



Best in world wines



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A LOT of press lately has debated who is the best sportsman of all time, the result of another win to Tiger Woods, whom I think plays golf and won another home and away round, or something.

But how hard can it be to whack a little ball into a cup three times the ball's size? He ought to try Russian Billiards some day.

Which brings to mind Walter Lindrum. Not many sports have changed their rules because one player was so much better than everyone else. It's not as if Tiges wins every tournament.

Unlike forgotten squash champion Heather McKay, who came pretty close, beaten only twice in 20 years, and thus also has a fair claim to 'The' all time great.

Okay, Sir Don hit a lot of fences with a leather covered ball but didn't we all as kids? And a few windows. Anyway, bodyline sort-ed him out.

Pele was pretty flash at soccer, especially for a bloke with only one name, but even he didn't win every game.

So maybe not winning is a better measure of best in the world and if so no-one comes

within coo-ee of Aussie Rules aficionado, my cousin, Tezza.

He's probably won a few best and fairest trophies but that's not what makes Tezza the best. Nuh, he deserves the title because he has played in 14 grand finals, itself a pretty mean feat, and the same number Tiger has won, but Tezza hasn't won a single flag.

Yet he still gets up every Saturday and pulls on the boots, and has done so for longer than Tiger has had teeth. That's gotta be tougher than 72 holes at the country club.

Co-incidentally there's been a flurry of best in the world wines lately, and unsurprisingly there's a few Aussies among them, although none from Deniliquin as far as I know.

Fox Gordon Hannah's Swing Shiraz 2006 \$45. Best in the world at the recent Concours de Mondial Bruxelles, which we all know well. And it really is like a swing, in a roundabout sort of way, ie great fun in the right hands. 9/10.

Xabregas (WA) Cabernet Merlot 2004, \$15. Very medieval, specially the 2004 bit. How old is that? Old enough to have a cork.

Interesting gear with a Tudor flourish and gold, silver and bronze medals on the label too. 8.3/10.

Henry Holmes Barossa Valley 2006 Shiraz, \$25. Some very attractive and stylised sheep on the label with golden fleece, which should interest New Zealanders, especially in winter. Encouragingly low alcohol for a Barossa red too. 8.4/10.

Montrose Omaggio Barbera 2006, \$26. Big, fat barbecue red without being too big and fat. No excess baggage and a welcome diversion for shiraz lovers over Italian sausage. 8.6/10.

Gapsted Ballerina Canopy Marlborough Central Ranges King Valley Sauvignon Blanc, 2007, \$19. A little bit of Marlborough goes a long way, except when you're in the mood, and then it's all gone too soon. Yummy. 8.9/10.

Houghton Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2007, \$14. Serious drinkers will deride and ignore this as the marque tries to shirk its 'common' reputation. Little do they know how good we commoners drink. 8.5/10.



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