



The Cellar Club Inc

Established in 1980

Newsletter - September 2018

Next Event: Maison Vauron, French Wine and Cheese Merchants.

**Wednesday 12 September 2018, 7.45pm start for 8.00pm start.
Johnsonville Community Centre Hall,
3 Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville**

Members \$18; Guests \$22

Presenters: Alexandre Patenotte – Wellington Representative

MAISON VAURON

Just imagine, you are sitting on the deck of a rather nice river cruising boat in the Southern Rhone area. The day has a balmy warmth. Vineyards tumble down to the water's edge. The aromas of good French wine, gorgeous cheeses and some French bread waft in the air. Peace, contentment and a sense of well being are evident. See photo page 4.

Well, forget the boat, and the balmy warmth, but maybe this tasting can capture some of the feeling that we all think of as France. Presenting will be Alexandre Patenotte, the Wellington representative for Maison Vauron. The regional accent will be on the southern Rhone Valley and naturally we will be tasting good wines with some cheese matches. Maison Vauron has New Zealand's largest selection of fine French cheeses and matching them to some fine French wines heralds a night to remember

The tasting will include;

- Les Grandes Vignes Cotes du Rhône blanc 2017
- St Francois Xavier Cotes du Rhône 2016 Cheese match - Brie de Meaux AOC ROUZAIRE
- Lafond Lirac rouge 2015
- Beauvaquière Vacqueyras 2015 Cheese match - Morbier Rivoire " Raw Milk"
- Clos des Cazaux Gigondas 2015
- Pegau Châteauneuf du Pape 2014 Cheese match - Comte Tunnel 24Months
- Beaumalric Muscat Beauges de Venise 2016 (375ml) Cheese match - Bleu d'Auvergne Bulk

Please note that the door price is a little higher than usual. This reflects the very high quality of both the wines and the cheese matches. Trust me, you will not be disappointed.

From the Editor

NB. We would be grateful if you could give Anne an indication as to whether or not you are likely to be attending the tasting. This will ensure that we can share out the very nice cheeses as evenly as possible. You wouldn't want to miss out now, would you? Anne's email address is ammegget@gmail.com

As I prepare this newsletter our President is also trying for some balmy weather, though in Bali rather than France. What he will not be doing though is matching the warmth with some good New Zealand wine. He reports that at a restaurant a bottle of Matua Sauvignon Blanc (generally available for about \$13 a bottle on our supermarket shelves) was on offer for the NZ equivalent of \$80.00 phew. He and Dinah have been reduced to drinking the local beer.

We will be visiting the wines of France, Australia and Portugal over the latter part of the year. Much to be enjoyed.

Cheers *Robin Semmens*, Editor

Looking Back – August 2018 – Clearview Estate – Lisa Clarke

CLEARVIEW

ESTATE WINERY & RESTAURANT



There was a good turnout for this tasting. The tasting was characterised by good wines, good presenter equals a good night in spite of the bad weather. Lisa thanks the club for a great tasting and commented that they had received good orders from the club.

Indeed, by our reckoning, this was the second biggest group of orders from a tasting. Just shows that even on a wet winters night a good presentation and good wines will succeed. Thanks to all those who attended and ordered.

We had better not leave it too long before we invite Clearview back. Remember too, that if you are in Hawkes Bay, a visit to the winery and a meal at the red shed are well worth the effort.

Looking Forward – October – Yalumba with Negotiants



NEGOCIANTS

NEW ZEALAND

A moonlit planting five generations ago has made Yalumba Australia's most historic family owned winery. Fiercely independent, extremely progressive and committed to looking after the land and its people, they acknowledge that the reputation of their wine is only as good as the next bottle a customer drinks. So they put the same attention to detail into every bottle of wine they make, regardless of variety, quantity or price.

Now there is a reason for Negotiants to look to present Yalumba's wine. Negotiants New Zealand was established, by Yalumba, in 1985 to import and represent the finest wines of the world. They are passionate and knowledgeable about fine wine, and are committed to professionally representing family- owned wineries from around the world.

Negociants New Zealand is one of New Zealand's leading fine wine merchants, distributing many of New Zealand's most celebrated wines, as well as prestigious imported brands from Australia and the world to licenced trade.

Bound to be a cracker this one.

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"

A woman was driving home in Northern Arizona, when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road.

She stopped the car and asked the woman if she'd like a ride. The woman thanked her and got in the car.

After a few minutes, the Navajo woman noticed a brown bag on the back seat and asked the driver what was in the bag. The driver said, "It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband."

The Navajo woman thought for a moment, then said, "Good trade."

In the News – 'Frankenstein wine' warning over French supergrapes

Henry Samuel – The Telegraph, London



French wine scientists have come up with four revolutionary supergrape -varieties they say are impervious to rot and thus require almost no pesticides. But purists have warned that the lab-grown creations, which mix grape genes from around the world, could lead to dumbed-down, low-grade "Frankenstein wine".

At first glance, the red and white grapes growing at the National Institute of Agronomical Research (Inra) in Colmar, eastern France, look like just any other. Yet these are a very different. The aim is to be "durably resistant" to fungal attack by winemakers' two sworn enemies: downy mildew and powdery mildew.

In recent months, Inra scientists received state authorisation to grow four varieties of resistant grape called Araban, Floreal, Voltis and Vidoc which will lead to wine bottled by 2020. Didier Merdinoglu, the "father" of the Inra programme, insisted that the grapes enabled winemakers to cut the use of pesticides by 80-90 per cent.

France is under intense pressure to reduce pesticides, following a string of cancer cases among vintners and a recent scandal in which pupils at a school near a vineyard were sprayed with chemicals, leading to several falling ill.

Thomas Dormegnies, wine maker, researcher and taster from Vendée, western France, said that the crossover of varieties from other continents would lead to "artificial and unnatural 'Frankenstein wine'." "This is like crossing a monkey with a man: it may be technically possible but it goes against nature," he said

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Coming Events

Wednesday 10 October 2018
Negociants – Yalumba

Wednesday 14 November 2018
Confidant Wines (Portugese Wines)

Wednesday 12 December 2018
December Dinner - TBA



River cruising on the Rhone – photo by Ralph Grizzle