the great western state. Faber Vineyard which he operates with his wife, Jane Micallef, is his home vineyard, and the Reserve Shiraz is his darling. “These are my babies,” he says of the 10 years of Reserve Shiraz. “I just love them. It's an unbelievable joy for me to be able to share them with people.”

The latest release **2008 Faber Vineyard Reserve Shiraz** (A\$55) is a plum, violet and ferrous-flavour wine with juicy acidity and a full-bodied but easy-going character. It flows beautifully along your tongue and is a great introduction to the joys of this (largely) unheralded estate. 