

**Coriole Sangiovese/Shiraz 2009**

After first checking whether it was legal to blend these two varieties, we donned safety goggles and hard hats and took the plunge. First impressions: a burst of freshly-snapped peapods, followed by some spangly sweetness and darker notes on the palate, and hints of herby sausage. They have some crazy ideas in McLaren Vale, but some of them work.

RRP: £11.50-£12.50 ABV: 14%

Seckford Agencies (01206 231188)

seckfordagencies.co.uk



**Lustau La Ina Fino**

A bracing whiff of sea air sets the tone, but hang on a minute ... what's that other aroma? A wet, snuggly puppy dog, you say? Ah, cute. But La Ina doesn't want to fetch your ball or curl up with you on the sofa. There's an earthy mid palate, with a robust vegetal edge, reminiscent of nasturtium leaves, reminding you this is an agricultural product.

RRP: £14 ABV: 15%

Fields, Morris & Verdin (020 7819 0360)

fmvwines.com



**Domaines Lupier El Terroir Old Vine Garnacha 2009**

We detected aromas of wet hay and first aid kit, conjuring up curious images of a farmyard accident. On the palate, a full-throttle, raspberry-infused wine, with a pleasing sharpness (where are those plasters?) and a youthful edge. Really came into its own on day two, and would be even lovelier with a meaty friend.

RRP: £20 ABV: 13.5%

Fields, Morris & Verdin (020 7819 0360)

fmvwines.com



**Volpetto Chianti Riserva DOCG 2008**

Some Chianti can be a bit lightweight and, let's be honest, a trifle dull, unless swigged from chipped glasses in a family trattoria somewhere in Umbria. This one is underpinned by a nice beetrooty earthiness and is smooth and not too sweet, with aromas of coffee and spices.

RRP: £8.49 ABV: 13%

Ehrmanns (020 7449 9911)

ehrmannswines.co.uk



**Bremerton Verdelho 2011**

There's a real purity of flavour here, partly explained by Langhorne Creek winemaker Rebecca Willson's use of free-run juice. Could easily be overlooked in a quickfire tasting, but after a couple of glasses its classy citrus and floral notes (plus hints of pepper and iron) and zippy acidity prove seductive.

RRP: £13.25-£14.25 ABV: 13.5%

Seckford Agencies (01206 231188)

seckfordagencies.co.uk



**Verum Pinot Noir 2011**

A Patagonian producer noted for Malbec, but on this showing its Pinot could also achieve a following. A smoky, deep expression of the grape, with throbbing cherry flavours that stop just the right side of the sweetness Rubicon. "Blood and chocolate", ventured one taster. Not Elvis Costello's best album.

RRP: £14.49 ABV: 13.5%

Condor Wines (07508 825 488)

condorwines.co.uk



**Miopasso Primitivo 2011**

It's tempting to think of wines from Italy's deep south as being rugged, rustic and rough around the edges. But Berlusconi is gone and a new era has dawned. A polished and elegant wine from Puglia, smooth and luscious without being showy. The blurb recommended meaty pasta, but to our minds it slipped down very nicely on its own, thank you.

RRP: £8.99 ABV: 13.5%

Ehrmanns (020 7449 9911)

ehrmannswines.co.uk



**Jacquart Brut Mosaique NV**

Calling this a "good honest Champagne" sounds a bit like we're damning with faint praise but you do get a lot of bubbly for your buck here, which is more than can be said for some fizz at the same price. A playful and vivacious wine, with the combination of fruity and toasty notes you'd hope for and enough depth to stand up to spicy food.

RRP: £26.50 ABV: 12.5%

Enotria (020 8961 5161)

enotria.co.uk

