



The Cellar Club Inc

www.cellarclub.co.nz

Established in 1980

FEBRUARY 2013

Glancing Forward to Future Events

**Wednesday 13
March 2013**

Lansdowne Estate /
Bijou ?

**Wednesday 10 April
2013**

Easter Show Tasting,
James Cupit
organising.

**Wednesday 8 May
2013**

AGM

**Wednesday 12 June
2013**

An Italian Evening

**Wednesday 10 July
2013**

Mid-Year Dinner

In addition...

There's a members' prize draw at each meeting - you must be present to win, and it must be won each meeting.

N.B. Save your wine bottle screw caps and bring them to the monthly meetings. Anne will willingly take them off you.

Next Event

**Wednesday 13 February 2013, 7.45 for 8 pm start.
Johnsonville Community Centre Hall,
3 Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville**

Members: \$12, Guests: \$16

Presenter: Trevor (Mission Cellar Door)



Mission Estate is Hawke's Bay's oldest winery, with a well-respected reputation in the New Zealand market as a producer of consistent quality, value for money wines.

A Mission was first established in Hawkes Bay in 1851, moved to Meeanee in 1858, and there vines were planted to produce both sacramental and table wine. The first record of a commercial sale dates back to 1870 when a parcel of mostly dry reds were sold. The current site was purchased in 1897. The Mission community moved to the Church Rd site in 1909/10 and it became the centre of winemaking activities and the Seminary for training Marist Priests.

The Seminary eventually moved to Auckland but the site has produced wines for 116 years. Our tasting tonight will include;

- Quaffer, Sauvignon Blanc
1. Fete Sparkling
 2. Reserve Chardonnay
 3. Reserve Pinot Noir
 4. Reserve Syrah
 5. VS Pinot Gris
 6. Reserve Noble Harvest

Sounds like an excellent tasting, see you all there.

Members' Discounts

Show your Cellar Club membership card for discounts:

Wineseeker

86-96 Victoria St, Wellington
10% discount

Yangtze Chinese Restaurant

162 Willis Street, Wellington
10% discount

SuperLiquor Johnsonville

'Staff discount' on anything not already on special

The Cellar Room - Johnsonville and Karori

10-20% on items not already reduced

Bladen Wines, Marlborough

10% discount on cellar door sales

Haythornthwaite Wines, Martinborough

10% discount on cellar door sales

Electronic Newsletter Available

If you prefer to be emailed this newsletter, send a quick email to:

waynek@paradise.net.nz

From the Editor

Summer BBQ – As mentioned in "Glancing back" your committee were a little concerned at the relatively low turnout for this year's BBQ. Such a fine sunny day, we thought it would be great, and it was for those who attended. It lead us to wonder if the BBQ has ceased to hold interest for members. As a consequence the Committee is running a survey in regards to the future of summer BBQ's. We would appreciate your help by providing the committee with your views.

There are two ways you can do this. Please select either option 1 or 2:

1. Open the attached document 'Johnsonville Cellar Club BBQ Survey.doc' and complete; or
2. Complete the survey anonymously online, using this link (hold down the Ctrl button while you click) [Johnsonville Cellar Club BBQ Survey](#)

The committee thanks you in advance for completing the survey.

Obituaries – It has been a sad few months for the club as two of our longer term members have passed away in the last two months.

David Ward has been a member over many years and was a regular attender at meetings even as recently as October. David passed away on 8 December.

Ron Christian attended his first Cellar Club meeting on the same evening as your editor, over 20 years ago. Failing health meant he has not attended meetings over the last year or two. Ron passed away on 9 January.

Both David and Ron had their share of problems over a number of years but remained stalwart members. We will remember the contribution that both have made to the Club. RIP.

Cheers

Robin Semmens, Editor

Looking Forward – Lansdowne Estate



Early settler William Beetham held extensive land holdings in the Wairarapa Valley and planted carefully sourced classic French Rhone Valley and Burgundy originating vinis vinifera cuttings of Hermitage (Syrah) and Pinot around his Lansdowne Homestead in Masterton in the early 1880's. These classic grapevines flourished and he then moved them to a vineyard of about six acres which he established nearby, in a vale within the valley, on the bank of the Ruamahunga river. This became the first successful commercial vineyard in the Wairarapa.

In 1998 Margaret and Derek Hagar bought land on the west bank of the Ruamahanga River which was part of the original Lansdowne Estate.

Club Information

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The terrain with its dry climate, cool nights and long hot sunny days with stony, clay over limestone soil compare favorably with any in the world for the cultivation of Burgundian wines. After several years of hard struggle in the stony, free-draining soil Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir and Syrah were again established at Lansdowne. The six acres planted are about the same size as the original vineyard. They may well be on, or very near to the original site, being less than a kilometer from the original homestead.

Derek will be combining with another local producer to present wines from around the northern region of Masterton. Has the potential to be very interesting.

Glancing Back

Summer Barbecue at Derek Thompson's residence.

Our first event for the year was the traditional Club Barbecue. We are very grateful to Derek for continuing to make his place available and there is no doubt that Derek has made it fit for purpose. It was a great day with the weather being near perfect. Unfortunately we were a bit disappointed with the turn out, only 23 attended. We know some had good reasons for this but we are wondering if members find the event significant anymore. Please see "From the Editor" for further comment.

Seen outside on the day?



In the News - Australian Young Winemaker of the year - The Wine Society 2012

Nick Picone, Villa Maria Estate, Auckland.



Quote of the Month



Nick had an early start in winemaking, completing his first vintage when 18 at Esk Valley Estate in Hawkes Bay. After completing his BA in wine science, He became Villa Maria's youngest Assistant winemaker at 24 with a shift to the South Island's Marlborough region.

2004 saw Nick awarded the Yalumba scholarship to attend the Len Evans tutorial in the Hunter Valley, which initiated his presence in NZ wine judging circles. In 2006 Nick moved to Auckland, becoming Villa Maria's Senior Auckland Winemaker in 2008, from thereon overseeing Villa's north island production, which primarily comes from Hawkes Bay and Gisborne. Nick has completed 16 vintages including several between California and Italy and his passion lies with Chardonnay and Gimblett Gravels reds.

A career highlight is being awarded joint winner of NZ Winemaker of the year, at the Royal Easter show in 2011. He has two children with his fiancée Mandy, and enjoys playing guitar and sharing good food and wine with family and friends.

Have you heard

What is the difference between Paris Hilton and Grape Vines?

Paris Hilton



- Been given everything in her life.
- Hasn't had to struggle for anything.

The Result?

- Produces very little of any substance, and what she does produce is weak at best!

Grape Vines



- When made to struggle to find food, work and defend itself from the elements and "stress out" a little...

The Result?

- Flavors within the grapes are well-integrated, rich in flavor, and although they yield less grapes, they usually produce a better quality end product.
