



The Cellar Club Inc

Established in 1980

Newsletter - August 2017

Next Event – Seifrieds Estate Winery - Nelson

**Wednesday 9 August 2017, 7.45pm arrive for 8.00pm start.
Johnsonville Community Centre Hall,
3 Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville**

**Members \$10 - Guests: \$14
Presenters: Anna Seifried.**



Nelson boasts three national parks, fabulous golden sand beaches, alpine lakes, and is surrounded on three sides by mountains, its beauty is hard to beat. Combine this with over 2,400 hours of sunshine every year, the diverse coastlines and native bush, the colourful array of creative characters in the region, and this adds up to a beautiful place for Seifried to call home. It also adds up to a beautiful place to produce wines. The wine industry in Nelson is tiny by international standards, however Nelson's success is often envied. Winemaker's efforts with Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir have shown that the region is capable of producing some of the finest wines in the world, gaining international recognition.

From small beginnings in 1973, when Hermann Seifried and his New Zealand wife Agnes first planted grapes in the Moutere Valley near Nelson, this is a family business with a focus and passion for beautifully crafted wines. 2016 marked 40 years since the family's first grape harvest, and with all three Seifried children now fully involved in the business, over 250 hectares of sustainably accredited Estate owned vineyards, and exports to over 20 countries around the globe, there is indeed reason to celebrate. And celebrate we shall, with a selection of excellent wines as listed below.

Old Coach Road Sauvignon Blanc 2017 (pre-release) – “quaffing wine to start”
Seifried Nelson Gewürztraminer 2016
Seifried Nelson Würzer 2016
Seifried Winemakers Collection Barrique Fermented Chardonnay 2015
Seifried Nelson Pinot Noir 2015
Seifried Nelson Zweigelt 2014
Seifried Winemakers Collection Sweet Agnes Riesling 2016

Anna will be accompanied by Seifried's Wellington representative Sandra Collins. Another great tasting opportunity, hope to see you all there on Wednesday.

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From the Editor

Hi Team, I am back, and I am not quite sure that we, Pat and I, have organised this properly. We didn't generally have the kindest of summer weather while we were away and we have been well aware that it is still very much winter since our return. We will need to time things a little better if we do this sort of thing again.

So after Acting Editor, then Acting Acting Editor, it is back to plain old Editor again. Whilst travelling around southern England I did note there were a few vineyards and wineries advertised. After our last trivia evening where a question revolved around the demise of British wineries due to climate change, I was interested to see where the industry is at now. For the same reason it collapsed, ie climate change, there has been a significant resurgence in the last few decades. There are currently about 500 vineyards covering 4,500 acres in Southern England and Wales. They currently produce only about 1% of the world's wine but it is a start. Note that "In the News" I have included an item about their first national wine awards.

As for visiting wineries and sampling European wines our touring did not incorporate any established wine regions. When we went visiting we took New Zealand wines when we could source them. Far better to encourage the British relatives to think about purchasing NZ wines.

You will note that in the "Coming Events" section there is quite a bit of TBAing. We have had a few late changes to deal with over the last couple of years and your committee think that we might commit to events a little too far ahead. We are trying not to get too far ahead but fear not, we have lots of great opportunities to tap into.

Cheers

Robin Semmens, Editor

Looking Back – July 2017 – Mid-Winter Dinner Bistro 52



A late change necessitated a different venue for our mid-year dinner and fortunately Bistro 52 were able to step in, albeit a week later than the scheduled date. 33 people attended the July dinner at Weltec Bistro 52. We had 4 last minute cancellations. Feedback received about the dinner was excellent and the staff did well. There was comment that the 3 desserts were the best yet from Bistro 52. The atmosphere of the restaurant was enjoyable. There was no seating plan and some confusion over seating arrangements, however this did not detract from the enjoyment of the event. The committee thanks Anne for organising the dinner.

Looking Forward - September 2017 – What Age can do for Wine

What happens when you unearth some older wines? We are arranging a September meeting with a difference.

Have you ever wondered what age can do to wine? Many of you may remember the late Richard Gooch. He presented to the club several times and last year, his wife Linda donated some of Richard's older wines to the club for us to use as a learning experience. The oldest ones date back to the early 1970's. More about the wines next month but it includes a mystery wine for us to determine what it is and we will have Cuisine wine writer John Saker on hand to help us assess their quality.



“I didn't want to waste the good stuff, so I used the oldest bottle in your wine collection for the spaghetti sauce.”

Some wines may be past their best, others may be superb. Who knows. But this will be a great learning experience for anyone wondering what age can do to wines that are left to languish forgotten at the back of our cellars.

But a word of warning. This tasting will be closed to just members and we will likely need to limit it to 36. So once this month's tasting is out of the way we will ask you to register your attendance.

Screwcaps

A reminder that 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.

“Have you Heard”



In the News - Sussex Winery receives prestigious title at the inaugural UK Wine Awards.

(English Wine Producers – 26 July 2017)



The Bolney Wine Estate was delighted to receive the prestigious 'Winery of the Year' award at the inaugural UK Wine Awards. Spearheaded by English Wine Producers' Julia Trustram Eve and members of the EWP and the UK Vineyards Association, the UK Wine Awards is the national competition for wine produced from grapes grown in England and Wales, inspired by the growing popularity of English and Welsh wines.

The respected title for the Sussex-based winery, which is run by Sam Linter, is testament to the hard work Sam and her team have put into The Bolney Wine Estate. The ethos at the winery is to produce the best wines possible and ensure quality is at the heart of everything – something which has clearly paid off. The high standards Sam has set – from maintaining the highest level of viticulture and vinification to the training the staff receive – has seen the winery go from strength to strength.

Sam Linter, Winemaker and MD of Bolney Wine Estate comments: "We are over the moon to have won 'Winery of the Year' at the UK Wine Awards – we still can't quite believe it! It's such a prestigious accolade and an endorsement of the hard work each and every one of us at Bolney puts into our wines. We're delighted that UK wine is finally getting the attention it deserves – and we're incredibly excited for what the future holds for the industry."

Bolney also won 'Top Still Wine' and 'Most Outstanding Single Varietal Wine' for its Foxhole Vineyard Pinot Gris 2016 with judges remarking it is "a delightful example of Pinot Gris; pure, expressive and fragrant with notes of honeysuckle and spiced pear." A dry white wine with fragrant aromas of rose, jasmine and conference pear, the palate is wonderfully rich and creamy with a slightly honeyed character – a perfect summer's wine.

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Coming Events

Wednesday 13 September 2017
What age can do for wine

Wednesday 11 October 2017
Stonecroft – Hawkes Bay

Wednesday 8 November 2017
Festive Wines – Theme TBA

Wednesday 13 December 2017
Christmas Dinner - Venue TBA

Sunday 28 January 2018
Annual Club BBQ

Wednesday 14 February 2018
TBA