

WINE

SEPTEMBER WINE NEWS

GET ON THE GRAPEVINE

The Visit Vineyards website is finally up and running. Absolutely chock-full of useful information, links, maps, articles, discussion groups and video interviews with winemakers, it's a great place to start if you're planning a trip to Australia's winelands. See visitvineyards.com.

WINE FOR KIDS

Or, rather, a wine book for kids. Barossa winemaker Wayne Dutschke has written a picture book called *My Dad Has Purple Hands*, the story of a little girl growing up on a vineyard. It's available from cellar doors across the country including Tulloch, Innocent Bystander, Dromana Estate, Kaesler, Rolf Binder, Blackwood Wines and Vinecrest.

A CUT ABOVE

The ideal gift for the wine-loving spouse, or the daughter/son starting a career as a sommelier (well, you never know), is the gorgeous Japanese-made Athro wine knife, available with Chinese queenwood or anodised aluminium handle. Prices start at \$110, chefsarmoury.com.

GUIDE TO WORLD WINES

Sales of foreign wines have doubled over the past year. If you can't keep track of all the new varieties available, check out *World Wine* (Longueville Books, \$29.95) by Angus Hughson, the 2005 winner of *Gourmet Traveller Wine* magazine's New Writer Award.

SHOW-STOPPING WINES

The winners of the annual Australia and New Zealand Organic Wine Show included the 2007 Random Valley Margaret River Shiraz (Best Wine in Show and Best Red) and the 2007 Yalumba Organic Riverland Viognier (Best White). This year's Australian Boutique Wine Awards were dominated by New South Wales wineries, with the top prize going to the 2005 Warraroong Estate Hunter Valley Semillon. For a full list of results, see boutiquewines.com.au.