



lovers of super-premium Hunter wines.”

Five samples came with the courier: Mount Eyre 2009 Three Ponds shiraz with which winemaker Rhys Eather has produced a classic expression of Hunter shiraz from a vintage that provided exceptional ripening conditions, leading to both complexity and concentration of flavours. Aged in new and old French hogsheads and barriques, this wine, he says, will age for at least 20 years.

Mount Eyre 2010 Three Ponds chardonnay, another typical Hunter wine, reckoned good for 10 years' cellaring, creamy melon and peach.

Mount Eyre 2010 Three Ponds merlot drew its grapes from several Hunter vineyards as well as Holman Estate, has been aged in French oak barriques and will cellar for up to 10 years.

Mount Eyre 2011 Three Ponds semillon is my pick of this bunch, typically excellent Hunter semillon, fresh, citrusy and minerally yet likely to cellar for many years which would yield notes of honey and toast. Who could be that patient?

Mount Eyre 2011 Three Ponds verdelho represents one of my favourite varieties, meant to be drunk young and here it is. Great drinking right now. 