

timeout

Pure delight

A good Catholic girl shows her saucier side. By Jeff Gordon

It is time to get creative. Wine authorities have estimated the number of wine labels in Australia at almost 10,000. To get attention a label needs some pizzazz in the form of colour, image, name, or whatever can give it an edge.

In the Clare Valley recently I came across a label I just had to try. Named GCG it comes in both a riesling and a shiraz. GCG stands for Good Catholic Girl and, as I have married two of them, I thought, 'This must be my sort of wine'. The riesling ('08, \$25), I noticed later, is called Teresa, obviously named after my favourite mother-in-law and, like her, is a lovely thing.

The first time I tried it in a blind tasting the mid-palate seemed dull and closed, the wine a touch syrupy, but it was tasted too cold and at a second try some hours later it had blossomed. At the correct temperature there were some floral notes, mouth-filling flavours with a lemon citrus underpinning strong acidity, with a long memorable finish.

The GCG shiraz ('06, \$30) carries the family name James Brazill, after a relative who was killed in World War I, and was given three years in the bottle to come together – it has benefited from win-

emaker/grower Julie Ann Barry's patience.

Clare Valley's shiraz is generally characterised as a gentle, well-rounded wine with loads of berry fruit and hints of black pepper. At its best, the wine reveals elegance and sophistication. Maybe it was the 15.5 per cent alcohol or perhaps the use of one old James Brazill port barrel, but this wine could not be described as gentle or soft, although it is mouth filling.

The fruit is intense and the finish is much more subtle than anticipated. This is a wine released to drink and enjoy now but with scope to become more complex over time. I like what it's showing now.

As GCG is rarer than hen's teeth outside South Australia, try the website or email enquiry@goodcatholicgirl.com.au

