



The Cellar Club Inc

Established in 1980

Newsletter - November 2016

Next Event – Festive Wines - Cangrande

**Wednesday 9 November 2016, 7.45pm for 8.00pm start.
Johnsonville Community Centre Hall,
3 Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville**

Members: \$16 Guests: \$20

Presenter: Michele Marai, Importer/Owner

Cangrande
ITALIAN WINE

The ancient Greek name for Italy was Enotria, "Land of Wine". Grapes have been grown in the whole peninsula, spreading from Sicily and Tuscany where grapes were already known 2000 years before Christ. By medieval times wine was already a national beverage even though Italy was still far from being one nation.

The company takes its name from Cangrande della Scala, a great military and political leader, and a well-known wine lover, who ruled Verona in the early thirteen hundreds making the town one of the most powerful forces in Italy. Through the centuries Verona has developed into one of the most important districts in the world for wine production, trading and marketing. In this time, all over Italy, wine making has become an art. Italian wines are still getting better, and in the last few decades more and more producers have focused on improving quality.

Tonight Michele will set out to prove this point with a selection of wines, and a beer, to introduce you to a festive season Italian style. Enjoy. The selection will include:

- a Verdicchio aperitif style for the quaffer
- three sparkling
- break including olive oil and balsamic
- a craft beer
- a Primitivo (from the producer as the Negroamaro we tasted last time)
- a dessert style (from the island of Pantelleria that was featured on Alex Polizzi TV show recently)

Please note also that Cangrande's new venture "Il Doge Wine Boutique" is opening at 281 Jackson Street, Petone at 2.00 pm on Saturday 12 November. I have sent a notification to members under separate cover.

From the Editor

Holy smoke, did I just see November 2016 at the top of this newsletter? Seems you only have to blink and a month has gone by. Where does the time go? The only thing that seems to be dragging on is the American Presidential election. The Lord forbid our club elections should ever be as lively as that election is proving to be. Quite a bit happening right now with a number of items to address.

Obituary

It is with deep sadness that we wish to report the passing of one of our Life Members , Ron Thomson.

Ron's participation in the club dates back to our early beginnings when he was the editor of our newsletters until he relinquished that role to take over as our second President in 1986.

Ron became a life member in 2009 and whilst he has not attended tastings since he moved to Waikanae, he and his late wife Barbara, continued to attend our dinners until more recently when health issues began to intercede. Ron continued to provide occasional pieces on New Zealand wine history which ran in this newsletter a little time ago. Our condolences go out to his many friends in the Cellar Club.



The Cellar Club Presidents at The Cellar Club's 25th birthday dinner, The James Cook Hotel, Feb 2006. From left to right Derek Thomson, Ron Thompson, Alan Evans, Wayne Kennedy, Graeme Fountain, Francesca Menzies and John Browning.

And before anyone points out the issue of spelling I am aware that the "p" has slipped. It is Ron Thomson and Derek Thompson, I just couldn't change it in the jpeg.

Good Value at the Wine Club – A committee member was interested to hear one of our new members comment recently about the 'good value' you get from our wine club; and we thoroughly agree. Just look at the Hunters meeting, all those good wines for less than \$15 per bottle. You won't get that in a Supermarket.

Attachments – There are several attachments to this newsletter; firstly the Payment Advice for November which includes the December Dinner; and secondly the menu for Muse in December. There is a third attachment which honours the achievement of one of the Clubs very early members. Sharyn Evans was a member of this club way back in the formative years. She has recently retired after 47 years as a violinist with the NZSO. I attach an item from the Orchestra's programme notes a couple of weeks back. Just emphasises what a talented membership we have had and still have.

Alan Scott – Members may have read the weekend magazine from the Dompost, which featured an article on Allan Scott. It mentioned he'd be giving a talk about his new book 'Marlborough Man' at Unity Books at 12 pm on November 11. Just in case anyone is interested. The item was too long to include in the newsletter.

Cheers

Robin Semmens, Editor

Looking Back – October 2016 – Hunter's Marlborough – Jane Hunter

The evening went very well and what a great turnout.



Jane Hunter presented well and at the right level for the club. The turnout included some members from Western Hills Wine Club and it was lovely to be their hosts for the evening. The wines were good and at a good price resulting in a very high number of orders. Jane enjoyed the evening and commented that next time she would present a bubbles and a Gewürztraminer as part of the programme. Feedback from members indicated that they enjoyed the evening and it was a great tasting. It was useful that although a bit reluctant, and there was an issue of the batteries having flattened, Jane used the microphone head set and we were all able to hear what was being said.

The wines presented on the night included; Hunters Pinot Gris - 2016 (quaffer), Hunters Riesling 2012, Hunters Chardonnay 2015, Hunters Sauvignon Blanc 2016, Hunters Rose 2016, Hunters Pinot Noir 2014, and the Hukapapa Dessert Wine 2014



Here are the delivered wines on my garage floor.

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Looking Forward - December 2016 – Muse Eatery and Bar



I was a bit nonplussed to pick up my Dompost the other day and see that Muse was "In Liquidation". I quickly reassured myself that this obviously applied to Muse on Allen however, and that the Muse Eatery and Bar is going strong. They are also preparing to give us a great dining experience in December so make sure you get it into your calendar now. The proposed menu is included as an attachment to this newsletter.

Pity I can't be there but a Pacific Cruise awaits, god dammit.

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General Information

Screwcaps - Anne collects screwcaps at meetings. As mentioned she gives them to the Lions organised Kidney Kids Support Group. No food lids or beer tops please.

Drinking and Driving - Members will be aware that the drink/drive limits have now been lowered. We ask members to always be conscious of the new limits and to take care when attending Club events.

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

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Have you Heard

A quote provided to me this week with the threat that I wouldn't dare include it. Still I do like to attribute ownership for comments to the appropriate source Anne.

"the opening of a champagne bottle should sound like the sigh of a satisfied woman"

And a few more quotes for good measure;

"I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning, that's as good as they're going to feel all day." **~Frank Sinatra**

WARNING:

The consumption of alcohol may create the illusion that you are tougher, smarter, faster and better looking than most people.

"When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading." - Henry Youngman

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may lead you to think people are laughing WITH you.

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In the News - Pic's Peanut Butter and Devonport Chocolate win at Great Taste Awards

Thomas Heaton– Stuff NZ

(Sometimes one can get a little distracted when seeking wine news stories and this little item quite bemused me so I thought we would transgress from wine this month and include an item on food. Inevitably however, my mind turned to wine matches. The chocolate was easy of course, any wine you jolly well like. But a match for peanut butter is a little more problematic. Equally problematic though is how the shoes will go on a hot day. – Ed)



Now available in five markets country-wide, Pic Picot's peanut butter has been making waves in the UK.

Two Kiwi palate-pleasing products have been named among the best in the world at the "Food Oscars".

Devonport Chocolates and Pic's Peanut Butter have both been recognised with a single star at the international 2016 Great Taste Awards.

Run by the Guild of Fine Food, the competition involved more than 400 judges from various backgrounds. All 10,000 entrants (*I presume he means food entrants – Ed*) were blind tasted over 49 days of judging.



Devonport are known for their chocolate footwear, but their 80% dark chocolate got them a star on the world stage.

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Coming Events

Wednesday 14 December 2016
Muse – December Dinner

Sunday 29 January 2017
Club BBQ

Wednesday 8 February 2017
"Through Rose tinted glasses"

Wednesday 8 March 2017
Ata Rangi Wines

Wednesday 12 April 2017
Quiz Night

Wednesday 10 May 2017
AGM
