

Wine

Q&A

Q: Should I chill red wine before opening it?

A: If it hasn't been stored ideally, in the warmer months I would definitely pop a red wine in the fridge for 10 minutes prior to opening. Especially during summer in central Victoria when it's 38 degrees in the shade. The French recommendation of serving full bodied reds at ambient room temperature harks back to a time long before air conditioning and central heating existed. So getting your reds down to 15-18 degrees is ideal. And conversely, don't over chill your white wines.

- Stephen Cross,
Castlemaine Central Wine Store.



Castlemaine Central Wine Store



Castlemaine Central Wine Store proprietor, Stephen Cross opened his business in the winter of 2014.

Located at 36 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine, the shop is diagonally across the road from the Post Office.

Steve's primary intention was to focus on the high quality wines produced locally and also the many small, mostly family owned wineries dotted around Central Victoria and further afield across the state.

Steve said he felt at the time that consumers were becoming tired of the same old brands - mostly owned by big corporations and multi-nationals - churned out in factories, destined for the shelves of the major retail chains around the nation. And although Castlemaine Central Wine Store offers a small selection of speciality products from elsewhere (such as an internationally acclaimed, hand crafted, small batch organic vodka, distilled in Sydney), Steve says his primary focus will always remain on Victorian wine.

"We have so many fantastic wine regions in our own neck of the woods, from Sunbury to Bendigo, Macedon Ranges to Heathcote, Pyrenees to the Grampians and so on. "And then you have the fortified wines from Rutherglen and the King Valley in the state's north east, which are easily among the best in the world. There are so many small producers throughout Victoria making some really great wines," Steve said.

Castlemaine Central Wine Store also carries a range of locally produced beers, a selection of locally made ciders, a range of house wines and cleanskins.

Steve says aside from his two children, the Wine Store is his and wife Kym's greatest achievement.

"Running a small business and living in a small regional community like we have here is just such a great thing, and I love it," he said.

"Small business is so important in country towns. Growing up in a country town myself made me realise very early on how important it is to support the local small businesses in your own town. Because if we don't, we won't have them. And I would never want to see that."

Castlemaine Central Wine Store is open daily except Sundays. Call in and see Steve or contact the store on 5470 6487.

Drop of the month

2014 Killiecrankie Wines 'Crankie' Ruby Shiraz

Made from grapes grown on Killiecrankie's North Harcourt vineyard. The 2014 'Crankie' Ruby Shiraz is of course ruby red in colour, with aromas of spiced red berries and plums.

The palate continues the red berry profile with raspberries dominating, with some plush plum, a wonderful spicy edge and a hint of oak. All these components combine to create a wine with a very high yum factor.

The hand picked grapes were naturally fermented and then basket pressed and aged using French and American oak barriques. The wine was then bottled after only 12 months in barrels to retain the freshness and vibrancy of the vineyard.

Ruby is made to be enjoyed with great friends and handmade pizzas.



MT ALEXANDER WINE GUIDE



**Chapple's
Cairn Curran Estate**
0419 339 097



**Limestone Track
Vineyard**
03 5476 4266



BlackJack Vineyards
03 5474 2355



**Bress
Wine, Cider and Produce**
03 5474 2262



**Harcourt Valley
Vineyards**
03 5474 2223



Zig Zag Winery
03 5423 9290



Belvoir Park Estate
03 5435 3075



Balgownie Estate
03 5449 6222



Passing Clouds
03 5348 5550

TELL US ABOUT ...

Your favourite local wine or cider
Write to us, to have your review featured here.

Mail:
29 Templeton Street,
Castlemaine Vic 3450.

Email:
editcm@elliottmidnews.com.au



Fine local and regional wines, ciders and beers
Table wines, fortifieds and sparklings plus a great range of house wines and cleanskins
We also sell gift vouchers
Open daily except Sunday

CASTLEMAINE CENTRAL WINE STORE

36 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine
t: 5470 6487

Follow us on  and 