

Much maligned, white wines are sometimes put aside for their dark, brooding cousins. But by blending savoir-faire with terroir some winemakers are pulling off some powerful samples. These four examples run the gamut of white wines, from light to its own sense of brooding intensity.

87 Henry of Pelham Sibling Rivalry White 2008, Niagara (\$14)

Sibling Rivalry White and Red are new products from the Speck boys at HOP. These wines draw their inspiration from the work dynamic between the brother/owners and the use of that mystical number: three. There are three grapes involved: Riesling, Gewürz and Chardonnay; and there are three brothers: Paul, who is the President, Daniel who is in charge of sales and marketing and Matt the vineyard manager. They work well together, just like this particular combination of grapes. Of course, there are always necessary compromises that arise, as in any partnership. Sometimes it even takes place in the form of 'rock, paper and scissors.' Have a look at the label and you will see the hand symbols. That being said, this wine is a solid value white, with an essence of peach, flowers, honey, citrus and bubble gum. It is very refreshing, so chill it down and enjoy it on any summer late afternoon or weekend with friends, neighbours and family. (ES)

89 Cave Spring Riesling CSV, 2007, Beamsville Bench, Niagara (\$38.99)

Bracingly vibrant and lively with grapefruit, lime, pear, and mineral flavours, remaining zingy and fresh through the long, vibrant finish, with floral and mineral notes going on and on. From one of Canada's top Riesling producers. (GB)

91 Pfaffenheim Steinert Tokay Pinot Gris Grand Cru 2004, Alsace, France (\$33.95)

This white has heft. Complex aromas and flavours of baked pear, custard pie and tropical fruit dominate. The palate shows off an unctuous, medium-sweet style, with a powerfully long finish. Superbly suited for the cheese course, even after a dinner of big reds. (HH)



power whites

