

## Crave

Fashion



**L**AST YEAR, John Symond paid \$30,000 for Hugh Jackman's jeans. It was one more pair to add to the mortgage baron's collection, from the annual Jeans for Genes day auction. Will he be tempted by Brigitte Bardot's shorts, painted into this 120sq

cm artwork *The Cage* by Hugh Oliveiro? Roy's and HG's jeans (painted by Paul Dorin and Robyn Ross) may be cheaper. See them at Sydney's Arthouse hotel or [www.jeans4genes.com.au](http://www.jeans4genes.com.au); The auction is on July 12 at Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney. – SUSAN SKELLY

## Technology

**B**EING OUT and about doesn't have to mean being out of the loop. The pocket-sized wireless broadband modem from 3 plugs into your Windows or Mac notebook and piggybacks its signal onto the telco's 3G mobile network. Expect to hit around 1.5Mbps in most CBDs, although the signal can taper on the outskirts (coverage details at [www.three.com.au](http://www.three.com.au)). 3 mops up the competition with the pricing – as \$49 per month for 1GB of data, while the modem is \$10 with a 12-month contract. – DAVID FLYNN



## Jewellery

**T**HE HOT new thing on the party circuit is the cocktail ring, and awaiting their red carpet moment are the hotshots from Venerari. Rhodon, \$4650, above, is a floating emerald-cut garnet; Ice is rutilated quartz; and Tsar marries diamond, sapphire, emerald and alexandrite (the last two are made to order). (02) 9222 9797; [www.venerari.com](http://www.venerari.com) – SUSAN SKELLY

## Quaff

BY PETER FORRESTAL

2005 ANGOVE'S  
"STONEGATE" PETIT VERDOT  
\$8.95.....



Petit verdot is a classic, late-ripening variety that is more widely planted in the irrigated areas along the Murray than in its native Bordeaux. Here, it makes delicious robust reds with powerful, mouth-coating tannins. Remarkably, they are nowhere near as popular as they deserve to be. This is bold, full-throated, with deeply concentrated blackberry pastille flavour and substantial, though balanced, tannins: a well-priced quaffer.

2003 FREEMAN  
RONDINELLA CORVINA  
\$35.....



The two red varieties – rondinella and corvina – hail from northern Italy's Veneto, which vigneron Brian Freeman likens in climate, topography and cherry production to the Hilltops region around Young. This is a big, complex, blend with tarry, earthy, charcuterie characters, wonderful succulence, and substantial yet restrained tannins that grip gently. Stockists: [www.freemanvineyards.com.au](http://www.freemanvineyards.com.au)

2005 SMIDGE  
"TARDY" ZINFANDEL  
\$38.....



Matt Wenk's day job is at Two Hands in the Barossa: he and wife Trish make a tiny number of fascinating wines under the Smidge label. This Langhorne Creek zin was picked nearly a month later than its sibling from the Barossa, "The Donald", and is slightly lower in alcohol. It has very ripe, raspberry jam flavours, is succulent, fleshy and primal with restrained power. Stockists: [www.smidgewines.com](http://www.smidgewines.com)