

The Cellar Club Inc

Established in 1980

SEPTEMBER 2007

Glancing Forward to Future Events

**Wednesday
10 October 2007**
The Martinborough
Boutique Trio:
Alexander Vineyard,
Martinus Estate &
Julicher Estate

**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

Cloudy Bay Vineyards, Marlborough



Wednesday 12th Sept 7:45 for 8pm

**Johnsonville Community Centre Hall,
3 Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville**

**Members: \$15, Guests: \$20 (reduced to \$15
with Guest Voucher in this newsletter)**

Presenter: Kevin Judd, Chief Winemaker

Cloudy Bay Vineyards was established in 1985 by Cape Mentelle, the Western Australian winery, which today is a part of the Moët Hennessy Wine Estates.

The winery takes its name from the bay at the eastern extremity of the Wairau Valley. It was named Cloudy Bay by Captain Cook on his voyage to New Zealand in 1770.

The wines of Cloudy Bay are exported to 20 countries worldwide, the principal markets being Australia, United Kingdom, USA, Europe and Japan. Cloudy Bay will continue to expand its operations and the company believes that the continued success of Marlborough lies in the production of premium wines from varieties best suited to the region.

Join us for a superb evening and get an opportunity to meet another iconic New Zealand winemaker!

The wines:

- Mingling wine – Cloudy Bay Pelorus NV
- Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2007
- Cloudy Bay Te Koko 2004
- Cloudy Bay Chardonnay 2005
- Cloudy Bay Gewurztraminer 2005
- Cloudy Bay Pinot Noir 2005
- Cloudy Bay Late Harvest Riesling 2004

Don't miss yet another prestigious event on the Club's calendar!

IMPORTANT: To assist us with planning for this event please notify us of your attendance and if you are bringing guests. Please either email Terry Friel: terry.friel@croftonmanagement.co.nz or phone Anne Megget on 478-8573 and leave a message by **Sunday 9th September**. Many thanks.

The Perfect Wine Glass



And on the subject of glasses, members are reminded to bring their tasting glasses to Club events. The Club's spare glasses are intended for the use of guests. If you wish to purchase a set of six tasting glasses please talk to Wayne Kennedy (as he takes your money at the beginning of the meeting!).

Congratulations

To Sarah and Tim O'Grady on the birth of their 2nd son, Connor.

From the Editor

This month we hold the final of three featured Club meetings with a presentation from Cloudy Bay's Kevin Judd. Probably the most recognised New Zealand wine brand in the world, Cloudy Bay was largely responsible for putting Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc on the map. This is an evening not to be missed and, once again, you can bring along two friends at the Members' price. The Committee is extremely grateful to Warren Thessman for persuading Kevin to present his wines to us.

Last month's presentation from John Hancock of Trinity Hill definitely lived up to its promise. One of the biggest crowds in recent Club history not only enjoyed an entertaining and education presentation, but were also able to order unreleased wines. Our first 'all reds' evening was an unqualified success. My thanks go to Anne Megget for her review of the evening.

Looking to the future we have the "Martinborough Boutique Trio" in October followed by the eagerly awaited Champagne tasting at Glengarry, Thorndon Quay, in November. Our Christmas Dinner venue has now been confirmed and there is an announcement in this issue. For February we have been very fortunate to arrange for a presentation from Nevis Bluff, one of Central Otago's leading wineries. In the last survey there were many requests for a presentation of Central wines, an area we have neglected - not intentionally - in the past.

Terry Friel
Editor

Christmas Dinner

The Committee is delighted to announce that this year's Christmas Dinner will be at Bistro Breton, Kelburn Villas. This restaurant was a finalist in this year's Cuisine Restaurant of the Year. Their write up follows.



"It's rare to find a genuine Breton chef who has taken to the stoves this far from his birthplace. Stephane Clatin cooks authentic Breton specialties such as Galette Breton, fisherman's stew with paprika mayonnaise, lacy crêpes, and some superb steamed mussels that were tender and tasty. His wife Cathie Clatin fronts this restaurant in a colonial wooden building in the Kelburn Village."

Mark your calendar now: **Wednesday, 5th December 2007**

Regional Wines Voted 'Best Bottle Shop'

Recently Capital Times readers voted Regional Wines & Spirits as the 'Best Bottle Shop' in Wellington. Founded by Grant Jones & Moira Gaffney in July 1987, Regional Wines has steadily grown to become one of this country's most respected bottle shops in the country with an enormous selection of wines, ales and spirits. Representatives from Regional have presented at Club events on many occasions and we congratulate them on achieving this accolade.

Quote for the Month

“What is the definition of a good wine? It should start and end with a smile.”

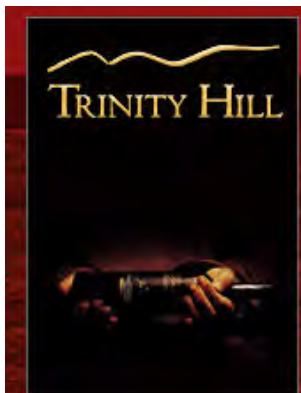
William Sokolin, wine author, New York wine merchant and wine investment specialist.

Frank McCarthy

It is with sadness that we note the passing of long-time member Frank McCarthy. Frank joined the club in 1983 and over the years served on committee four times. Ill health curtailed his participation in recent times but he always managed to join us for the January BBQ. Our thoughts are with his wife, Margaret.

Glancing Back

Trinity Hill Wines, Hawke’s Bay



A record 46 members and their guests were treated to a very special wine tasting. John Hancock, CEO of the prestigious Trinity Hill winery, presented no less than eight vintages of Cabernet Sauvignon blends, crafted from 1998 to 2005. The presenter gave a humorous and highly illuminating discourse covering all aspects of the industry, ranging from climate and terroir, through to the finer points of blending, regulations, and a hint of vineyard politics.

During the evening, the wines were presented in two ‘flights’ of four, with a break for sustenance in-between; the first four more traditional ‘cab sauvs’ with strong tannins, leading on to the newer, softer style with a greater percentage of merlot, giving even more cellaring potential: a real case of the product being more than the sum of its parts.



Since the presentation we have heard from Anthea Bailey, Trinity Hill’s Direct Marketing Manager:

“Your members ordered nine cases of good Trinity Hill wine – we are very grateful and it’s always nice for John to see the wines he’s tasted with you being popular. You were the first group to taste the 2004 Cab/Merlot and the 2005 The Gimblett. They haven’t been released yet and are not even in the Cellar Door. Quite special, you are!”

All members who ordered wine following the presentation were put in a draw for a magnum of Trinity Hill’s finest. The winner (trumpets, please):

!!!!!!! Vicky Donaldson !!!!!!!

Congratulations, Vicky.

In the News

Emerging grape wins gold

NZ Herald: 24 August 2007

An emerging variety of grape has won gold for the first time at a New Zealand wine competition. The Romeo Bragato Awards celebrate quality grapes as well as the contribution of the grape grower.

**Electronic
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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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Mike Wood, grape grower for Obsidian Vineyard in Auckland, used Italian Montepulciano grapes to create the gold medal winning wine - Weeping Sands Montepulciano 2006.

Chairman of judges Larry McKenna said that the quality of wine was extremely high this year with judging based on three categories; colour and clarity, aroma and bouquet, and taste and general impression.

"It has been a great year for the aromatics, especially Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling. The gold medal for Montepulciano signifies the increasing diversity in New Zealand wine," he said.

A total of 448 medals were awarded - 38 gold, 104 silver and 306 bronze.

Via Pacifica Selections Adds Trinity Hill

Scoop.co.nz: 22 August 2007

Via Pacifica Selections, a California-based importer and marketer specializing in premium wines from New Zealand, today announces the addition of wine producer Trinity Hill to the Via Pacifica portfolio.

Trinity Hill, a well-established Hawkes Bay winery and a founding member of the Gimblett Gravels Appellation, produces limited amounts of award-winning wine from one of New Zealand's most highly-regarded regions. The unique maritime climate of Hawkes Bay, with its range of microclimates and soil types, allows Trinity Hill to produce a variety of grapes for fine wines, although it is perhaps best known for its Syrahs and Bordeaux-style reds. Under the guidance of partner and winemaker John Hancock, Trinity Hill produces three labels: Homage, Gimblett Gravels and Hawkes Bay—selections of which are now available exclusively in the U.S. from Via Pacifica Selections.

"Trinity Hill's emphasis on quality over quantity is something you can taste in every bottle of wine they produce," said David Duckhorn, President of Via Pacifica Selections. "The U.S. market is developing a strong palate for the distinctive flavor of New Zealand wines and recognizing the regional differences within the country. With the addition of Trinity Hill to the Via Pacifica portfolio, we continue to bring the best of New Zealand's wines to the American table."

Via Pacifica Selections, based in Sebastopol, California, is an importer and marketer specializing in fine New Zealand wine and beer. Visit <http://www.viapacifica.com> to view Via Pacifica's complete portfolio.

Guest Voucher

With this voucher guests of Cellar Club Inc members can accompany them to this exciting event and pay the member's price:

Cloudy Bay Vineyards, Kevin Judd – Wed 12th September 2007

This voucher entitles a Member to bring up to two guests at the Members' price.