

BEER RADAR

Chilled reds

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Spring is in the air. Warmer weather beckons. Time to crack open some nice chilled reds. No, we're not catching the rosé bus, we're talking Vienna reds. Precursors to pilsner, these are richer, fuller bodied lagers. Red hues drawn from Vienna malt (kilned slightly higher than pilsner) support a toasty finish that their upstart, paler cousin lacks.

Not enough frequent flyer points to get you to Vienna? No worries, mate, Vienna comes to you, in two fine local drops. Get a glass ready though. You first drink a Vienna with your eyes, so don't hide it in the bottle.

A Sydney boutique brewery, Redoak's Vienna, is a classic. Coppery red, with a generous body. A large, puffy head precedes this clean lager, supported by surprising weight and velvet texture. If James Bond drank beer, he'd order one of these at the Baccarat tables.

Rooftop Red from Matilda Bay puts a New World slant on the style. The catchy name is drawn from a Paul Kelly song, and the red tiled roofs of suburban Sydney. Vienna inspired, but re-energised with specialty crystal malts. Bursting with burnished, bronze, copper tones and malty goodness. The body is still gentle enough to make it easy drinking.