



NEW RELEASE PENFOLDS

The latest, highly anticipated batch of Penfolds Bin wines will be launched on 1 March. The collection of eight wines includes: 2007 Bin 311 Chardonnay (A\$43) which is now sourced from Orange; 2005 Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz, (A\$58/NZ\$43); and 2006 Bin 138 Barossa Valley Shiraz Grenache Mourvèdre (A\$34/NZ\$30).

DRINK PINK *New-wave pink sparkling (see page 72) makes a deliciously refreshing alternative to mixed drinks such as gin and tonic and Campari and soda. Fill a tall glass with ice, squeeze two to three wedges of fresh lime and add to the glass. Top with moscato, stir and serve. Add soda to adjust sweetness to taste.* NICK STOCK

NEW RELEASE TULLOCH

Watch out for the 2006 Tulloch Private Bin Pokolbin Dry Red Shiraz (A\$40), produced in small quantities and released exclusively through the Hunter Valley wine company's cellar door. This vintage commemorates the late Johnnie Walker MBE, one of our greatest wine merchants and the national distributor for Tulloch from 1952, the year Hector Tulloch launched the very first Pokolbin Dry Red. For details, go to www.tulloch.com.au.



OVERSEAS NEWS

London's new Wonder Bar gives a boost to those seeking samples of their favourite wines.



Care to find out what a taste of 1990 Château d'Yquem or 1996 Château Mouton Rothschild has to say to you? No problem if you're a wine worshipper in London. At Selfridges Wonder Bar, located in its upmarket food and wine complex, you can select sipping samples from 52 Old and New World wines. Here wines are dispensed from a vinous jukebox known as the Enomatic Wine System, which

uses environmentally safe nitrogen gas preservation technology. This prevents the wine's qualities from being altered by oxygen. It also protects the organoleptic integrity (taste, aroma, body and colour) of the wine.

You buy a smart card, insert it in the dispenser, then touch the buttons for the wine and sample volume – 125ml or 175ml – you want. You'll need to load the card with ample credit if it's vintage classics you're

thirsting for. The d'Yquem, for example, is priced at £99.99 (A\$222) for 125ml and the Mouton Rothschild is £97.90 (A\$217) for 175ml. For oenophiles on a budget, the English 2004 Chapel Down Bacchus at £3.20 (A\$7) or the Austrian 2006 Kurt Angerer Kies Grüner Veltliner at £4.90 (A\$12) is more appealing to the pocket, if not the tastebuds.

When the Wonder Bar first opened, it was bedevilled by a bureaucratic tempest in a teacup. They offered sampling sizes of 25ml and 75ml in addition to 125ml. These are much closer to the pours you would expect at a tasting and were priced accordingly. But then government inspectors came calling to point out that, by law, wine by the glass can only be offered for sale in 125ml and 175ml measures.

"This is a crazy piece of legislation that needs changing," says Dawn Davies, Selfridges sommelier. Now she is lobbying politicians to modify the law to reflect the fact that wine tasting means small sips, not large gulps. Meanwhile, cork dorks savouring samples at the Wonder Bar have to drink more, not less. It's the law. ANTHONY MANIFOLD