



ZALZE SOUTH AFRICA



## Jamie Goode

### Our expert uncorks an international selection that's full of Eastern promise

Sweet and sour are two words that the wine expert dreads hearing. Together, that is. Separately they're no problem, but it's a rare wine that can cope with both extremes at once. Fortunately, though, the British drinker has probably the widest choice of wines available anywhere in the world – so I've scoured the globe for seven that are equal to the task.



**1. Spier Vintage Selection Shiraz/Mouvèdre/Viognier 2005 Western Cape, South Africa (15% alcohol) £11.99; Thresher**  
This burly South African wine would overpower many dishes, but its combination of sweet fruity flavours with spicy, tarry oak makes it just right for sweet and sour.

**2. Domaine Mandeville Viognier 2008, France (13.5% alcohol) £4.99; Marks & Spencer**  
Viognier can be a bit heavy, but this one is fresh and bright, with lovely, rounded citrus and peach fruit and just a hint of pithiness on the finish. Very likeable.

**3. Zalze Bush Vine Chenin Blanc 2008, South Africa (14% alcohol) £5.99; Waitrose**  
Rich, bold tropical fruit flavours would make this a good match for AWT's scallops and bacon on sweet and sour cabbage.

**4. Gérard Bertrand Dry Muscat 2008 Vin de Pays d'Oc, France (13% alcohol) £5.99; Tesco**  
Made by ex-rugby player Gérard Bertrand, this is an aromatic, grapey

white with lovely floral notes and sweet, crisp fruit. Superb with Pad Thai.

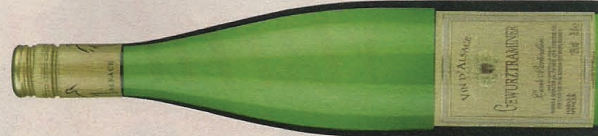
**5. Alsace Gewürztraminer 2007, France (14% alcohol) £7.99; M&S**  
Gewürztraminer is the white grape that tastes of lychee, and it works beautifully with spicy food. This is a brilliant off-dry example with lovely depth of flavour.

**6. Zilzie Viognier 2007 Victoria, Australia (15% alcohol) £6.78; Asda**  
This wine is a bit bonkers, with huge

pear and peach flavours and a 15 per cent alcohol content. But there's no doubting it's man enough for the job.

**7. Hidalgo La Gitana Manzanilla NV, Spain (15% alcohol) £8.69; Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose**  
A surprise pick perhaps, but with some appley, nutty notes countering the bracing, almost salty freshness, this sherry is a winner with sweet and sour food. ☺

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