



The Cellar Club Inc

www.cellarclub.co.nz

Established in 1980

MARCH 2010

Glancing Forward to Future Events

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

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

**Wednesday,
9 June 2010**
Bald Hills
Vineyard, Central
Otago

**Wednesday,
14 July 2010**
The Club's mid-
winter dinner

Next Event



Rimu Grove Winery, Nelson

Wednesday 10th March, 7.45
for 8pm

Johnsonville Community
Centre Hall,
3 Frankmoore Avenue,
Johnsonville

Members: \$12, Guests: \$16

Presenter: Patrick Stowe, Winemaker

The Rimu Grove philosophy provides for viticulture and winemaking to show the full expression of the fruit. Careful management in the vineyard produces a concentrated grape with a fine balance of varietal fruit flavours, textures and aromatics. The fruit is handled very carefully in the winery to retain those delicate characteristics attained in the vineyard, as well as new attributes due to the winemaker's stylistic judgement. At no point are these attributes compromised – every effort is made to offer the finest expression of wine made from fruit grown in the Moutere clay gravels on the Bronte Peninsula.

Patrick's great-great-great-great grandfather had a vineyard in the Napa Valley in the 1860s so there is wine in the bloodline. His love for New Zealand and desire to be a professional winemaker led to the establishment of Rimu Grove Winery in 1995. Since then he has produced a number of award-winning wines and this is your chance to taste them. The wines on the night:

- **Mingling wine - 2009 Kina Cliffs Sauvignon Blanc**
- **2009 Bronte Pinot Gris**
- **2009 Rimu Grove Pinot Gris**
- **2009 Rimu Grove Riesling**
- **2007 Rimu Grove Chardonnay**
- **2008 Bronte Pinot Noir**
- **2006 Rimu Grove Pinot Noir**

If you have tasted Nelson wines from the likes of Neudorf and Seifried, don't miss this opportunity to increase your repertoire!

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! This wasn't the case last month so the draw has jackpotted.

From the Editor

In a Club survey two years ago members asked that we arrange tastings from wineries further afield. Being a Wellington-based club we tend to concentrate on the Wairarapa, Hawke's Bay and Marlborough. Since then we have had a number of presenters from outside our immediate area but this year promises to be the most versatile from a geographical perspective.

We started last month with Pohangina Estate from Manawatu and 36bottles from Central Otago, and follow this month with Nelson's Rimu Grove. DominionPost wine writer Sam Kim recently described their winemaker as a 'pinot magician'.

In April we will have, from the Hunter Valley, Tyrrell's Wines which Australian wine expert James Halliday named as his Winery of the Year for 2010. Then in June comes Bald Hills from Bannockburn, Central Otago, a winery which was awarded the Trophy for the Champion Red Wine at the International Wine Challenge in 2007.

And that's just the first half of the year!

Terry Friel

Editor

New Members

We welcome these new members to the Club:

Mary Dinnis - Whitby

Ruth Richards - Brooklyn

Gillian Bohm - Island Bay

Please introduce yourself to new members at Club events.

Glancing Back

The pleasure of Pinot



What a lovely way to start the year! Last month we had, pictured here from left, Wendy Forman and Chris Buring from Pohangina Estate (Manawatu), and Patrick Caudle and Douglass Brett from 36bottles (Central Otago). It proved to be a winning combination. All four spoke well, and the wines provided some interesting comparisons. I never knew you could grow grapes in Palmerston North! As an aromatically inclined person, I thoroughly enjoyed 36 Bottles' Pinot Gris and found Pohangina's Pinot Gris/Chardonnay a very pleasant drop. Patrick hinted that presenting your membership card at the cellar door could be very rewarding. – Anne Megget

Tip for the Month

The secret of enjoying good wine:

1. *Open the bottle to allow it to breathe.*
2. *If it does not look like it's breathing give it mouth to mouth.*

– Wayne Kennedy

Central Otago Wine - A World of Difference

Central Otago Pinot Noir Ltd presents a tasting of wines from 20 renowned Central Otago Wine Producers. Bring a friend and enjoy tasting a stunning array of over 80 wines of various varietals, whilst meeting the winemakers from the likes of Carrick, Chard Farm, Mt Difficulty, Nevis Bluff, Olssens, Two Paddocks, Wild Earth and Wooing Tree.

The Boatshed, Taranaki Wharf, Wellington on Wed 17 March 2010, 6pm-8pm.

Tickets \$25 available from www.ticketek.co.nz

Club News

Tasting Glasses

Members are reminded to bring their own glasses to each event. A set of six tasting glasses can be purchased through the Club for \$18. If you wish to purchase a set please contact Wayne Kennedy and he will bring them along to the next event.

A Summer Garden Party at Pohangina Valley Estate

As mentioned at last month's presentation, Pohangina are hosting a special garden party in their private house gardens overlooking the vineyard, with proceeds of the event donated for the planting of Totara trees in the Totara Reserve Regional Park. It will include live jazz and afternoon tea delights by Hester Guy Catering. A free glass of wine will be served upon arrival and there will be an open wine bar, along with non-alcoholic drinks.

Saturday, 20 March 2010, 2pm to 5pm, tickets \$40 per person, through www.pohanginavalleyestate.co.nz or by emailing info@pohanginavalleyestate.co.nz Alternatively phone or text Fiona on 021 322 871, or call the Cellar Door on 06 354 7948.

In the News

Sydney award for Gibbston pinot

© Otago Daily Times, 24 Feb 2010

The 2008 Gibbston Valley Reserve Pinot Noir picked up the award for best pinot noir at the 2010 Sydney International Wine Competition on Saturday night.

The reserve pinot noir is the winery's flagship, produced only when there is fruit of exceptional quality.

Winemaker Christopher Keys said he was delighted with the latest accolade for the wine.

All the fruit for the 2008 reserve came from the School House vineyard in Bendigo.

"This is notable for two reasons - firstly, the quality of the judging gives the Sydney competition great credibility, and secondly, because for the first time the Gibbston Valley Reserve Pinot Noir is a single-vineyard wine," he said.

Gibbston Valley Reserve Pinot Noir wine has been a consistent winner since it was first produced in 1995.

Earlier vintages won best pinot noir trophies at the New Zealand Royal Easter Show Awards, the Japan International Wine Challenge and the London International Wine Challenge.

**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

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Fresh calls for branded varietal French wines

© www.thedrinksbusiness.com, 23 Feb 2010

French wine producers have once again been urged to emphasise grape varieties over terroir.



Following the recent fall in sales suffered by the French wine and spirit market there has been a renewed call for French producers to introduce branded varietal wines in place of the usual focus on terroir to boost the country's image.

Recent figures saw the cheap Vins de Tables recording a 0.3% rise in 2009 against 2008. It was the only group to record a rise, although cheaper Vins de Pays and sparkling mousseux remained more stable than the higher-end products of Champagne and Bordeaux.

Claude de Jouvencel, chairman of the Federation of French Wine and Spirits Exporters, admitted the need for a new approach in the wake of the figures.

"We lack products with a clear brand name and grape variety to reinforce our offer on the Anglo-Saxon markets," he said.

France has a few branded wines such as Malesan and Baron de Lestac but it is the thousands of independent producers who make up the core of the industry.

Le Figaro commented that France's entry-level wines were not competitive enough with their New World counterparts, who could offer far better quality-to-price ratio and in greater quantity.

Guillaume Ryckwaert, chairman of wine merchant Raphaël Michel, said: "Wine has become a mass, global product. Consumers already have difficulty placing France on the map. How can you expect them to understand the difference between a Gigondas and a Vacqueyras?"

Speaking to Languedoc producers in November last year, Bruno Le Maire, the Minister for Agriculture, said: "The world wants varietal wines. That's how New World wines have managed to succeed in the export market. Why shouldn't we do the same thing?"

Opponents of the idea say that branded wines are an assault on traditional labels and the sense of place so important to French wine.

Roland Feredj, director of the Conseil Interprofessionnel du Vin de Bordeaux (CIVB) said "Clearly there are terroirs that give a particular expression to grape varieties and others where this seems to be less the case. In those cases where the tie with terroir is less strong, the grape variety would be the thing to stress commercially."