

5 TOP NEW WINES

From the north of Italy to the south of New Zealand's North Island, *Editor Joelle Thomson* uncorks and uncaps this top five

1 **Ritzling** **\$28 (per four pack of 200ml bottles)**

Ritzling is a city in Austria and, according to some, the original home of Riesling. While there is no substantiated historical evidence of this – yet – there's no doubt the Romans took Riesling to the countries we now call Austria and Germany. When Martinborough winemaker Chris Archer was casting around for a name for his new low alcohol, sparkling Riesling, he chose Ritzling and sub-titled it 'bottled happiness'. This seems entirely appropriate for a zingy, spritzy, fresh white made from a single vineyard, housed in 200ml bottles and with just 9% alcohol. Yes, this is off-dry.
Distribution: Moore Wilson, Wellington, or contact Chris Archer, email: chris@archermcrae.co.nz, www.facebook.com/ritzling

2 **2011 Bella Invivo Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough** **\$19-\$20**

There is a trend; Bella also has relatively low alcohol at 9%. Mind you, the grapes were picked at 19.1 brix, so if 'she' wasn't in the medium-dry camp (with 4.8 grams of residual sugar), Bella would still only be 10%. This is soft, light, fresh and easy to drink. It is selling like hot cakes both here and in the UK, thanks to its appealing 30% fewer calories than standard Sauvignon Blancs.

Distribution: Mineral Wines, phone Stephanie 021 464 320 or James 027 580 7325.

3 **2008 Glasnevin Limited Release Riesling** **\$29**

This low alcohol (9.5%) North Canterbury riesling is modelled on a German 'auslese'; fermentation was intentionally stopped well short of dryness to retain this wine's luscious honey-like mouthfeel and its rich taste of apple, pineapple and peach.

Distribution: specialist stores or email: glasnevinwines@xtra.co.nz



4 **2010 Churton**

Talk about biting into a picked ripe red apple. It's like a new Jazz Apple with its zingy taste. It's no mean feat to get much flavour interest in a Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc. Winemaker Sam Weaver.
Distribution: Churton Wine, or email: info@churton-wine

