



2 Herald Sun, Wednesday, October 17, 2007

SURVIVAL GUIDE

How to be in wine lette

WHAT do you get when you cross a wine-lover with the internet? One of the new breed of Web 2.0 sites that make being a wine connoisseur easy.

Like other specialty community sites, wine websites let users do a variety of things, including reviewing and posting wine opinions, creating lists of top wines and communicating with other wine aficionados.

The biggest and most popular wine lover's website is www.corkid.com.

Cork 'd lets you catalogue, rate and review wines, find out what your friends are tasting, and discover and keep track of new wines you'd like to buy and try.

Members can also "tag" or label wines in certain categories. For example, a wine might be labelled as "balanced" or "fruity". You can then search for wines based on those criteria.

Cork 'd also provides links to buy the wines that are reviewed, making the whole process, from selection to purchasing, a breeze.

A local site called [queff.com.au](http://www.queff.com.au) is similar to Cork 'd, but with more Australian content. Like Cork 'd, Queff members can rate and review wines they've tried, recommend wines to one another and read reviews of wines written by other members.

Within three months of its launch, Queff had attracted more than 5000 members and its popularity continues to grow at a rapid rate.

For wine collectors, Queff also offers the ability to catalogue and maintain your own wine cellar. You can keep track of the wines you own, and enjoy how you taste one, write a review, compare it with the last one you tasted and see how the wine is aging.

If you're not online, other software can help you do this, but using Queff won't cost you anything.

It's going to see Web 2.0 sites branching out into smaller niche communities and focusing on an area of interest. Sites such as Cork 'd and Queff are creating wine lovers from around the world to compare notes and enjoy the experience of wine with each other.

DANNY BORG
[penguin.com.au](http://www.penguin.com.au)

connect

Editor: Dave Bullard
Telephone: 9292 2317
Email: davebullard@heraldsun.com.au
Fax: 9292 2177

Audio Visual Editor: Peter Familiari
Telephone: 9292 1845
Email: peterfamiliari@heraldsun.com.au

Advertising: Tony Stocker
Telephone: 9292 2507

Covers: HWT Archives

Chix move up a couple of levels

Web: Six-room Pixel Chix house
Price: \$89.95
Model: 1300 385 312
www.pixelchix.com

IF YOU thought you could get away with buying your daughter a single Pixel Chix house, wait until she sees this. The Roomies house is a six-room high-rise shared by two friends — Pixel and Miss Spry. Kids can attach a music player to see the friends dance, and they can download surprises from the website. If that's not enough, four other "rooms" can be added for \$14.95 each.

Cheaper but snailier

Web: Games console
Price: \$699.95
Size: 1300 385 312
au.playstation.com

SONY has made its PlayStation3 high-definition games console more appealing to gamers by adding the Dual Shock 3 and Wi-Fi by bringing out the 6099.95 model. But there's a big catch: it's a free lunch. The hard drive is 40GB compared with the \$999.95 model's 60GB. The number of USB ports has been pared from four to two, there's no longer a multi-memory-card port and, most importantly, it's no longer backwards-compatible with PS2 games. The good news for AV nuts is, this makes the PS3 the cheapest Blu-ray disc player by far.

Start groovin'

Web: iPod speaker system
Price: \$129.95
Cygnett: 9429 2552
www.cygnett.com.au

CYGNETT'S GrooveRise is an iPod music system with an alarm clock to ease you into the day with the dulcet sounds of the music stored on your iPod. Or you can let your favourite FM radio station do the job. What's more, GrooveRise will recharge your iPod while you slumber.

One for the girls

Web: Outdoor sports wrist computer
Price: \$399.95
Asus Sports: 1800 553 872
www.asus.com

SUNTO makes excellent wrist computers for divers, mountaineers, sailors and the like, and the Lunr looks like a real beauty. Most "watches" of this kind are made for men, but this is a feminine one that combines altimeter, barometer/beamometer and compass with sunrise and sunset times and day-counter. Oh, and it tells the time, too. Available in November.

Vision splendid

Web: Plasma TV
Price: \$6499 (42-inch)
\$50 (50-inch)
Fujitsu General: 1300 385 312

FUJITSU has released its PlasmaVision model named P42XHASREB and P50XHASREB — with improved video processing and a picture-in-picture feature. How they do in the market remains to be seen, though, because they're on the expensive side at \$6499 and \$8999. Resolution of the 42-inch Fujitsu is 1024x768 and the 50-inch is 1366x768.

RUDD PROMISES LAND FOR NEW HOMES

Herald Sun

DRUG CH

PRIDE OF AUSTRALIA

connect

MEMBERS

The Good binocular guide

almarro

audiophile

HITEK PACK 1: AV8

WHATMOUGH AV8 WITH YAMAHA 100W X 5CH RECEIVER

Whatmough

YAMAHA

WAS \$2990
NOW \$1599

pack includes matching subwoofer

YAMAHA

Available in November and January only

HITEK AUDIO VIDEO | 543-545 HIGH STREET NORTHCO

ter Familiari bring test products

Start groovin'

Web: iPod speaker system
Price: \$129.95
Cygnett: 9429 2552
www.cygnett.com.au

CYGNETT'S GrooveRise is an iPod music system with an alarm clock to ease you into the day with the dulcet sounds of the music stored on your iPod. Or you can let your favourite FM radio station do the job. What's more, GrooveRise will recharge your iPod while you slumber.

Herald Sun
October 17, 2007