



GOURMET
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WINES TO WATCH



TEXT CAMPBELL MATTINSON

SCARLET FEVER

The latest crop of reds, especially shirazes, from some of the country's most exciting producers should raise the temperature of those with taste

*Wines
featured:
GIACONDA,
DIAMOND
VALLEY,
CLONAKILLA
&
SCHUBERT
ESTATE*

SCHUBERT ESTATE

Schubert Estate has fast become one of those Barossa producers that you hear more from American devotees of big Australian shiraz than you do from the locals - the bulk of its best wine being exported to the US and Canada, Its top wine - the Goose-yard Block Shiraz, the latest release of which is the 2004 - is not cheap and it's not made from old vines (the vineyard was only planted in 1996). But what the wine does have is true, pure, structured power in the glass, plus a grape-grower relationship with its Marananga neighbour, Torbreck Vintners. The combination of power and reflected glory of being a supplier to Torbreck means that this is a wine for which some drinkers clamour.

Schubert Estate has only been making wines under its own label since the 2000 vintage and its position is an enviable one for a new producer to find itself in.



The 2004 Goose-yard Block also tends a little heavily towards sweetness, but it's also boned with super-fine, firm tannins which, set against its jammy, menthol, toasty heart, make a compelling impression. Despite its weight and sweet fruit, it's a wine that still manages to be more about refined structure than about plump appeal.