



HUON HOOKE'S PICKS SHIRAZ

Mr Riggs The Gaffer Shiraz 2007, McLaren Vale, 15 per cent, \$22

A typically gutsy Ben Riggs red with generous flavour and generous alcohol. Fruit-driven blood-plum aromas, with raisin overtones. Fruit-sweet from ultra-ripe grapes. Slightly chewy texture but has flavour and body. Best within four years. 88/100.

Food Beef spare ribs.



Summerfield Shiraz 2007, Pyrenees, 14.5 per cent, \$27

There's lots to like here. Spices and herbs to sniff, clean and loaded with sweetly ripe fruit. In the mouth, it's fleshy and smoothly modulated, fluent and harmonious. Very good value. Drink now to 10-plus years. 90/100.

Food Cheddar and quince paste.



Smidge Houdini Shiraz Zinfandel Merlot 2006, 14.5 per cent, \$16

This is a big fruit bomb. Liqueur cherry, espresso coffee aromas turn mellow and foresty-savoury in the mouth. Early development makes for good current drinking. Really generous flavour for the price. Best within four years. 88/100.

Food Parmesan cheese.



Logan Weemala Shiraz Viognier 2007, Central Ranges, 13.5 per cent, \$17

A medium-bodied, easygoing red made for current drinking, with no sharp edges and yet a savouriness to the dry soft-tannin finish. Quite pronounced apricot viognier aromas. The alcohol strength is almost eccentric these days. 87/100.

Food Osso buco.



Turners Crossing Shiraz Viognier 2006, Bendigo, 14.5 per cent, \$25

A big-flavoured red with a lick of volatile acidity that doesn't mar it. Dusty herbal aromas over dark chocolate and jam: it's fleshy, forward and generous, with a touch of decadence. Drink now to eight years. 89/100.

Food Peppered steak.



Hardys Butchers Gold Shiraz Sangiovese 2007, 14 per cent, \$17

A fairly forward wine but that makes it better for early drinking. Savoury, meaty, quite complex bouquet with some smokiness. Fleshy, structured but supple palate with some firm sangiovese tannins on the finish. Drink now to four years. 89/100.

Food Italian sausages.



Coobara Shiraz 2007, Adelaide Hills, 14 per cent, \$20

A medium- to light-bodied shiraz that is moderate in every way, meaning it's a wine of wide appeal that's been well designed as a drink-now style. Dusty, savoury, lightly spiced aromas, a gentle, soft palate of balance but not pronounced character. 88/100.

Food Barbecued quail.



Ad Hoc Middle of Everywhere Shiraz 2007, Frankland River, 14.5 per cent, \$20

Chocolate, dark fruits, a hint of jam: this is a tasty, full-bodied, fully ripe shiraz that coats the mouth with tannin but has the flavour to balance. Serious red at a bargain price. Now to seven years. 91/100.

Food Roast duck.

