



The Cellar Club Inc

www.cellarclub.co.nz

Established in 1980

MAY 2010

Glancing Forward to Future Events

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

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

Next Event



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 12th May, 8pm

Community Centre Hall, 3 Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville.

Members: Free

Agenda

1. Apologies:
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the year 2008/09 year held on Wednesday, 13 May 2009:
3. Matters Arising:
4. Financial Report for the Year 2009/10:
5. President's Report for the year 2009/10:
6. Notices of Motion:

Election of Life Members

"In recognition of his leadership of the Cellar Club as President, his service on Committee for 13 years, as well as his service as Editor of the club's newsletter for 10 years and his ongoing support and involvement in the club since 1987, I move that Alan Evans be granted life membership of the Cellar Club Inc."

Moved Anne Megget, seconded Robin Semmens

7. Election of Officers and Committee for the year 2010/11:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Committee
8. Election of Honorary Auditor for the year 2010/11:
9. Subscriptions:
10. General Business:

At the conclusion of the AGM, supper will be served, accompanied by wines from the Club's cellar which will include some memorable wines featured at previous presentations.

Glasses – one per person – will be provided.

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!
It was not won last month so jackpots.

From the Editor

Another club year has rolled around and we are up to the AGM again. This is always a well attended event possibly because the formalities are kept to a minimum and it is the annual opportunity to taste some of the Club's wines.

Cecilia will present her review of yet another successful year and you will have the opportunity to vote for a third Life Membership nomination. It is also an opportunity for members to ask questions of the Committee, to make suggestions for future activities and to nominate new Committee members – there is at least one vacancy with the resignation of Wendy Somers. The Committee looks forward to seeing you there.

Terry Friel

Editor

Glancing Back



Tyrrell's Wines, Hunter Valley

Richard Winchester, from Kahurangi Estate, the local distributors of Tyrrell's Wines, presented a very diverse range during this excellent tasting. Like many wineries these days, Tyrrell's produce a range of 'drink now', 'cellar for a while' and, as Richard described them, 'serious' wines.

The latter category featured a 2002 Semillon and a 2006 Shiraz from the Vat series. Even if you are not a fan of Semillon this was an opportunity to taste the good stuff – it retails at \$73! Richard explained that this wine will change its characteristics over the years and I personally think it would be criminal to drink it this decade.

The Vat 9 Shiraz was tasted alongside its lesser cousins, the Rufus Stone and the bargain priced Moore's Creek. Many at our table favoured the 2006 Rufus Stone, which I think is drinking beautifully now. At more than twice the price, you would need to have a lot of faith that the Vat 9 was going to be twice as good in 10 years' time.

The surprise of the evening for me was the Moore's Creek Cabernet Sauvignon 2008. Incredibly sweet in comparison with our local cabernet blends, it is one of the most unusual reds I have tasted.

Our thanks go to Richard for a great evening and for offering such generous discounts to Club members. An order form is included with this newsletter as these incredible prices last until the end of April.

Quote for the Month

"Alcohol - the cause of and solution to all of life's problems"

- Homer Simpson

The Food Show Wellington 2010

The Food Show is returning to Wellington's Westpac Stadium 14-16 May 2010.

Visitors to The Food Show who love eating, drinking, cooking and entertaining will find all their culinary cravings and sources for inspiration under one roof. Hundreds of local and international exhibitors will be showcasing a diverse and delicious assortment of food, from marvelous meats and fabulous finger foods to decadent desserts, as well as associated products and kitchen equipment.

Adults \$20 per person. Gate sales on the day. Phone 0800 727 469 for more information.

In the News



Alcohol tax increase mooted at 50 per cent

© The Dominion Post, 22 April 2010

The Government is refusing to confirm or deny a report that an upcoming Law Commission review of liquor laws is proposing a 50 percent increase in the excise tax on alcohol.

The claim is made on right-wing blog Kiwiblog, which says it has also been leaked other recommendations in the report:

- * Banning the sale of liquor at off licences after 10pm.
- * Forcing bars to refuse to allow people to enter after 2am.
- * A nationwide closing time - probably 4am.
- * And raising the purchase age for alcohol from 18 to 20.

The report is due to be presented to Justice Minister Simon Power next week after nearly 3000 submissions and months of work. A spokesman for Mr Power refused to comment on recommendations in the report and said it was a Law Commission document, not a government one.

End of the crisis? Fine wine demand rebounds

© NZHerald.co.nz, 24 April 2010

In a possible sign the financial crisis is over - for some people, at least - demand for fine wine is rebounding.

Three cases of 2000 Chateau Lafite Rothschild fetched HK\$266,200 (\$48,315) each at Sotheby's in Hong Kong this month, about three times the US\$11,749 (\$16,554) for 12 bottles of the same wine at a US auction at the height of the financial crisis in October 2008.

The London-based Liv-ex 100 Fine Wine Index, which lost 22 per cent of its value between August and December 2008 as the banking collapse hit wine investment, has rebounded 27.6 per cent over the past 12 months. Demand for top wines, along with buying fuelled by collectors in the Far East, has driven gains among most Bordeaux first-growths, with Lafite setting the pace.

"Lafite is still taking the lead role and is making other wines look extremely cheap," said Miles Davis, a partner of London-based Wine Asset Managers LLP. "Demand from Asia is enormous."

While US and European collectors have bought top Bordeaux to lay down in cellars for 15 or 20 years, Asian buyers are drinking it younger. That pushes up demand for newer vintages and reduces supplies of older ones.

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Actor and winemaker Sam Neill is like a good Pinot Noir

© The Vancouver Sun, 23 April 2010



Actor and winemaker Sam Neill looks stricken.

If he simply had to choose between 99 points from Wine Spectator or an Oscar, which would it be, he was asked.

"Do I have to choose? Oh my God! Can I take both? Please?"

He recoups.

"I'll just take a little flattery. That'll do me," he says, more in character with his reserved, gee-shucks manner.

Neill's acting career — his filmography lists 96 movie and TV roles, including *The Piano*, *Jurassic Park* and *The Hunt for Red October* — is clearly his day job. But his 17-year-old New Zealand winery is not simply a vanity project, and he's in town to promote Two Paddocks Winery at the Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival. The winery is known for its Pinot Noirs which frequently score in the 90s (out of 100) by the likes of Wine Spectator and Robert Parker.

You'll find a lively read about the winery on its website, written by Mr. Gee-Shucks himself. "I wanted to produce a good Pinot Noir that would, at the very least, be enjoyed by my family and friends," he writes. "Frankly, my friends will pretty much drink anything, so this didn't seem too hard . . . With each successive year, we have produced a Pinot Noir (sometimes three or four) that have done us proud and are, to be frank, too good to be wasted on our friends. They still somehow manage to bludge a lot off us, and that, combined with the proprietor's generous thirst, accounts for the occasional scarcity of Two Paddocks Pinot."