2009 INNOCENT BYSTANDER
PINK MOSCATO

Review Summary

90 pts “Light, lurid pink with a strong mousse. Lively strawberry, raspberry and tangerine on the nose, along with a strong floral quality. Sappy and gently sweet, with energetic red berry and citrus flavors and a gentle spicy note. Ridiculously easy to drink, with a long, red fruit-dominated finish and lingering floral character.”

Josh Raynolds, Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar
June 2009

89 pts - Best of the Best by Variety “Vivid color; has abundant vibrant red fruit flavors mixed with a dash of lemon juice; more attitude than most others.”

James Halliday’s Australian Wine Companion
2011

88 pts “A little bundle of Springtime in a bottle, this heralds the warmer months are near with it’s just pink, gently fizzes appearance and sweet floral aromas. This is part wine, part soft drink, and it makes a handy mixer over ice with a squeeze of citrus.”

Wine Business Monthly
August 2009

85 pts “Firmly in the fun-wine category, 2009 Moscato has just 5.5% alcohol and a pale cherry pink color with intensely grapey, honeyed, floral aromas. The palate is fully sweet with crisp acidity to balance and a refreshing spritzy lift. It’s made to enjoy right now as an aperitif or superb party starter.”

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Robert Parker’s The Wine Advocate
June 30, 2010, Issue #182

4 STARS “Italian Moscato has been a big hit in Australia, inspiring local winemakers to produce their own. Innocent Bystander, made with Murray Valley gordo and black muscat, is one of the best. The super-fresh, rose pink 2009 is like a mouthful of crushed muscatels, with a spritz of gas and zesty acidity adding zip. Delicious.”

The Age, Epicure
May 19, 2009

SILVER MEDAL – Reserve Class Champion
Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo 2010

“A blend of 65 percent Muscat of Alexandria and 35 percent Muscat of Hamburg, the lightly effervescent wine embodies pure strawberry and rhubarb laced with a strain of the muscat grape’s natural earthy foxiness and a hint of roses; flavors tend more toward watermelon and Braeburn apples. Made in stainless steel and endowed with bountiful freshness, mild sweetness and vibrant acidity, the wine is completely delightful and bursting with personality. At only 5.5 percent alcohol, you could drink this stuff all day long! Very Good+. About $12 for a 375 ml half-bottle”

Fredric Keoppel, Bigger Than Your Head
June 22, 2009
“Some might think this pale pink Aussie moscato is a tad too sugary, but I reckon it’s the cheeriest drink around. While definitely sweet, it has plenty of refreshing, zingy acidity and spritz to balance that out, plus a feel-good Turkish Delight note.”

Jane Faulkner, Full Bottle, Sydney Morning Herald
June 26, 2009

“Simply put, I’ve fallen in love with the Innocent Bystander Moscato from Victoria. Strawberry accents abound, and also cranberry and pomegranate essences that peek through the crisp acidity that’s necessary in any good Moscato. This wine is very bright, and the finish is clean and sweet.”

Ben Weinberg, Weinberg’s Wine Notes #63 - Value Wines
August 2009

“Assembled from Muscat Gordo Blanco, and taken from selected growers throughout Victoria, this has smells of fresh grape juice, pear and apple. In your mouth its squeaky clean, a little sweet and ever so slightly fuzzy. Sip it alongside strawberry or lemon gelato.”

Matt Skinner's 21 Wines for Summer, Sydney Sun Herald
October 4, 2009

“In a crown-seal bottle, the 2008 vintage of this party fizz sold out fast. The 2009 is fresh on the shelves - its "style, color, fizz and flavor are all spot on". The winemaker suggests serving it with a straw.”

The Week (Australia)
October 23, 2009

“Buffs malign moscato but the punters, especially younger drinkers, love it! Innocent Bystander comes from Yarra Valley producer Giant Steps. Long, cold fermentation produces a natural, gentle carbonation that enhances the wine’s fruity, grapey character.”

Jeff Collerson, The Daily Telegraph (Australia)
December 15, 2009

“This dangerously drinkable wine from the Innocent Bystander crew remains one of the best of its kind. Crown-sealed for freshness, expect a bright and explosive nose of just-crushed grapes and red apples, while in the mouth grapey sweetness is balanced by a lick of tannin and a charge of bubbles. Try it with apple fritters.”

Matt Skinner, The Age & Sunday Herald
April 7, 2010

“A salmon hue gives away the presence of 35 percent Black Muscat in this picnic-basket pick from this Australian label. It’s more candied than some past vintages, but distinctly red-fruitied: big raspberry flavors accented by tangerine and a mossy herbal note. Almost vanilla-like round sweetness.”

Jon Bonné, San Francisco Chronicle
May 2, 2010