

Wine Down with Spec's Episode: Episode: Billi Billi Shiraz by Collin Williams

Do you remember when Yellowtail was the latest craze in the wine world? You may also remember that the result of this craze was a wave of "critter labels" from Australia that field the shelves at your grocery store. While this was a great boost to the wine industry as it allowed new consumers to switch their buying habits, the influx also over-saturated the market with jammy, inky, monotone Shiraz.

To its credit, the wine was good, easy-to-drink, and filled the budgetary constraints for the everyday consumer. However, it seemed to also push consumers to other options quickly as they unfairly categorized Shiraz from Australia into a single flavor profile unable to differentiate amongst producers and regions.

If you are one of these consumers that were riding the wave of Australia Shiraz until it crashed and you have since moved on, I highly encourage you to take another look into the category. Australia has many different grape growing regions each producing uniquely complex flavor profiles and styles of wine. In fact, some Australia's wine makers are attempting to push the idea of highlighting the region of origin for their wines vs. the grape varietal in their marketing plans. I encourage this idea in retrospect to the success that California has seen by advertizing its independent appellations (Napa, Sonoma, Paso Robles, etc) as a higher caliber or unique style of wines.

Also, if you are still on the fence you may recall that wines like Penfolds Grange, Torbreck Run Rig, and others were the top wines in the world (still are by my standards). Despite the general criticism, wines from Australia have continued to score highly amongst reviewers year after year.

For this week's Episode of Wine Down with Spec's, we chose to highlight Billi Billi Shiraz from Australia's Victoria District. This wine is a great example of how Shiraz could showcase different flavors dependent upon where its grown. Victoria is located in the Southeast corner of Australia and is generally the area with the mildest climate on the continent. Due to its location on the water and with cooler temps produced from the Great Dividing Range, Victoria has many microclimates in which to grow grapes.

Check out this wine at a great price that will definitely over-deliver as your choice of wine for the night or pairing with all kinds of food.



Billi Billi Shiraz Mount Langhi Ghiran 2007 \$10.99 cash

100% Shiraz. This wine is highlighted on the nose by notes of blackberry compote and subtle chocolate. In the mouth, you will notice a brilliant note of acidity to bring forth the dark berry and chocolate truffle flavors. Not a very long finish, but satisfying. ☞



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with feedback.

