

lifestyles

Refreshing, chilled white wines perfect for long summer evenings

With the warm weather and long evenings something chilled might be called for. The white wines mentioned below will certainly fill the bill. With or without food each is delicious and refreshing.

From Hawkes Bay on the north island of New Zealand, comes a 2007 chardonnay from the **Villa Maria** winery(549972). This is an unoaked white with grapes coming from a single vineyard. The juice was cool fermented to retain the tropical and stone fruit flavours and 20 per cent of the wine under went malolactic fermentation. This second fermentation is done to convert the crisper malo acid to the softer lactic acid. So in the end you have a wine with enough crispiness to keep it fresh, but with a softer edge. On the nose find vibrant melon and floral nuances and this follows through to the palate with the addition of stone fruits like peach and apricot. There's a creamy texture to this wine you'll find pleasing. For \$17.99 you could serve it chilled with, white fish and a lemon butter sauce or a salad with tangy creamy dressing.

Here's a white wine from the Nantes region of the Loire Valley in France. This **Muscadet Sevre & Maine from Haut - Censy** 2007 (+553602) uses the Melon grape, also know as Melon de Bourgogne. The Sur Lie (lees) on the bottles means that the wine hasn't been racked off the spent yeast cells at least until the spring following harvest and fermentation. Having the wine resting on the Lees ads



complexity. With aromas and flavours of citrus, green apple and peach and a steely minerality. You'll notice a slight saltiness in the wine that is a reminder of this regions proximity to the sea. For \$15.99 served chilled it's a natural accompaniment to fish or shellfish.

Fiudo d'Elimi 2008 (+134597) is another refreshing white wine, this one coming from Sicily. The grape that is used is the Grillo and offers up a pale straw-coloured fuller bodied wine. If you're familiar with Marsala, a fortified wine from Sicily, then you already have experienced the Grillo grape. In this still white you'll find a crisp intense wine with aromas of ripe apricots and tropical fruits following through to the palate. It is a balanced wine with mouth watering freshness that carry the fruit flavours right through to the lingering finish. Serve it chilled with any Mediterranean inspired dish or all on it's own. If you've never tried this wine or one using this grape, give it a try and at \$12.99 I'll bet you'll buy it again.

A lot of our customers like to buy wine that is made from a single grape variety, nothing wrong with that but you should also try some blends. Often different grapes

bring balance and will fill in where the other is lacking. One such blend is the **Spanish Vina Esmeralda** 2007 (+165316)a white wine blending the Moscatel and Gewurztraminer grapes. The Moscatel with its sweetness balanced against the natural acidity of the Gewurztraminer. For flavours the Muscatel brings the grapy ness while the Gewurtz gives the lychee and citrus. This wine is very aromatic and will go good with a fruit salad, poultry fish or barbequed pork under a sweet and sour sauce. The cost of this stunner is only \$14..49.

From Argentina a Viognier, produced by the **Santa Julia** 2008 (+612317)winery in Mendoza. Viognier as a single grape varital is one we're seeing more of over the last few years. Traditionally it came from the French Rhone valley and often blended with Syrah to soften it. This Argentinean Viognier is a medium-bodied white that is soft and round with floral aromas and topical and stone fruits. On the palate you'll find those ripe fruits like peach, apricot and tropical fruits like lychee with a pleasant crisp finish. As for pairing this with a meal you could serve it with barbequed chicken or a spicy Thai salad and I like to drink when I'm peeling shrimp and dipping them in a buttery, herb and garlic sauce. A great price at only \$11.99.

Al Spoklie is a product consultant at the B.C. Signature Liquor Store, Pine Centre. Numbers in brackets refer to B.C. Liquor Store product

Wind in the trees costs \$2.16 M

The Canadian Press

VANCOUVER — Emily Carr's "Wind in the Tree Tops" may feature its fair share of green on its canvas, but the 1930s work has now generated even more green at auction.

The oil painting from the most sought after period of Carr's career sold at auction in Vancouver Wednesday for more than \$2.16 million.

That makes it the fourth highest priced painting in Canadian history.

The bidding was handled by Heffel Fine Art Auction House, which sold \$11.3 million worth of works in all.

Spokesman Robert Heffel says a Carr painting from this era is one of the rarest treasures in Canadian art, so the price it fetched is not surprising.

Tom Thomson's 1915 oil on panel, "Birches and Cedar, Fall" went for just over \$1.4 million, well above its pre-auction estimate of \$600,000 to \$800,000.

And Jean-Paul Riopelle's "Jouet," from his most sought-after period when he made his grand debut at New York's Guggenheim Museum, sold for a cool \$1.17 million.

Heffel's spring auction featured 159 Canadian works in all.

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