

Three of the best



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Patrick Piuze Petit Chablis Juliette Anaïs 2012 (£15.95)

Beats more
famous names in
this illustrious
region with its
pitch-perfect
echoes of citrus
and seashells
(caviste.co.uk)



Greywacke Marlborough Wild Sauvignon 2011 (£23)

A highly
personalised and
subtle NZ
sauvignon from
a master
winemaker
(thewinesociety.
co.uk)

ON THE BOTTLE

BOB TYRER



Family values? You don't need them

My text for today is from Reading Between the Wines by Terry Theise, page 19: "Wine is like a shy dog. Lunge for it and it backs away. Just sit still and it draws nearer." No barking, please. Terry is an American wine importer and writer who had an epiphany as a young man with a bottle of German riesling and a copy of Hugh Johnson's World Atlas of Wine. He believes that, as well as being fun, wine has a mystical capacity. This is hard to articulate so he reaches for the shy dog as a metaphor for the need to relax while exploring wine's nuances because "it doesn't like being dominated".

I bought his book when it was published three years ago and didn't get far with it. But in the middle of this month's heatwave I took a week off to de-nettle my allotment micro-vineyard and, it being so breathtakingly hot, I clocked on at 6am and off again three hours later as heatstroke approached. That left plenty of reading time, and once I'd waded through my 34-year-old

copy of The New English Vineyard (Joanna Smith) and the rest of my vine shelf I found myself with Terry again.

I promptly came across this: "If you want to experience wine with your whole self... the wine has to be authentic. And

what confers authenticity is a rootedness in family soil, and culture..."

I agree, sort of. But authenticity

is not confined to family.

It's true of young Gerrit Walter, who's begun making thrilling riesling at his family's winery on the Mosel. But what about Patrick Piuze, a French-Canadian who caught the wine bug and now makes breathtaking chablis that's certainly authentic and probably mystical? Or Kevin Judd, born in England, raised in Australia and co-creator of the iconic Kiwi wine, Cloudy Bay? Under his own label, Greywacke, he now produces much more interesting stuff that is subtle, mesmerising and authentically rooted in his own experience and skill.

Still, it's an intriguing book. I will persevere ■

