



# The Cellar Club Inc

[www.cellarclub.co.nz](http://www.cellarclub.co.nz)

Established in 1980

FEBRUARY 2009

## Glancing Forward to Future Events

**Wednesday, 11 March 2009**  
Jean-Christophe Poizat: Wines of Alsace

**Wednesday, 8 April 2009**  
Mark Haythornthwaite, Haythornthwaite Wines

**Wednesday, 13 May 2009**  
The Club's AGM

## Next Event

### **Pegasus Bay, Waipara Valley, Canterbury**



Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 7:45 for 8pm

Johnsonville Community Centre Hall,  
3 Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville

Members: \$16, Guests: \$20  
Presenter: Edward Donaldson,  
Marketing Manager

Pegasus Bay is entirely family-owned and operated. The Donaldson family has been seriously involved in wine since the early 1970's and were pioneers of local grape growing and wine making. Their aim is to grow grapes of the highest quality which fully express the features of the vineyard, and to handle these with the utmost respect.

The results have been recognised by discerning buyers for many years and recently by US wine critic Robert Parker. Arguably the world's most influential wine person, he has written many books on wine and even has his own magazine, aptly named The Wine Advocate. In his recently released Parker's Wine Buyer's Guide, New Zealand's wine producers are rated and Pegasus Bay was one of only five to be named as outstanding and given five stars.

We welcome back Ed, who last presented to us in August 2006, and anticipate a stimulating evening hearing about Pegasus Bay and tasting his choice of wines.

The Main Divide Sauvignon Blanc 2008 will be available from 7:45 as the mingle wine, followed by this selection:

- **Pegasus Bay Sauvignon Semillon 2008**
- **Pegasus Bay Riesling 2008**
- **BEL CANTO Dry Riesling 2008**
- **Pegasus Bay Chardonnay 2007**
- **Main Divide TEHAU Pinot Noir 2006**
- **Pegasus Bay Pinot Noir 2006**
- **Pegasus Bay ARIA Late Picked Riesling 2007**

Don't miss this chance to try some of New Zealand's finest wines. To quote Mr Parker, "I suspect few consumers will ever be disappointed with one of their wines".

## Members' Discounts

Your Cellar Club membership card gives you discounts as follows:

### Wineseeker

86-96 Victoria Street,  
Wellington  
10% discount

### Regional Wine & Spirits

15 Ellice Street,  
Wellington  
10-17% discount

### Yangtze Chinese Restaurant

162 Willis Street,  
Wellington  
10% discount

### SuperLiquor Johnsonville

'Staff discount' on anything not already on special

### In addition...

There is a members' prize draw at each meeting but you must be present to win!

### Club Newsletters

Was there something you wanted to read in an old newsletter but no longer have that copy? The last six copies are available on the website – [www.cellarclub.co.nz](http://www.cellarclub.co.nz)

## From the Editor

Last year will arguably be recorded as one of the Club's best. With a growing number of new members and average attendances at meetings in the mid-thirties, the Club is certainly in a healthy state. So why is that? We have always presented excellent speakers, indeed some of the country's best winemakers, but as members moved away from the area we had found it difficult to attract new interest. As numbers dwindled the Committee started to wonder if wine clubs were a thing of the past. We were wrong.

Our problem was that few people knew about the Cellar Club. The answer: the internet. Our humble website has attracted many new members over the past year and has become our main source of recruitment. While we have hundreds, rather than thousands, looking at it each month, those that do find it spend some time viewing the content and often contact us via email. Then they join!

So the next time someone asks you about the club, refer them to [www.cellarclub.co.nz](http://www.cellarclub.co.nz)

*Terry Friel*  
Editor

## New Member

We welcome to the Club:

**Christine Walls**      **Broadmeadows**

Please introduce yourself to new members at Club events.

## Glancing Back

### Christmas Dinner at Bistro Breton



Nearly 50 members and guests enjoyed Christmas Dinner at Bistro Breton on 10th December. Like last year this was a memorable occasion enhanced this time by more favourable weather which meant we could start on the deck. The committee expects to maintain the same high standard for future Christmas events.



### Summer Barbecue at Derek's Place

Around 40 members and partners gathered at Derek Thompson's place for the Club Barbecue on the last Sunday in January. Everyone enjoyed themselves on what was a beautiful afternoon and evening. Once again we are extremely grateful to Derek for making his place available and we all loved the new open air sunroom.

### Quote for the Month

A man, fallen on hard times, sold his art collection but kept his wine cellar. When asked why he did not sell his wine, he said, "A man can live without art, but not without culture." - Anonymous

## In the News

### Tributes flow for pioneer

© The Marlborough Express, 29 January 2009

#### **A wine industry pioneer and well-loved Marlborough man Ross Lawson has lost his battle with cancer.**

Ross James Lawson, 66, died on Tuesday. Mr Lawson was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit last year for his services to the wine industry and community.

He was a musterer, a shearer and trade union official before he and his wife, Barbara, became contract grape growers. In 1992 they founded Lawson's Dry Hills.

Mr Lawson was the chairman of the New Zealand Screwcap Initiative which organised the inaugural International Screwcap Symposium. Along with John Forrest, John Belsham and John Stichbury, he was instrumental in the move to screwcaps for wine.

Lawson's Dry Hills has the distinction of being the first winery to bottle all its wines using the screwcap. In 2007, 95 per cent of all New Zealand wine was bottled with screwcaps compared to 2 per cent in 2001.

Saint Clair Family Estate director Neal Ibbotson said there were no false pretences with Mr Lawson. "Ross was one of Marlborough's characters. Like his wine, he climbed to the top but never forgot where he came from and what he believed in."

New Zealand Winegrowers chairman Stuart Smith said Mr Lawson was an influential person in the wine industry whose push for screwcaps had a fantastic impact on the Marlborough and New Zealand wine industry. "He also had quite an influence with his own brand and what is now Marlborough Winegrowers." Mr Smith said it was sad. Not only was Mr Lawson young but so was the Marlborough wine industry. "He is a person to be respected and not just for his achievements in the wine industry but for Ross as a person."

### Domaine Chandon without the bubbles

28 January 2009

#### **Renowned Australian winery Domaine Chandon has released a new range of still wines.**

The first release in New Zealand features six wines: Yarra Valley Chardonnay 2007, Yarra Valley Barrel Selection Chardonnay 2006, Pinot Noir Rose 2008, Yarra Valley Barrel Selection Pinot Noir 2006, Heathcote Shiraz 2006 and a Yarra Valley Barrel Selection Shiraz 2005. The Barrel selection, made from the best barrels from the winery's Yarra Valley sources, will retail from approx \$45. The Varietal tier will retail for approx \$23 - \$33.

## Electronic Newsletter Available

Would you prefer to be emailed this colourful newsletter than receive a printed copy? If so, just sent a quick email to: [terry.friel@croftonmanagement.co.nz](mailto:terry.friel@croftonmanagement.co.nz)

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## Winning the taste test

© nzherald.co.nz, 31 January 2009

Merlot sales dropped between 20 and 25 per cent in the United States after the cult success of the movie *Sideways*, in which two rather bewildered mid-life crisis males meandering on a wine-soaked Californian stag do were constantly rude, unkind and downright bitchy about anyone who confessed to liking merlot.

Now, from the people who brought you that film comes another about wine. *Bottle Shock* is something of a sleeper. The drama had its debut at the 2008 Sundance festival and has received the kind of critical acclaim usually reserved for off-beat and art house films. It's based on a true historical event known as The Judgment of Paris - a remarkable watershed that elevated the Californian wine industry to a level it would never have thought possible.

On May 24, 1976, Steven Spurrier (now consultant editor of English magazine *Decanter*), put together a blind tasting competition between French and Californian wine.

At the time, Englishman Spurrier lived in Paris and ran a wine shop and school, l'Academie du Vin. His knowledge of French wine was considerable and he'd become impressed and infatuated with the wines of California that came his way from visiting winemakers.

Simple idea - organise a contest judged by well-known highly respected wine experts in the hope of putting the spotlight on a new generation of wines and impressing on the French that some very fine winemaking was happening elsewhere in the world. But the unthinkable happened.

Napa Valley's Chateau Montelena 1973 beat some of the best the Burgundy area of France had to offer. It got worse. Quelle horreur, Bordeaux got cleaned out by Stags Leap 1972. This was a defining moment for the American Wine Industry in general and the Napa Valley in particular.

*Bottle Shock* is expected to be released in New Zealand next month.

## Wine glut good news for drinkers

© Sunday Star Times, 25 January 2009

Rampant price discounting in the wine industry means 2009 will be party time for wine drinkers while winemakers will be left with the hangover.

Simon Templeton, the wine buyer for The Mill Liquorsave, said the deals the company was being offered were "the sharpest in history". He estimated the average price the chain was paying for wine was down by about a third on a year ago. A typical Marlborough sauvignon blanc which would have been a good special last year at \$9.99 was selling for \$6.99 this year.