



Little green one pays prophet

BILL Moularadellis of Kingston Estate is a prophet in his own Riverland.

He has embraced the Bordeaux varietal red petit verdot (pronounced 'petty ver-doh') to the extent he claims perhaps the biggest single planting in the world.

In Bordeaux, petit verdot – 'the little green one' – ripens very late and rarely becomes fully ripe. This trait caused some chateaux to rip it out in the 1960s and '70s and by 1988 total plantings were about 300ha.

In France it is mainly used to bolster blends, with its concentrated flavors and tannins and rich coloring.

But it thrives in the sunny Riverland, where the warm climate viticulture produces sumptuous, soft wines with powerful flavors, as in the **Kingston Estate Echelon**

Petit Verdot 2007.

"The various micro climates throughout the vineyard along with its long ripening season, give us a diverse selection of flavor characteristics," Bill Moularadellis said.

A small parcel of Langhorne Creek petit verdot was used in the final blend, adding an extra aspect to the wine.

Released with the petit verdot, is the **Kingston Estate Echelon Shiraz 2007.**

Sourced mainly from Adelaide Plains and Clare Valley fruit with a smaller Limestone Coast component, the wine reveals the appeal of regional blending to Bill Moularadellis. "The concentrated, varietal flavors of Adelaide Plains and the spice from Clare combine beautifully," he said. The Echelon reds are priced at \$24.99 each.