



The Cellar Club Inc

www.cellarclub.co.nz

Established in 1980

FEBRUARY 2010

Glancing Forward to Future Events

**Wednesday,
10 March 2010**
Rimu Grove
Winery, Nelson

**Wednesday,
14 April 2010**
Tyrrell's Wines,
Hunter Valley,
NSW

**Wednesday,
12 May 2010**
The Club's AGM



Next Event

Beautifully Boutique

Wednesday 10th February,
7.45 for 8pm

Johnsonville Community
Centre Hall,
3 Frankmoore Avenue,
Johnsonville

Members: \$12, Guests: \$16

Presenters: **Pohangina
Valley Estate** - Wendy
Forman & Chris Buring,
Winemaker
36bottles - Patrick Caudle &
Douglas Brett, Winemaker

In keeping with our policy of promoting a diverse range of wine tasting experiences, we are delighted to host two more boutique wineries. Beautifully Boutique is a joint venture between two wine companies, 36bottles and Pohangina Valley. They focus on producing premium wines in small quantities from different locations in New Zealand.

While both are boutique vineyards, they grow similar grape varieties. Members will be able to try Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris from Central Otago and then compare these to the same varietals from the Manawatu region.

Pohangina also have a blend of Pinot Gris/ Chardonnay and a red that is unique to their vineyard.

During the evening we will hear the stories and taste the wines of these two emerging wineries. Although their production volumes are small, they can certainly compete on quality, having been awarded several medals in recent competitions.

So join us for our first presentation of the year, one that promises to be very memorable.

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

Bladen Wines, Marlborough

10% discount on cellar door sales

Haythornthwaite Wines, Martinborough

10% discount on cellar door sales

In addition...

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

From the Editor

In search of some sunshine, Carolyn and I travelled to Hawke's Bay for New Year. Although we were there for only four days we had a great time and basked in temperatures in the high twenties.

Hawke's Bay has a huge number of wineries so you cannot visit them all but we made a point of visiting some of those who had presented to the Club over the past few years: Clearview, Trinity Hill and Kemblefield. As well as having great wineries in superb locations, we found they also have another common factor: beautiful Chardonnay. This was our 'find' of the holiday and we came away with the opinion that Hawke's Bay now produces the best Chardonnay in the country. And that's coming from people who are not great Chardonnay drinkers. The 2007 vintage in particular has produced some of the most amazing wines and Chardonnay is at the top of the heap.

So our advice is to get over the ABC (anything but Chardonnay) mindset and do yourself a favour – try a 2007 Hawke's Bay Chardonnay.

Happy New Year to you all.

Terry Friel
Editor

New Member

We welcome to the Club:
Alison Anderson – Wadestown

Please introduce yourself to new members at Club events.

Glancing Back

Christmas Dinner at 3C



Nearly 50 members and guests enjoyed Christmas Dinner at 3C. The central city location and excellent food was a hit with everyone. A special thanks goes to Wayne Kennedy for organising the evening.

Summer Barbecue at Derek's Place



Around 40 members and partners braved the cold weather to attend the Club Barbecue on the last Sunday in January. One of the highlights was Mel Ingalls' cooking of the salmon which must now be a fixture for this event. I understand Mel has been appointed Club Cook. Once again we are extremely grateful to Derek for making his place available.

Quote for the Month

"Age is just a number. It's totally irrelevant unless, of course, you happen to be a bottle of wine."

- Joan Collins

Wairarapa Wines Harvest Festival

This Harvest Festival is fast becoming recognised as one of Wairarapa's unique, iconic events showcasing sensational wines and food from throughout the Wairarapa region. Celebrating the beginning of the grape harvest, the festival will run between 11am and 5pm on Saturday March 20, 2010.

Tickets are available from all Ticketek outlets, by phoning 0800 Ticketek or on-line through www.ticketek.co.nz

Screwcaps for Starship

Anne Megget asks all members to save their screwcaps and bring them along to meetings. She is collecting them to fundraise for Starship Hospital.

In the News

Kiwi winemaker up for prestigious award

© NZPA, 24 January 2010

For the first time ever a Kiwi winemaker is in the running for what has been dubbed the Oscars of the wine world.



Cromwell, Central Otago is as far as you can get from the traditional world of wine in Europe, but one vineyard is impressing them. Wine guru Oz Clarke checked out Quartz Reed Vineyard and was impressed with what he tasted.

"As the bottle gets lower and it always does, I'm getting more interested and getting more satisfaction from the wine," says Clarke as he tasted one of the wines.

That wine has landed vintner Rudi Bauer a nomination at the prestigious Der Feinschmecker Wine Awards. He is one of only six in the running for International Winemaker of the Year.

"That's a serious award. I know the other people who've been nominated and they're top fellows but Rudi can handle it," says Clarke.

Bauer wine will be at the awards in Germany next month for the wine world's equivalent of the Oscar ceremony.

"The past winners, they have been you know wonderful people, very well respected winemakers so I suspect it means a lot," says Bauer. Quartz Reef is nudging the higher end of wine prices but Bauer says this recognition will not push the price up further. However, it will spark a lot of interest in the wine and in New Zealand winemakers.

Villa Maria buddies up with US wine company

© NZPA, 22 January 2010

Private winery Villa Maria has formed a six-year export partnership with United States premium wine company Ste. Michelle Wine Estates.

In a statement on Friday, Villa Maria said it would be the only New Zealand wine brand in Washington State-based Ste. Michelle's portfolio. The partnership included the management of domestic sales, PR and marketing of Villa Maria brands throughout the US, and could include viticulture and winemaking exchanges.

Villa Maria founder and managing director Sir George Fistonich said his company had been exporting to the US for 13 years, and the US market represented the company's largest opportunity for growth in the medium term. New Zealand wine was the second fastest-growing wine import category in the US.

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Ban's demise sweet deal for winemakers

© Marlborough Express, 21 January 2010

British wine drinkers will soon be quaffing New Zealand sweet riesling for the first time after Europe lifted a long-standing trade barrier on sweet wine imports.

New Zealand winemakers were given the all-clear to export sweet wines, such as botrytised riesling and pinot gris, to Europe last month, and some are already pushing their way on to British wine lists.

While sweet wines represent less than 1 per cent of the wine produced in New Zealand, many in the industry said lifting the ban would significantly boost the country's premium producer reputation. Britain is the second biggest export market for New Zealand wine, after Australia, consuming 41 million litres in the year to November.

Canterbury's Pegasus Bay Winery has already begun talking to British restaurants about supplementing their stock of sauvignon blanc with a few of the sweet wines.

Marketing manager Edward Donaldson said British distributors and consumers were excited about getting their hands on a totally different range of New Zealand wine.

"I spent a couple of days in December going around with sweet wines and got a fantastic response. I think there is good potential." While sweet wines would never compete with the popularity of Kiwi sauvignon blanc in Britain it would build a broader appreciation of New Zealand wine, he said.

The British "already have an excellent appreciation of New Zealand wine". New Zealand Winegrowers has been pushing for a change to the European restriction since the 1990s.

The rationale for the restriction was that anything with a potential alcohol content of more than 15 per cent could not be classed as wine. While sweet wine's alcohol content is well below the threshold, its unfermented sugar content could "potentially" be fermented to boost the alcohol content above 15 per cent.

Winegrowers' policy manager John Barker said the restriction worked to protect European sweet winemakers, arbitrarily excluding New Zealand producers.

"There has been a lot of back and forth on this for quite a long time." In the end the change came as part of a larger reform of European wine import regulations rather than from any New Zealand pressure, he said. Lifting the restriction would help boost New Zealand wine's profile in Europe. Sweet wines "are high-value, high-quality wines that positions New Zealand as a high quality wine producer, which is exactly what we want".