



**top**  
**drops**

CHRIS SHANAHAN



**Mistletoe Hunter Valley - Reserve Semillon 2007, \$22, Chardonnay 2007, \$20, Reserve Chardonnay 2007, \$25**

When I asked Mistletoe proprietor Ken Sloan for a bottle picture, he said that since he sold wine only direct (cellar door and [www.mistletoewines.com](http://www.mistletoewines.com)) *Canberra Times* readers mentioning this review could have free delivery to Canberra of six-packs or dozens. The wines are superb, a particular favourite being the 2007 Reserve Semillon. This is classic Pokolbin semillon, low in alcohol (10 per cent), delicate, lemon zesty and a touch austere at this stage, but already terrific as a bone-dry aperitif. It'll age for many years. The chardonnays are rich but finely structured, showing barrel-ferment influence, particularly so in the complex, intense reserve version.



**Mistletoe Hunter Valley - Shiraz 2006, \$20, Reserve Shiraz 2006, \$28, Hunter-Hilltops Shiraz Cabernet 2006, \$22**

With so many \$50-plus reds coming on to the market, it's refreshing to see absolutely top-notch, regional specialties realistically priced. Mistletoe's Shiraz 2006 (from four Pokolbin vineyard) is ripe and plummy with the Hunter's earthy edge and very soft tannins - a juicy, restrained red that's a joy to drink now. Its Reserve cellar mate comes from a single vineyard and is a denser, more powerful drop, but in the same soft, restrained Hunter mould and with the added spicy complexity of new French oak. The Hunter-Hilltops wine is an imaginative blend that works in a surprising way - it seems to be the cabernet rather than the shiraz that fills out the velvet smooth palate.