



by xabregas

Every once in a while you see something that makes you realize that the world has either moved on or has quite different potential to what you had perceived.....

In Australian wine these perspective changing moments include tasting Brian Croser's Botrytis wines of 1981 and 1982, the Bass Phillip Pinot Noirs, the 1980 and 1981 Leeuwin Art Series Chardonnays with age, the 1982 Cullen Cabernet Merlot and the 1953 Penfold's Grange Cabernet – courtesy of Vanya Cullen.

The 2010 Xabregas Rieslings from Mt Barker now join that elite group. I am astounded. Luck is opportunity meeting preparedness.

The Story so far: Terry Hogan, whose extended family forebears arrived in the Great Southern in the 1860's, works his way to becoming Chairman of Perth's Stock Exchange and then gambles on his Mount Barker passion. He plants 125 hectares of vines on three sites in Mt Barker and sets up Xabregas wines. The wines are fine – but don't set the world on fire.

Enter Martin Cooper, winemaker, looking for a challenge. This guy has won the Qantas Medal as Australia's Young Winemaker of the Year (2003), he became The McWilliam's Group Senior Winemaker, he has made wine on three continents and from at least 21 regions and he's a confident and outspoken senior show judge. He's spent time looking at Rieslings in Germany and done two vintages in Alsace. Recently, in his own company, he crushed 2800 tonnes in his second year – and that is twice the size of Moss Wood, Cullen and Leeuwin combined!

Add to the mix the fifth generation from the Great Southern, son Paul (Hogan) and his Riesling passion, and the results of those two fearless extra-ordinary individual's combined experiences are finally on display.

“The initial 2010 Riesling releases are breathtaking – and groundbreaking”.



Xabregas has created a much needed classy and eye catching “X” label for their new Germanic **Figtree (18.8 points)** and **Spencer vineyard (18.4 points)** Rieslings.

These two carefully selected and handled, and soon to be released, **shy, fragrant, creamy, European textured and flavoured wines of enormous length, are great wines of an international style** that has not been seen on the Australian mainland before. The flavours and textures are the difference, based on Martin's experiences balancing acid and sweetness in Alsace.

There is just one hundred dozen of each and they will be released at \$39 late this month.

Publication: Western Suburbs Weekly, 17th November 2010
Journalist: John Jens