

XABREGAS ESTATE SHIRAZ 2009

18.5 POINTS

The Hogan family of Xabregas Wines and Martin Cooper, their winemaker, are rapidly turning the Xabregas winery in Mount Barker into one of WA's finest winemaking facilities.

Some of the wines released in the past 12 months have either matched Australia's best of their variety or are among the nation's greatest values. This wine is in the latter group.

It is long, restrained, classy and fine. Lively, spicy and shows appealing white pepper.

Publication: Western Suburbs Weekly,
Wine Writer: John Jens

wine

Chardonnay loses point blanc



By JOHN JENS

Greywacke Wild Sauvignon 2009 DESPITE there being less than 8000ha of Sauvignon Blanc in Australia and over 36,000ha of Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc is now consistently outselling Chardonnay – with the benefit of the volumes arriving from New Zealand.

The annual case increases are significant and there is no sign of reaching a saturation point as last year the increase was larger than ever before.

The vast bulk of this is quaffable drinking but there are some outstanding examples.

The Greywacke "Wild" Sauvignon 2009 and Saint Clair Wairau Reserve 2010 (18.4 points and \$36) are the two finest Sauvignon Blancs in WA.

Greywacke is the recently founded private label of Kevin Judd who was previously the senior winemaker for 24 years of the world's most famous Sauvignon Blanc, New Zealand's Cloudy Bay.



The Xabregas Estate team – Paul, Rachel, Terry and Wendy Hogan and winemaker Martin Cooper.

In that role he was the main player in both the Cloudy Bay and Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc phenomenon internationally.

Judd's Greywacke Wild Sauvignon 2009 is round and balanced – and complete for current drinking from now until 2013.

It has gained all of the characters that you'd hope for from natural yeast ferments and lingering largely old barrel fermentations as they have added balance, intrigue, complexity and weight to the mid palate.

Pure class.
18.4pts and \$37

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For further information please contact;

Xabregas Wines
on 1300 780 123 or
email sales@xabregas.com.au



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