



The Cellar Club Inc

Established in 1980

Newsletter - November 2017

Next Event – Festive Wines of Spain

**Wednesday 8 November 2017, 7.45pm arrive for 8.00pm start.
Johnsonville Community Centre Hall,
3 Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville**

Members \$16; Guests \$20

Presenters: Eurovintage; Brett Newell & Keith Tibble.



As we speak Keith and Brett are scrabbling around in the Eurovintage cellars looking for some classic Spanish wines so we can enjoy a top class festive tasting this month. We had great success with an Italian evening last year and we are confident that a suite of Spanish wines will go down every bit as well. After all, the peoples of Spain celebrate Christmas with some fervour and know how to mix celebration and fine wine. I can't tell you what the wines will be as they haven't emerged from the cellar, but they will be good. They will be accompanied by some tasty tapas as listed below, and as would be the case in Spain, so come along and enjoy the evening.

The Tapas

Name	Description
Aceitunas fritas desmenuzadas	Crumbed fried olives : A warm dish of larger olives dipped in Panko breadcrumbs & lightly deep fried
Melon con Jamon Serrano	Serrano ham and honey dew melon [a cold dish]
Gambas al Ajillo	Spanish shrimp dish [a warm dish involving tooth picks to select your shrimps]
Chirizo en vino tinto	Chirizo in red wine [another warm dish involving tooth picks for selection]
Dulce de Membrillo con Queso	Quince, goat or cheese cream cheese on a toasted slice of baguette
Polvorones de limon	Spanish lime shortbread cookies

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From the Editor

Hi to all. Having grandchildren in Sydney is a blessing, but it can be frustrating when I have to miss yet another great night with the Cellar Club. Sorry that I cannot join you for what is going to be a very enjoyable festive tasting. I am looking forward to hearing how it all goes.

Note the report in **"In the News"** about the recent fires in California, provided by Evelyn Dawson who was in the region earlier in the year. It would seem that the area will take some time to recover from the effects of these devastating fires. We wish them luck and success in the recovery process.

Cheers

Robin Semmens, Editor

Looking Back – October 2017 – Stonecroft – Hawkes Bay



Andria Monin presented for Stonecroft at this tasting. We pointed out at the time that Stonecroft donated the wines including quaffers and the main raffle prize. I have thanked Andria for presenting at the meeting and she in turned thanked the club for inviting her. She had an enjoyable meeting and was happy with the orders received. It was an interesting meeting, with a good flow telling the winery story since her last visit. The wines tasted included; the 2017 Rose as a Quaffer; 2016 Viognier; 2016 Chardonnay; 2015 Serine Syrah; 2014 Ruhanui; 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon; 2016 Late Harvest Gewürztraminer. The Viognier was particularly popular for those ordering.

Looking Forward - December 2017 Christmas Dinner – Cashmere Lounge - Khandallah



You have to head to the suburbs to try one of Wellingtons best new restaurant/wine bars. Set in an 85 year old brick building, Cashmere Lounge has done a wonderful job of capturing the character and enhancing the aesthetics of the original structure.

A delicious menu and excellent service provide a wonderful and relaxed dining experience. The menu focuses on locally sourced produce with European and Kiwi flavours, expertly crafted by Head Chef, Vincent Good. We are working on the final details of an exciting menu and dining experience for members. Put 13 December into your scheduler now.

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" - There's a silver lining to every cloud



In the News – California Fires and Wine – Chris Morris

As the California wildfires raged, with Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma counties being the hardest hit, the focus of authorities rightfully remained on rescuing people trapped in or near the inferno and attempting to control the fire. But the impact on California's Wine Country continues to grow, with several wineries damaged or destroyed. That won't have an immediate impact on wine lovers, but it could dramatically affect the supply and even the taste of Napa and Sonoma wines for years to come. Alex Andrawes, a wine broker in Texas and owner of PersonalWine.com has extensive contacts in Napa. One of his friends, "said he could hear the wine boiling in the barrels before the roof fell in."

The lasting impact of the Napa fires could affect all wines coming from California, whether they're caught in the fires or not. "The smoke taint thing will be global — both valleys," he says. "No pockets spared, I fear." With the first wildfire still burning, the list of wineries that suffered damage may increase.

Authorities haven't yet put together a complete list of wineries burned by the wildfires. Napa Valley Vintners, which has heard from 160 member wineries, says at least five of its members have reported total or very significant losses, with 11 more reporting some damage to their winery or vineyards. Several members have not yet been able to access their properties to assess the damage. The group is still not naming which wineries have been impacted yet and says it's too early to estimate the economic impact of the fires on Napa's wine industry. Here's where Northern California's wineries stood in the later stages of the fires:

Napa County wineries

- [Signorello Vineyard](#) - While the winery itself was completely destroyed by flames, early indications are that the vineyard might have survived. That's potentially good news since replanted vines take several years to mature.
- [Stags' Leap Winery](#) - While the fires certainly impacted the winery, the extent of the damage is still unknown at this time.
- [White Rock Vineyards](#) - One of Napa's oldest wineries (founded in 1870), White Rock initially said all employees were safe and it planned to assess damage on Oct 10th. Unfortunately, it later confirmed the winery was a total loss. The state of the vineyard is unknown.
- [William Hill Estate Winery](#) - Footage of the winery's sign burning that went viral, it turns out the damage to the actual winery is mostly cosmetic. Officials say vineyard damage was minimal.
- [Darioush](#) - The Stag's Leap District winery suffered some landscape and vineyard damage, but said the winery structure was sound, despite some reports that were more dire.
- [Hagafen Cellars](#) - While the winery building and tasting room survived, the crush pad at the back of the winery was burned and all agricultural equipment and 1 acre of the winery's Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard was burned. "What this all will mean for vintage 2017 is yet to be determined. Much of our wine is already inside and resting in barrels. As for vintage 2018, I am reasonably certain that we will continue, repair the damage, replace the equipment needed, etc.," the winery said.
- [Helena View Johnston Vineyards](#) - The Mercury News spoke with the owner's brother, who told them "all is lost" at the organic winery.

- Segassia Vineyard - The Patrick Road fire damaged this Atlas Peak winery. The extent of the damage however, is still being determined.
- VinRoc - This small-batch family winery, which makes no more than 1,000 cases per year, reportedly suffered a "total loss". Proprietor and winemaker Michael Parmenter told local media "everything gone except our (wine) cave."

Sonoma County Wineries

- Paradise Ridge Winery - The winery reported a total loss. In a Wednesday morning post, though, it said all employees were safe and vowed to rebuild.
- Ancient Oak Cellars - This Russian River Valley winery suffered heavy damages, with the tasting counter, two onsite redwood barns and the owner's house being destroyed, the company said. There was some good news the next day, though, as the owners informed "although we have not been allowed on the property yet, we were able to look from afar and we *believe* that our vines may have been spared. It's too early to know for sure, but we see green, and not all scorched black as we feared."
- Sky Vineyards - There's reportedly some fire damage here, but the facility is still standing. As of now, though, the extent of the damage is unknown.
- Nicholson Ranch - There's some damage here, but the winery said on its Facebook page that the wine was secure in its cellars. " We have some damage to fix," it said. " We are cleaning up and hoping to have the power back on this [week]."
- Chateau St. Jean - Despite reports it had burned to the ground, this Kenwood winery's main structure is still standing and appears unharmed. Damage to outer buildings and the vineyard is still being assessed.

Mayo Family Wineries

- Gundlach Bundschu Winery - According to reports on Twitter, the property suffered some fire damage, but said its winery and structure were still intact. The family home on the property, however, was lost.

Mendocino County Wineries

- Frey Vineyards Winery - Alison de Grassi of Visit Mendocino told the Mercury News that the winery, which focuses on organic and biodynamic wines, was destroyed by the fires.
- Oster Wine Cellars - Visit Medocino's deGrassi also listed Oster, another Redwood Valley staple, as a total loss.
- Golden Vineyards - The vineyards at this Hopland winery are "scorched but they are not ruined," according to owner Julie Golden (via the Mercury News).

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Coming Events

Wednesday 13 December 2017
Christmas Dinner – Cashmere
Lounge - Khandallah

Sunday 28 January 2018
Club BBQ

Wednesday 14 February 2018
TBA
