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The Red One 2009 from Australia's First Drop Wines



By Craig LaBan Inquirer Restaurant Critic

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Most people think "shiraz" when Aussie wine is mentioned. But Australia is more than a one-grape wine power. In fact, I'm thinking about half a dozen grapes with possibilities Down Under that tasted surprisingly good together in the same bottle, labeled the Red One. It's a deceptively simple name for such a crazy blend from First Drop Wines, with mostly cab anchoring the obligatory shiraz and four intriguing bit players - barbera, trincadeira, tempranillo, and nebbiolo. It's an international melting pot, like Australia itself, and it works like a charm, with a burst of deep plush raspberry fruit ringed by a juicy halo of acidity, herbs and spice that kept me coming back for another pour. Considering the price - \$8 to \$10 - this is one of the best-value bottles I've tasted in the last year, case-worthy for sure. - Craig LaBan

The Red One 2009 by First Drop Wines available in Pennsylvania stores (\$9.99, code: 14118) or by special order (\$10.69, code: 500300); in New Jersey on sale for \$7.99 at Canal's Bottlestop in Marlton, or \$8.98 at Hops & Grapes in Glassboro.

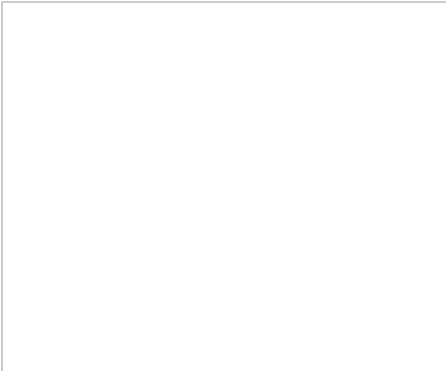
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