

The Opera House International Wine of the Month Club Selections for June 2011

Thorn-Clarke Terra Barossa Eden Valley Chardonnay 2009 and

Jip Jip Rocks Shiraz 2009

Australia

Both of our wines this month might be familiar names to many of you. We have carried other varietals and vintages from both vineyards with much success for many years. Our offerings this month 'spoke' to us during a tasting with our wine representative from Kysela Pere et Fils. This month is another "two fer" - white and red selections that will complement your summer evening fare

Our white wine selection is **Thorn-Clarke Chardonnay**. David and Cheryl (born Thorn) Clarke along with their son, Sam, are the sixth generation of Thorn-Clarks to produce wine. Their long experience of wine production dates from 1870. Vineyard sites have been carefully selected to produce the best varietals for a particular site. The grapes for our selection are from a single vineyard on Mt. Crawford (Eden Valley), one of South Australia's consistency cool grape growing regions. The 2009 vintage produced fantastic whites due to the mild warm days and quite cool nights leading to wines with good fruit and clean balanced acidity and a true expression of the grape and the terrior.

Tasting notes – Pale straw in color, with a nose of white peach and blossom notes, the Thorn-Clarke Chardonnay is a medium bodied wine with peach, pear and citrus flavors. The palate is well textured and mouth filling due to being partially aged in French oak and on the lees. There are hints of roasted nut flavors. There is good length on the finish.

Our red selection is **Jip Jip Rocks Shiraz**. Jip Jip Rocks are a striking outcrop of 350 million year old pink-red granite in the heart of the Padthaway region. The rocks are sacred in traditional Aboriginal beliefs.

The Bryson family has been involved in agriculture for five generations – 150 years in South Australia. In the early 1990's, the family established the Jip Jip Rocks vineyard in the Limestone Coast wine region. They concentrated on growing premium varieties of Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay. Only the best parcels of fruit are carefully selected throughout the vineyard and used in the Jip Jip Rocks label. Their sole objective is to produce the best wines from their unique vineyard site. Meticulous vineyard management with attention to low crop yields and small grape bunches of intense flavor, in addition to traditional winemaking methods, produce this delightful Shiraz. In a good cellar, Jip Jip Rocks Shiraz can age for up to 5 years. This Shiraz was put together using select barrels from the family estate that best demonstrate the intensity of the fruit balanced by integrated oak.

Tasting notes - A judicious touch of oak provides an attractive spicy component to complement blackberry and black currant fruit aromas and flavors. It is full bodied without the usual alcoholic and oaky heaviness often associated with Australian wines.

Awards – **92 points**- Australian Wine Showcase (Nov. 2010), **90 points** - Wine Advocate (August 2010) *RECOMMENDED VALUE PICK*, 2011 Sydney International Wine Competition - **TOP 100 & BLUE GOLD**, San Francisco International Wine Competition 2010 -**GOLD MEDAL**.