



The Cellar Club Inc

www.cellarclub.co.nz

Established in 1980

APRIL 2009

Glancing Forward to Future Events

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

**Wednesday,
10 June 2009**
Bladen Wines,
Marlborough

**Wednesday,
8 July 2009**
The Club's
Mid-winter dinner

**Wednesday,
12 August 2009**
Dr. John Forrest,
Forrest Estate,
Marlborough

**Wednesday,
9 Sept 2009**
Mark
Haythornthwaite,
Haythornthwaite
Wines,
Martinborough

Next Event

Born in the USA



Wednesday 8th April, 7:45 for 8pm

Johnsonville Community Centre Hall,
3 Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville

Members: \$16, Guests: \$20

Presenters: Mel Ingalls and Wendy Somers

Mel and Wendy are well qualified to talk about wines, particularly those from their place of birth. Mel kindly supplied a few notes.....

"Wendy and I are very knowledgeable about wines from Napa and Sonoma counties in northern California and have spent a lot of time in that region, particularly in Dry Creek Valley, Russian River Valley, Alexander Valley, Anderson Valley and Sonoma Valley. We have attended probably eight 2-day events in this area in addition to a number of other trips out there. We also have friends who own several wineries in Dry Creek Valley. This area specialises in Zinfandels, which is why we have focused on them, not to mention the fact that we love Zinfandel. We probably have a couple hundred bottles of Zinfandel in our cellar in Colorado.

My attitude is that NZ has some great whites—better than the US, so let's focus on what the US does well. I believe we can present some very nice wines (after visiting every wine shop in New Zealand—actually, we missed a couple in Dunedin, but I don't think they had any California wines)."

- L.A. Cetto 2006 Petite Sirah (Baja California)
- Ravenswood Vintner's Blend 2005 California Zinfandel (blend from predominantly Sonoma, Lodi and Mendocino counties)
- Seghesio Sonoma Zinfandel 2006 (Sonoma County)
- Rosenblum Cellars 2006 Zinfandel (Contra Costa County)
- Rosenblum Cellars 2005 Amador County Zinfandel
- Ridge 2006 California Geyserville Zinfandel/Carignane/Petite Sirah/Mataro

So broaden your wine horizons by coming along to taste and hear about some of the best wines from the USA.

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!

At last month's meeting the winning member was not present so it has jackpotted to two bottles of wine.

From the Editor

We follow the excellent tasting of Alsace wines with those from a country with a limited wine pedigree: the USA. Club members Mel Ingalls and Wendy Somers are certainly the most knowledgeable of our members in this area, both having been born in the USA. If you are a lover of red wine you will not want to miss this event.

Next month is the **AGM** where we can all enjoy refreshments, including a good selection of wine for the Club's cellar, following the formal meeting. Two committee members, Shirley Ang and Rick Julian, will be leaving the Committee and our thanks go to them for their service.

Accordingly there is an opportunity for you to nominate new Committee members. In particular we are looking for Rick's replacement, i.e. someone to take on the secretarial role. If you are interested or wish to nominate someone you see as being a good candidate, please contact Rick. In addition if you have any notices of motion please submit them before 22nd April as they need to be received 21 days before the AGM. Please send these to Rick at: rfp.julian@clear.net.nz.

Terry Friel
Editor

New Members

We welcome these new members to the Club:

Steven Haultain, Johnsonville
Michael Kuus, Lower Hutt
Margaret Kuus, Lower Hutt

Please introduce yourself to new members at Club events.

Glancing Back



Wines of Alsace, Jean-Christophe Poizat,
Maison Vauron

Jean-Christophe certainly showed us he has a real passion for all wines, but particularly for those from Alsace. His knowledge of the region was remarkable and made many of us long to visit it. Much emphasis was placed on food matches for all the wines since eating seems to be just as important to the French as drinking. Around thirty members

and guests enjoyed an evening of great wine along with a good mix of Jean-Christophe's anecdotes and information. Thanks go to Anne Megget for her work in arranging the tasting.

Quote for the Month

"Someone once commented that if grape varieties were paired with motorbikes, California's Zinfandel would be astride a Harley Davidson."

Joanna Simon,
London Times wine writer

Royal Easter Show Wine Awards' Champion

At last month's Royal Easter Show Wine Awards, Corbans Cottage Block Chardonnay 2007 was awarded Champion Chardonnay and Champion Wine of Show. To cap off this amazing achievement Tony Robb, Corbans Winemaker, was declared Winemaker of the Year.

In the News

America overtakes France in UK

© decanter.com, 16 December 2008

American wine sales overtook French in the UK for the first time this year.

Sales of American wine in the off-trade grew 5% to £781m in the year to November, while French wine sales fell 3% to £780m. The figures, from analysts AC Nielsen, show US volumes also increased. America now produces 15.6m cases against France's 14.5m - an increase of 3% compared with a drop of 7%. Ninety-five per cent of American wine is produced in California.

Stewart Blunt of Nielsen said, 'France has traditionally had a lot in the under-£3 sector, with vin de pays and cheap Bordeaux. That chunk of the market has lost quite heavily over the past six months. While American wine is making progress, France has been sliding back, making the overtaking a bit easier.'

John McLaren, UK director of the California Wine Institute said above all the Americans understand how to market their wines.

'The Californians do very well what the French don't do very well, which is to find out what the customer wants. There is no doubt that some of the finest wines on earth are made in France, but also some of the finest wines in the world are now made in California.'

Pinot Beauty In A Bottle

17 February 2009

On a recent visit to New Zealand with his family Conde Nast travel writer Chang-rae Lee explored each of New Zealand's wine growing regions from Waiheke Island in the north to Central Otago in the far south, sampling the varieties that distinguish New Zealand wine.

The writer's summation on his first visit to this country was that "deep into Middle-earth he discovered a country whose greatest beauty just might be found in a bottle". His favourite wine of the entire trip was "an 03 pinot noir from the Pisa Range Estate (Central Otago) whose earthy bouquet was so redolent and exquisitely layered with hints of river rock and dark cherry.....".

Owner of Pisa Range Estate Warwick Hawker says "New Zealand wine continues to wow the international wine community, with its youngest wine-growing region - Central Otago - producing outstanding wines. But this article, - from one of the world's pre-eminent travel magazines Conde Nast - goes much further in acknowledging Central Otago as an exciting wine tourism destination.

**Electronic
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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

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New Zealand Sauvignon sales rocket in Australia

© decanter.com, 16 February 2009

Sales of New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc to Australia have soared with the varietal's popularity increasing 143% from November to December last year.

A surplus of the variety in New Zealand, particularly in the major Sauvignon Blanc-producing region of Marlborough, is thought to be largely responsible for the increase. The surplus has seen price promotions in shops showing cuts of several (Australian) dollars per bottle during the past six months.

Phil Gregan, CEO of New Zealand Winegrowers also claimed that New Zealand wines filled gaps in the Australian domestic market. 'It's because New Zealand wines tend to be complementary with Australian wines,' he said.

Popular New Zealand varieties including Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir are not prominent in Australia.

He added that a trend of 50% growth in exports to Australia had been consistent 'for the past five or six years'. Sauvignon Blanc remained the most popular (its sales to Australia increased 52.3% in 2008). Pinot Noir had also helped the boost sales.

'Audacious' Kiwis take on best of Bordeaux

© twistingvines.com, 26 February 2009

Two wines from the tiny Gimblett Gravels area of Hawkes Bay in New Zealand have out-performed Bordeaux wines ten times as expensive. The New Zealand growers challenged the palates of the UK's leading tasters, pitting their wines against top 2005 clarets.

While the Bordeaux wines gained the most votes overall, two sub-£25 Gimblett Gravels entries made it into the top half, out-performing Château Cos d'Estournel and Vieux Château Certan - wines that retail for ten times the price of the New Zealand wines.

The judges, who included Jancis Robinson MW, Oz Clarke, Michael Schuster and Neal Martin, were asked to select their top six from 12 anonymously presented wines, of which half came from Gimblett Gravels and half from Bordeaux.

The top six wines were:

Château Lafite-Rothschild 2005, Pauillac
Château Mouton-Rothschild 2005, Pauillac
Château Angélu 2005, St-Emilion
Sacred Hill Helmsman 2006, Gimblett Gravels
Château Haut-Brion 2005, Pessac-Léognan
Newton Forrest Cornerstone 2006, Gimblett Gravels