



The Cellar Club Inc

Established in 1980

FEBRUARY 2007

Glancing Forward to Future Events

**Wednesday
14 March 2007**
Celebrating
Hawke's Bay wines

**Wednesday
11 April 2007**
Still under
negotiation. Watch
this space!

**Wednesday
9 May 2007**
The Club's Annual
General Meeting

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Next Event **Haythornthwaite Wines, Martinborough**



Wed 14th February 7:45pm for 8pm

NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE (See page 2)

**The Terrace Centre
Johnsonville Uniting Church
18 Dr Taylor Terrace
Johnsonville**

Members: \$12, Guests: \$16

**Presenters: Mark Haythornthwaite &
Susan Andrews**

Starting the year with a bit of class we are delighted to present Haythornthwaite Wines for our February meeting. This is truly a unique occasion to try some outstanding wines from a boutique vineyard, as they are only available by mail order or appointment. Mark and his wife, Susan Andrews, will be presenting wines from their library stock - Gewurztraminer, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Pinot Rose, and Sauvignon Blanc. They will also include an earlier vintage of Pinot Noir from their own very limited library stock. Mark will also produce a special price list and create order forms for members to order wines on the evening.

Some of you may have had the pleasure of meeting Mark and Susan at the Christmas Dinner in December. The Haythornthwaite Vineyard is located on the outskirts of Martinborough. First plantings were in 1992 and currently just less than 8 acres have been planted. The first vintage was 1997 with the first wine, a Pinot Noir, released in October 1998. In 1999 the 1998 Pinot Noir collected a Silver medal at the Air New Zealand Wine Awards and in 2000 the 1999 Pinot Noir collected a Gold medal at the same awards. No wines have been entered in the awards since then as the quantities have been too small to qualify. Mark grew up in South West Africa (now Namibia) and immigrated to New Zealand, via London, at the beginning of 1976.

As an item of added interest, the Haythornthwaite Vineyard has accommodation available for rental. Rumoured to have mystical qualities, the Old Café Cottage is self contained and overlooks the fruit trees of the vineyard. Check it out, plus further information at:

www.haythornthwaite.co.nz

Change of Venue

For the next few meetings

Just prior to Christmas we were contacted by the Johnsonville Community Centre and advised they were about to commence construction on additions to the Main Hall where we have been holding our monthly Cellar Club meetings. This will affect our accommodation for the February, March and April meetings. However the Community Centre have found us alternative accommodation for the next few months at **The Terrace Centre, Johnsonville Uniting Church, 18 Dr Taylor Terrace, Johnsonville.** This is an excellent venue just around the corner and close to St Brigid's School.

Finding that Restaurant

Wises have now included a Food and Wine section on their website. Endorsed by local chef, author and broadcaster, Peta Mathias, it includes her favourite recipes, food & wine, and restaurants. And being part of the Wises site, it provides maps of the locations of various restaurants throughout the country. See www.wises.co.nz/foodandwine/



The Johnsonville Uniting Church, as indicated above, is midway along Dr Taylor Terrace. Entry to the Terrace Centre where our meetings will be held is clearly sign-posted.

Committee

Although our AGM is still a few months away, this is still a good time to consider becoming a Committee Member this year. If you would like to know what's involved just have a chat to a current Committee member or email our President, Cecilia Parker, at brianandcecilia@paradise.net.nz

Quote for the Month

"I only drink champagne when I'm happy, and when I'm sad. Sometimes I drink it when I'm alone. When I have company, I consider it obligatory. I trifle with it if I am not hungry and drink it when I am. Otherwise I never touch it - unless I'm thirsty."

-Lily Bollinger's reply when asked "When do you drink champagne?"

From the Editor

With summer finally with us, what better time to enjoy a refreshing Sauvignon Blanc or a gutsy red at a barbecue. Unfortunately Carolyn and I had to miss the Club barbecue last month because we were in Auckland – for the Roger Waters concert! However, we didn't miss out on tasting some great wines, on Waiheke Island no less. I can thoroughly recommend the Fullers Waiheke Island Vineyard Tour. For \$90 we got the return ferry trip and visits to some of the best vineyards Waiheke has to offer: Stonyridge (lunch included there), Onetangi Rd and Mudbrick. As well as tastings we were given guided tours through the wineries. An additional stop over at Rangihoua Estate gave us the opportunity to sample several local olive oils. We left Auckland at 11am and were back just before 5pm. A delightful day! And for those of you who are wondering, no, we didn't get to taste the Larose at Stonyridge.

So, onto the Club activities for the new year. We start with something special at the February meeting: a tasting from boutique Haythornthwaite Wines of Martinborough. This will be of particular interest to those who like Pinot Noir. In March some Club members will present their favourite Hawkes Bay wines and, while the April meeting is still under wraps, it will be good! These meetings will all be held at our temporary location: The Terrace Centre, Johnsonville Uniting Church, 18 Dr Taylor Terrace.

On behalf of the Committee I wish you all the best for the New Year and look forward to seeing you at our future meetings.

Terry Friel
Editor

Glancing Back

Christmas Dinner at Strawberry Fare

Once again Strawberry Fare put on a memorable Christmas party for nearly 40 members and partners. In addition to tasting wines from fellow members, some were fortunate enough to get a sneak preview of a couple of the Haythornthwaite wines thanks to special guests Mark Haythornthwaite and his wife Susan. Towards the end of the evening we also sang a rousing 'Happy Birthday' to our President, Cecilia, who was celebrating a significant birthday that evening. A special thanks goes to Tim O'Grady for organising the evening.

Summer Barbecue at Derek's Place

On the last Sunday in January around 40 members and partners gathered at Derek Thompson's place for our traditional Club Barbecue. The weather was pleasant - not too hot – and a broad range of wines were sampled.

The committee would like to acknowledge the assistance of those who helped greatly with the clean-up – not only most committee members and their partners but also the partners of general members who spent considerable time in the kitchen. Our sincere thanks also go to Derek for his hospitality once again.

Electronic Newsletter Available

Would you prefer to be emailed this colourful newsletter rather than receive a printed copy?

If so, just send a quick email request to:

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In the News

Terroir Remains Elusive

31 Jan 2007

Delegates at Pinot Noir 2007 in Wellington were treated to a challenging introduction to the gala event as speakers attempted to identify the much vaunted concept of terroir in New Zealand wines.

The concept of people, however, was delivered as a key factor, and all speakers acknowledged much learning was required by New Zealand wine producers before a clear pattern of geographically identifiable wine characters emerges.

Chair of the initial tasting session, Prof Warren Moran told the audience, "People are the most important component in terroir."

He explained this by pointing out that the influence of people making the wine defined terroir, because it was they who interpreted the differences apparent in the physical geography of each vineyard. It was important in evaluating this, in Prof Moran's view, to understand the relationship between the human organization and the environment, which was as dependent on the nature of the organization - whether it was a large corporation responsible for an estate covering numerous regions or a small family concern operating from a single site - as it was on climate or soil.

French speaker, Michel Bettane, argued that the role of the winemaker was to access the natural differences of character that were inherent in a place. He claimed that there are "good terroir and bad" and some winemakers were wasting their time looking for expressing the character of terroir in their wines.

After a tasting of 8 New Zealand Pinot Noirs from various winegrowing regions, Michel Bettane was confident that terroir was emerging in New Zealand. "I see eight different individualities and I am very happy with this," he said.

"You have done in twenty to twenty-five years what took us two hundred," Bettane summarised. "But you need another twenty five years."

Screwcap Supporters Blame Cork Interests for Stink

19 Jan 2007

New Zealand's screwcap supporting winemakers who began the "Screwcap Initiative" have dismissed British media reports of sulphur problems with screwcaps as a cork industry beat-up. One of the initiative leaders, John Forrest of Forrest Estate has claimed the British claims as a "vested small minority interest, organised and funded well, based in the UK" according to the Marlborough Express.

90% of New Zealand's wine exports to the United Kingdom are closed with screw-caps and in spite of considered scientific opinion claiming that sulphide spoilage is a problem for the closure the screwcap supporters chose to counter the argument with ridicule. Dr Forrest is also reported claiming winemakers in Europe are not as advanced in their winemaking practise as New Zealanders are, and so are inclined to make mistakes with screwcaps.