



FOOD&WINE  **35**

WINE



PETER FORRESTAL
forrie@inet.net.au

MOUNTAIN OF DELIGHTS

The Great Southern town of Mt Barker may be on the low-lying side, but winemakers are giving it some elevation both physically and by reputation. There are some excellent vineyard slopes – and great views – in the region. Best of all are two new cellar doors with cafes and fabulous views.

Alex and Janet Taylor have established a delightful cafe and deck at Poacher's Ridge (Spencer Rd, Narrikup) while close by Caroline and David Picton-King are in the process of opening a similarly stylish cafe at Windrush (corner of Hay River and St Werburghs roads).

Over at Kendenup, Gaye and Dave Robinson have established a vineyard with spectacular views of the Stirling Range. Nearby and also in Kendenup, Zig Budrikis and his son Andrus have planted at Hawker Ridge.

This annual focus of the region culminated in the panel tasting to select wines for the annual STM Mt Barker wine producers winter dinner. The tasting took place at well-established Galafrey Wines.

The whites for the dinner are a fine bunch with excellent riesling from Arcadia, Gilberts and the mature 2005 Goundrey. Three 2007 chardonnays will come from Windrush, Galafrey and Gilberts.

The 2006 vintage was a tricky one for reds throughout Western Australia and so we had to look carefully, opting for a 2007 Three Drops Merlot, a 2005 Rokewood Cabernet, the 2005 Xabregas and the area's best red, the 2005 Plantagenet Shiraz.

STM Mt Barker Wine Producers Winter Dinner, Friday, June 27, at Fraser's Restaurant, at 7pm. Tickets \$145. Call 9851 2022 or email linda@galafreywines.com.au

2007 Poacher's Ridge Riesling, \$18.95

An attractive, floral riesling from Mt Barker that has depth and concentration of stone-fruit flavours, good balance and a long, dry finish.

2005 Xabregas Reserve Shiraz, \$22.99

There's gentle black pepper on the nose, supple, fleshy texture, depth of dark-berry flavour, and pleasing approachability.

2007 Capel Vale Whispering Hill Riesling, \$27.95

A classy, single-vineyard riesling from Mt Barker with lemon-blossom aromas, some gentle toastiness, delicate balance and a crisp, dry finish.

