

FOOD & WINE

November 2008

tasting & testing

tip 5

USE TERRIFIC \$12-AND-UNDER WINES FOR PUNCH



2007 Banrock Station Riesling (\$7) In addition to donating a percentage of its profits to help preserve local wetlands, Australia's Banrock Station also makes a broad range of high-quality but inexpensive wines. One of the best in the lineup is lime-scented Riesling.

2008 Indaba Sauvignon Blanc (\$10) Tongue-tinged acidity and ripe goi berries flavors make this high-quality wine from South Africa's Cape region a pleasant surprise. Indaba, which is the brainchild of a former wine scholar who donates a portion of his proceeds each year to fund scholarships for disenfranchised South African wine-related careers.

2008 Santa Rita Carménère (\$8) The signature red wine of Chile, produces soft-bodied red wines. Tappeña's purple bottling, from the country's largest producers, is impressive given the price. Its flavor suggests blackberries and black pepper.

2007 Paringa Shiraz (\$9) The warm climate of Australia's Riverland region shows in every aspect of this intense Shiraz, from its ripe blackberry flavors to its vibrant inky-purple hue.

2007 Ruffino Libaio Chardonnay (\$11) Ruffino is one of Tuscany's most famous Chianti producers, but it makes some pleasant white wines as well. This unoaked Chardonnay is medium-bodied, with flavors recalling green apples and

Shinsei Sangria

At Shinsei in Dallas, bartenders stir lychees and sake into their house white sangria, adding an Asian twist to a Spanish classic.

MAKES 18 DRINKS
3 pears, sliced

2007 Tapeña Rosé

(\$10) Tapeña, a new winery from Spanish cava producer Freixenet, makes a trio of appealing wines—red, white and rosé, the latter zesty and strawberry-rich. It's a blend of Monastrell and Garnacha, with a touch of Syrah for backbone.

California Shiraz—which comes in a three-liter black box, the equivalent of four bottles—is the definition of a crowd-pleasing red and a bargain to boot. It isn't complex but makes up for its simplicity in pure fruity drinkability.

2007 Red Guitar Tempranillo Garnacha (\$12) Red Guitar makes inexpensive reds from Spain's under-the-radar Navarra region, sourced from the area's abundance of old-vine vineyards. This juicy blend has lots of bright raspberry fruit.

liced
ged
nd
odka
non Blanc
wine
sake
owl covered
ingredients
at least
punch bowl,
the lychees,
to serving
wine glasses.



5 Smart tips for Holiday Wine Buying by Ray Isle
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