



JOHN WILSON

WINE

WINES OF THE WEEK

Monsalve, M Jesus de la Hoz Verdejo 2008, Rueda, 12.5%, €12.95. Possibly the gaudiest label I have seen in

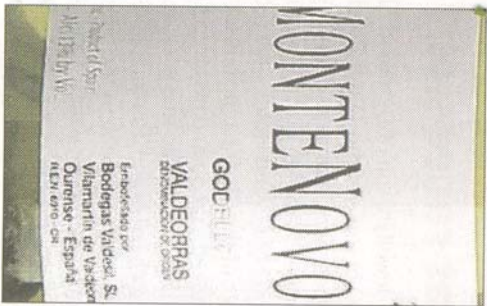
recent years, a perfect example of Spanish kitsch, and nearly worth the price alone. The wine is pretty serious though, beautifully elegant with persistent but subtle tangy grapefruit and soft fruits. This would go very nicely with sea bass or sea bream. **Stockists:** Listons, Camden Street, Dublin.; Mortons, Ranelagh; Ennis Butchers, SC Rd; Lilliput, Arbour Hill; 64 Wine, Glashale; The Wicklow Wine Co, The Wine Boutique, Ringsend; Lilaac Wines, Fairview.

Blanco Nieva Verdejo 2008, Rueda, 12.5%, €12.15. Textbook Rueda with its pithy grapefruit and light pears. It is not too aromatic, a good thing in my book, and the fruit is crisp and stylish. This would make for very classy summer drinking. **Stockist:** Wine Direct, www.winesdirect.ie

Montenovo, Bodegas Val de Sil 2008, Valdeorras, 13%, €16. I featured a more expensive wine from Val de Sil earlier this year, but I was very taken with this at a recent tasting. For a Valdeorras, it is a reasonably-priced, sprightly fresh young wine with delicious pineapple fruits and a lip-smacking finish.

Just the sort of thing to drink before dinner, or with salads and seafood. **Stockists:** Lilliput, Arbour Hill; Listons, Camden St; Ennis Butchers, South Circular Rd; Wicklow Wine Co; Sweeneys, Glasnevin; Lilaac Wines, Fairview; Red Island, Skerries; The Wine Boutique, Ringsend; Fallon & Byrne, Exchange St; Power & Smullen, Lucan.

Albariño, Rías Baixas, Bagao do Miño 2008, 12.5%, €16.99. This is a very stylish wine, classic Albariño with its rich peachy fruit and lovely lemon zest, finishing bone dry. Eat, as the locals do, with any kind of cold or warm seafood. **Stockist:** Enowine, Monkstown & IFSC.



TWO UNDER €12



Luna Blanca Verdejo Rueda 2007, 12.5%, €11.49. Very attractive soft peach fruits that have taken on a spicy touch, and a good dry finish. I can see this going very nicely with most white fish; Claudia Roden's Moroccan fish cakes worked perfectly for me. **Stockist:** Oddbins



Face to Face Verdejo, Rueda, 2008, 12.5%, €9.99. Silly name, but ignoring that the wine is pretty good. At this level you are looking for purity of flavour rather than any great complexity, and this certainly delivers; Light fresh and easy, with pleasing soft pear fruits, and plenty of zip to keep the interest going. **Stockists:** Hole in the Wall, Dublin 7; The Grapevine, Dublin 9; Coasters, Limerick; Matsons, Bandon; The Wine Boutique, Ringsend

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