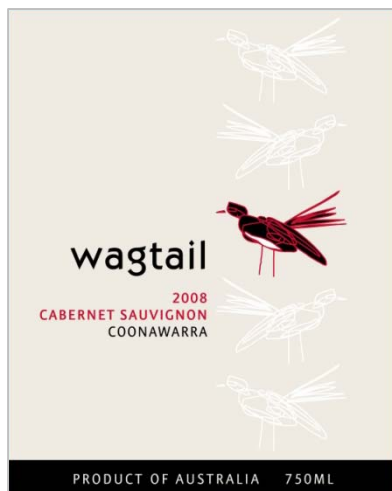


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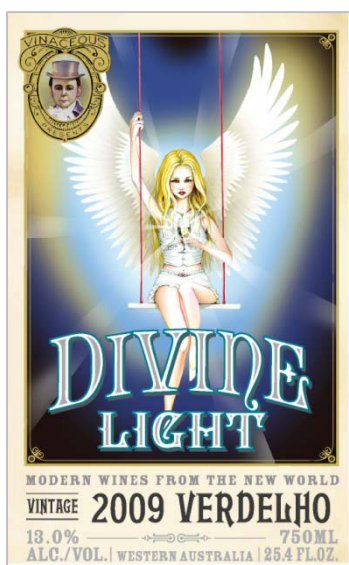


Reviewed by Fredric Koeppel, November 2009



2008 WAGTAIL Cabernet Sauvignon

*"Like a good-natured puppy looking for companionship and affection, the Wagtail Cabernet Sauvignon 2008, Coonawarra, South Australia, just can't help being upfront about its virtues. Yep, if this wine could lick your face with its big, rich, jammy black currant, cherry and raspberry scents and flavors, it damned well would. The texture is dense and chewy, almost port-like, and the intense and concentrated fruit is permeated with smoke, potpourri, new leather and an iodine-like minerality. Then, as many canines do, it turns all canny and ambiguous, finishing with a dry bite of austerity fueled by briery-brambly tannins. Quite a package. Very Good. **Good Value.** O.K., O.K., the wagtail is a bird, not a dog, I know that."*



2009 VINACEOUS "Divine Light" Verdelho

"Lead, kindly light," said the hymn we used to sing in the Methodist church my family went to when my brother and I were kids. And yes! every year I signed those cards pledging never to drink alcoholic beverages or smoke cigarettes. Dancing and kissing, on the other hand, were O.K. What did our parents think we were doing on Sunday night after M.Y.F.? Not that this memory has a damned thing to do with the Vinaceous Divine Light Verdelho 2009, from Pemberton, Western Australia; it just came to mind. The wine, to get back to that, offers heaps of personality for a grape that is often no more than pleasantly neutral. Charming scents of lime, pear and jasmine serve as prelude to the opening of a whole storehouse of spices bedded on layers of limestone and shale. Hints of dried grasses and herbs, like a slightly parched meadow in summer, lend the wine a dash of sunny Mediterranean-like warmth and appeal, while fleet acidity runs through the whole package like a live current. Very Good+."