

the latest Ciao Column

Rick's Picks
By Rick Allen
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Rick's picks



Best of Hunter

Brokenwood Hunter Valley Shiraz, 2006 Unusual this. It has a really strange bouquet – like a smoky barbecue – upon opening, but given time the fruit kicks in and it opens up to be a cracking drop. A medium weighted wine, with deep black fruits, some vanilla and, of course, Hunter earth and leather. **\$40**



Top of the hills

Setanta Chardonnay, 2005 This is a boutique Adelaide Hills winery producing outstanding wine – especially their shiraz and chardonnay. This is elegant, creamy and complex, with melon, pear and roasted nut flavours, all beautifully melded together. A lot of more expensive chardonnays pale in comparison. **\$25.**



Cheap and cheerful

Allira Cabernet Merlot 2006 Made by Elgo Estate, quite possibly Australia's most environmentally friendly winery, using renewable wind energy, waste water recycling and so on. This is soft and friendly – and excellent value – with mixed red and black fruits, spice and dusty tannins. A good pizza wine. **\$12.**