



The Cellar Club Inc

Established in 1980

OCTOBER 2007

Glancing Forward to Future Events

**Wednesday
14 November
2007**
Champagne Evening
at Glengarry

**Wednesday
5 December 2007**
The Club's
Christmas Dinner at
Bistro Breton,
Kelburn

**Sunday
27 January 2008**
The Club's Summer
BBQ

**Wednesday
13 February 2008**
Nevis Bluff, Central
Otago

Next Event

Three Wine Men from Martinborough



**Wednesday 10th Oct, 7:45 for 8pm
Johnsonville Community Centre Hall,
3 Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville
Members: \$12, Guests: \$16**

**Presenters:
Mike Finucane - Alexander Vineyard
Rob van Zanten - Martinus Estate
Wim Julicher - Julicher Estate**

While renowned for Pinot Noir, Martinborough also produces many other great wines. For this event we have assembled the owners/winemakers of a trio of boutique Martinborough wineries who will present a variety of wines. We will start with a Rosé, go

on to the whites, have a break for some bread and pâté, and end with, you guessed it, Pinot Noir. The wineries:

Julicher Estate Martinborough

A family owned boutique winery, Julicher focuses on the production of prestige quality wines with distinctive fruit flavours. They planted their first grapes 10 years ago on the Te Muna Terraces in Martinborough.

Wines for Tasting: Julicher Rosé 2006, Julicher Chardonnay 2004, Julicher Riesling 2005 & Julicher Sauvignon Blanc 2007

Alexander Vineyard

Established in 1989, Alexander Vineyard is located in the heart of the famed Martinborough Terrace, on the free-draining gravels of the old river terraces created by the Ruamahanga River.

Wines for Tasting: Alexander Pinot Noir 2005 (GOLD MEDAL BRAGATO AWARDS 2006) & Alexander Dusty Road Pinot Noir 2006

Martinus Estate

Martinus Estate was established in 1998 producing the one varietal - Pinot Noir. The Winemaker is Robert van Zanten.

Wines for Tasting: Martinus Estate Pinot Noir 2004 & Martinus Estate Pinot Noir 2005 (GOLD MEDAL BRAGATO AWARDS 2006)

Don't miss the opportunity to sample these award-winning wines.

Breaking News

One of this month's presenters, Julicher Estate, has won the 2007 NZ International Wine Show

'Champion Wine of the Show Trophy'.

Their Martinborough Pinot Noir 2006 eclipsed all the other 2154 entrants when it was awarded the glamour Trophy at the awards presentation last Saturday, 29th September. It was a double success for Wim Julicher and Sue Darling, who had won the coveted Pinot Noir trophy earlier in the evening.

From the Editor

This year must be one of the Club's best when it comes to top winemaker presentations. To follow up Trinity Hill's John Hancock with Cloudy Bay's Kevin Judd was a real coup. Kevin's presentation must go down as one of the most informative we have ever experienced. If anyone wants 'the short history of winemaking in New Zealand' they could do no better than to talk to Mr Judd.

This month we hear the story and taste the wines of three small Martinborough wineries: Alexander Vineyard, Martinus Estate and Julicher Estate. Although their production volumes do not compete with the likes of Trinity Hill and Cloudy Bay, they can certainly all compete on quality.

Our November Champagne tasting at Glengarry, Thorndon Quay has now been finalised and promises to be a great evening. Our thanks go to Murray Jaspers for his organisation of the event. We follow with our Christmas Dinner at Bistro Breton, Kelburn, on 5th December. The Christmas menu will be published in the next newsletter. The festive season is nearly upon us!

Terry Friel
Editor

New Members

We welcome these new members to the Club:

Pamela & Graeme Roberts, Khandallah

Julie Barber

Please remember to introduce yourself to new members at Club events.

Membership News

Our new membership coordinator is Anne Megget. Anne is actively seeking new members, promoting the club and trying to ensure that everyone knows everyone!

The committee has agreed that we will all be issued with a membership card as we become financial members and this card will be numbered to use in a members' draw each meeting night. You have to be at the meeting to claim the prize. Congratulations to Richard Mason who won the first draw.

The card can also be used to obtain discounts at liquor outlets. The first two stores to agree to this proposition are:

- Wineseeker, 86-96 Victoria Street, Wellington - 10% discount
- Regional Wine & Spirits, 15 Ellice Street (Basin Reserve), Wellington - 10 to 17% discount depending on what is purchased.

Quote for the Month

"Before Noah, men having only water to drink, could not find the truth. Accordingly...they became abominably wicked, and they were justly exterminated by the water they loved to drink. This good man, Noah, having seen that all his contemporaries had perished by this unpleasant drink, took a dislike to it; and God, to relieve his dryness, created the vine and revealed to him the art of making le vin. By the aid of this liquid he unveiled more and more truth."

Benjamin Franklin
(1706-1790)

Kevin Judd's Vineyards of New Zealand 2008 Calendar

Kevin mentioned his calendar at last month's presentation and this is now available.

He is undoubtedly New Zealand's finest wine photographer, recognised internationally for his evocative and richly coloured photographs. This calendar features his lush photography of vineyards and grapes from the major wine growing areas throughout New Zealand. It is printed on quality art paper.

Glancing Back

Cloudy Bay Vineyards, Marlborough



Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc is perhaps New Zealand's best known wine overseas but few people know we can thank the Australians for establishing the winery. This, and many other fascinating insights, were revealed by Kevin Judd last month. During his presentation we learnt the whole Cloudy Bay story, from the beginning through to the future, and were left in no doubt that Cloudy Bay will be with us for many years to come.

And then there were the wines. Starting with the Pelorus bubbly, we were treated to the entire range. This included two unreleased wines: the sumptuous 2005 Gewurztraminer and the 2007 Sauvignon Blanc, still the benchmark for Marlborough Savvy.

A large crowd of members and guests enjoyed a fabulous evening, the like of which will probably never be repeated. Our sincere thanks go to Kevin Judd, and to Warren Thessman who arranged the event. Warren could not be present as he and his wife were touring Tibet and China at the time. However, he took a bottle of Pelorus with him and on the same night "shared it with some 6000 yr old Terra Cotta soldiers and tried to give a bottle to the Dali Lama but he was not in residence". Well done Warren!

Cloudy Bay's Kevin Judd pours Wayne Kennedy a glass of his 2007 Sauvignon Blanc.



Following on from the tasting, we discussed with Cloudy Bay how Cellar Club members could order some of their fine products. The best way is to go to their website <http://www.cloudybay.co.nz/> and then register yourself to receive their newsletter, Mentelle Notes, and order form by selecting *Newsletter* from the menu bar at the top of the screen. Alternatively you could write to them at PO Box 376, Blenheim.

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

Air New Zealand Wine Awards introduce 'Elite' Gold

28 August 2007

Some major changes have been announced for this year's Air New Zealand Wine Awards under a new Chair of Judges, Steve Smith MW. A new 'Elite Gold Medal' has been introduced to recognise superb gold medal winning wines that did not receive a Trophy.

The minimum points required for a wine to receive a Bronze Medal has been raised to 16. Previously it was 15.5. The minimum points for Silver (17) and Gold (18.5) remain the same.

A new trophy - the Champion Sustainable Wine Trophy - will replace the Reserve Wine of the Show (effectively the runner-up) and becomes the second most important trophy awarded.

The number of international judges has been increased to four. There will be an increased emphasis on specialist judges judging specialist classes. Minimum production levels for entry into the Open and Limited categories and a new Exhibition category have been increased.

Entries close on 21 September with judging to take place over three days (from 5 to 7 November 2007). The Air New Zealand Wine Awards Gala Dinner will be held in Christchurch on Saturday, November 24.

Wet weather takes toll on French wine harvest

Yahoo News: 04 September 2007

France is bracing for one of its smallest grape harvests in 20 years, hit by a summer of storms and plant diseases brought on by wet weather, the national winegrowers' office said Tuesday.

National production is expected to plunge seven percent compared to 2006, reaching 49.1 million hectolitres, the French national office of fruit, wine and horticulture, VINIFLHOR, said.

The 2007 harvest is set to fall 3.8 million hectolitres short of its average over the last five years, to its worst level since the devastating European heatwave of 2003.

A string of storms and rainy periods disturbed the process of flower and fruit formation, while all French vineyards reported outbreaks of mildew and millerandage, when grapes in a bunch mature at different rates.

It noted the poor French harvest was part of a trend across southern Europe, with drops in grape production also predicted in Spain, Italy, Portugal and Greece. Only central European countries are expecting grape volumes to rise.