

The 2009 RGS Wines

Overview

This report from the ABC's Country Hour this week and the thoughts of my mate Mark McKenzie just about sums up the situation in the Australian wine industry at the moment.

The wine industry has hit a new low, as grape prices plummet. Grape suppliers to major companies Constellation, Fosters and Orlando Wines have been told they face a cut of about 30 per cent to contracts for next vintage. The change affects more than 1000 growers in inland regions, accounting for about-two thirds of Australia's total production.

Mark McKenzie from Wine Grape Growers Australia says prices are now so low, that growers will be forced out of the industry.

"To put it in context, we had a 30 to 50 per cent fall in grape prices for major varieties and I'm talking there Chardonnay for white, Shiraz, Merlot and Cabernet in reds, last year," he says. "We're now facing a further 30 per cent fall the 2010 vintage so the real position for growers now is becoming quite desperate."

Add to that the appalling state of the Murray and the Lower Lakes, the amount of wine swilling around in the supermarket dominated retail outlets and the fact that you can get a carton of premium beer with a dozen wines with a name you recognise for less than \$100 - there is little wonder that the outlook for some is bleak. And let's not mention wonderful Copenhagen!

Having said that, let me say this. All the RGS Wines on offer this year have been offered to you before. If you liked them when you drank them the first time, you'll no doubt enjoy them again ..and Ann has been cellaring them for us – so enjoy.

Tasting Notes

RGS Grower Shiraz

2005

2006

2007

RGS Cross Cut Cabernet

2004

2006

2007

RGS Adze Malbec

2004

2005

RGS Verdelho
2008