

## Wine Reviews May 2014



Here is a selection of reds from the north-east of Victoria that should keep your mitts warm as the mercury continues to drop.

### **ROUTE DU VAN Dolcetto Shiraz 2012**

*King Valley/Alpine Valley, Victoria*

RRP \$22

I was introduced to Ian Bird after receiving an email where he asked if I would like to see their Route du Van wines. A few weeks later when he was flying back from the UK, we met in person and I was able to taste their wine that has proved a success story on the export market: this blend of 79% Dolcetto and 21% Shiraz. Route du Van is a labour of love for Ian Bird, his brother David and winemaker Tod

Dexter. The north west of Italy and their juicy, finely tannic red wines inspired the blend.

The nose opens wonderfully with classic Dolcetto elements of blood plum, blueberry liqueur and violets, while the Shiraz component seems to add fruitcake spice notes. The texture is voluptuous with a smooth entry and mouth filling effect. The medium-bodied nature of the tannins and long acidity further highlight the blend being dominant in Dolcetto. While it is not as savoury as a straight Dolcetto might be, the palate exemplifies great balance as a quirky take on what we can do here in Australia by blending a classic red grape like Shiraz with something less conventional. Try the Route du Van with anything that can come out of a wood fired pizza oven.

**Stockist:** See Route du Van website for details