

What are...

CLEANSKINS

Greg Duncan Powell salutes these unsung heroes.

Cleanskins are now Australia's biggest selling brand – which is paradoxical because they're not actually a brand. Unbranded wines (or cleanskins) have almost doubled in the past year to now account for 4.5 per cent of all Australian bottled wine. We've been awash with wine and a strong dollar has stunted exports, hence more cleanskins. Industry insiders fear that the quality and price of the cleanskins currently on the market will 'train' consumers to expect more for less. So let's all get trained! Here are three that show how good cleanskins can get.

*** 2009 Wine Point Tasmanian Coal River Valley Pinot Noir, \$23**

A \$23 cleanskin? Yes, but it's worth it. Stylish, powerful and well made, it's a pinot that if it wore a real label,

would cost \$30 or more. This cleanskin company even does customised labels for parties. thewinepoint.com.au.

*** 2009 Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc Select Parcel 669, \$9**

There's a tsunami of sauvignon blanc rolling in from New Zealand and some are unlabelled, like this one. It's classic sauvignon blanc that's big on gooseberries and sweet and sour fruit. 1stchoice.com.au.

*** 2008 Reserve Barossa Shiraz DW31, \$10** There's plenty of Barossa grunt here, with blackberry, earth and tobacco. It's a gutsy red and one that could even benefit from a year in the cellar! woolworths.com.au; danmurphys.com.au.

whisky a go go

Hudson Manhattan Rye, \$85

This spicy whisky is retro. It references the New York Rye made in the Hudson Valley before prohibition. Pepper, vanilla, leather, anise – delicious. *Stockists, 0408 411 859.*

