



Region a big factor in deciding what we buy



GRAPE variety, winemaker, company, pretty labels and fancy bottles are just some of the reasons that influence wine buying.

One of the most powerful is region.

For example, those companies that are able to put Barossa Valley on their labels are well down the sales track.

Regions also become known for the varietal or style of wine they produce.

Although there is still much work to be done, Tasmania is in that type of mix for its sparkling wine.

Other links include the Clare Valley for riesling, Hunter Valley for semillon and Coonawarra for cabernet sauvignon.

Bigger companies can exploit this by sourcing fruit from a number of grape-growing areas.

The next step in that line is a regional range of wines.

Kingston Estate is one of the companies that offers such a range.

The operation was started in South Australia's Riverland in 1979 by Sarantos and Constantina Moularadellis and is now in the hands of their son Bill

Kingston Estate wines have had a strong presence in Tasmania for many years but most consumers would probably link its wines to the Riverland.

This region was mostly known for its bulk wines, but the energetic Bill Moularadellis did much to change that by producing quality table wines from a spread of varieties that performed well in the warmer climate.

These days Kingston Estate is a broader South Australian company as its four latest wines illustrate.

The releases are the 2008 Pinot Gris, from the Adelaide Hills and Limestone Coast; 2009 Sauvignon Blanc, from the Adelaide Hills and Mount Benson; 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon, from the Limestone Coast and Clare Valley; and 2008 Shiraz, from the Mount Lofty Ranges and Limestone Coast (all about \$13).

There is a good mix of old and new in this line-up, both in variety and region.

While like most wines in this price bracket there is not an outstanding wine among the four, it is difficult to question their value.

Allowing for some generalisation as a collective, they are good drinking at a price that can be hard to find given the regions they represent.

Bill Moularadellis said that the regions had been chosen because of the characteristics they instilled in the wines.

The Adelaide Hills and Mount Lofty Ranges offer fantastic fruit purity, crispness and finesse, Mr Moularadellis said.

"The Limestone Coast and Mount Benson regions on the other hand, contribute lovely richness and depth of flavour.

The new wine in the range, the 2009 Kingston Estate Pinot Gris, is worth singling out because of its quality and the interest in the variety.

The wine has forward apricot and citrus flavours that lead to a crisp and refreshing finish.