



On the grapevine

with John Fordham

Tiny pinot plot among shiraz

FOR the two decades Ian Scarborough has been nurturing his eponymous label, he's concentrated solely on Hunter Valley fruit.

"That's one way that sets us apart from the most other Hunter producers," says Scarborough from his cellar door on Pokolbin's Gillards Road.

Daughter Sally, who promotes the Scarborough brand, adds: "Dad's always regarded being a sole Hunter specialist very close to his heart".

Scarborough and wife Merralea launched their label in 1987 after purchasing a hillside block that's now the source of their award-winning chardonnays.

Once a sidekick of Barossa Valley legend Peter Lehmann, Scarborough cut his winemaking teeth on chardonnay. With son Jerome now assisting with winemaking, Scarborough's 2005 Blue Label (\$20), 2004 Yellow Label and 2005 White Label (both \$25) each showcase classic chardonnay character and style.

Semillon is another seasoned Hunter variety with which the Scarboroughs excel, their 2006 White Label (\$22) offering lively, fresh citrus flavours.

Being an unashamed devotee of France's revered Burgundy region goes a long way to explaining Scarborough's passion for chardonnay and pinot noir. His tiny plot of pinot is rare in a district dominated by shiraz.

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