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Wines of the week

By Tim Curran

Australian wine is in crisis, with hundreds of growers leaving the industry as grape prices fall and export revenues are hit by the strong Oz dollar. The forecast is that the days of cheap and cheerful Australian plonk are over – and keener-priced South African and South American rivals are eager to fill the gap. Here are a few tried, tested and good value Oz wines.

Lindemans Bin 65 Chardonnay 2009 (Tesco, £2 off at £4.99 and widely available) is the archetypal tropical-fruited oaked Oz chardonnay, full of honeyed melon, pineapple and peach flavours – too much for some. Lindemans is owned by Fosters and is Australia's top-selling white wine export. (●●●)

At Marks & Spencer, check out refreshing, lively green-apple, pear and peach fruited **Oz Snapper Cove Chardonnay 2009** (M&S, £2 off at £4.99 until July 4) – great with barbecued chicken (●●●●)

For any celebration, **Jacob's**



Creek Sparkling Blanc de Blancs NV (Sainsbury's £9.99, Morrisons, £3 off at £6.99 until tomorrow) is a zesty, creamy, citrus and apple sparkler made entirely from chardonnay grapes (●●●) If you'd prefer Aussie pink fizz, try award-winning strawberry and raspberry fruited **Griffith Park Sparkling Rose NV** (Asda, £7.13) (●●●●)

Finally, for an Oz red, **Waitrose Reserve Shiraz St Hallett 2007/8** (Waitrose, £2 off at £6.99 until Tuesday) is worth splashing out on. Rich, smooth, blackcurranty with hints of spice and chocolate, it's one to savour at a barbecue. (●●●●)

RATINGS: ●●● GOOD VALUE ●●●● CLASSY ●●●●● REAL CORKER