



# The Cellar Club Inc

Established in 1980

## Newsletter - February 2019

### **Next Event: Askerne Wines – Hawkes Bay**

**Wednesday 13 February 2019, 7.45pm for 8.00pm start.  
Johnsonville Community Centre Hall,  
3 Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville**

**Members \$10; Guests \$14  
Presenters: John Loughlin – Askerne**



**ASKERNE**

The Askerne Estate winery and vineyard site was acquired in 1993 by John and Kathryn Loughlin. John and Kathryn were wine lovers who moved from Wellington to Hawke's Bay after careers in the Finance and Property sectors respectively.

They chose the Askerne site for its mix of soils and particularly the very free-draining former river bed. The site had previously been used to grow asparagus and later as a stud farm for Texel sheep. The original block was 11 hectares. The first vines were planted in 1993. Since the start of the project John has worked in various business roles to finance the development of the business and Kathryn has managed the business.

The initial plantings were in white varieties that did not compete with Waimaramara Estate (owned by John's father) which focussed on Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot dominant reds. The cellar door was opened in February 1997 selling both the Askerne white wines and the Waimaramara Estate red wines. Time moved on and when Waimaramara was no longer an issue they moved on to include reds in their range. The tasting will include the following selection

Quaffer - Askerne Sauv Blanc / Sauv Gris / Semillon 2018; Followed by;  
Askerne Reserve Chardonnay 2016                      Askerne Viognier 2018  
Askerne Gewürztraminer 2016                      Askerne Syrah 2015  
Askerne Merlot Cab Franc Cab Sauv Malbec 2015  
Askerne 2016 Cabernet Franc.  
Askerne Dessert Cabernet 2018

It will be a great evening and we look forward to seeing you there.

---

### **From the Editor**

It's the start of another year with much to look forward to.

Now it may seem like a strange thing to say if you glance ahead to the coming events section, but things are quite well advanced with planning for the year. Just a small issue with the March tasting which might affect April. Don't worry, as they say, it will all be right on the night.

Some interest has been expressed about recipes for the food matches which we occasionally prepare (or provide) for tastings. For those interested the recipes for the matches we did back in November for the Portugese tasting are available on the website. Also Wayne is collating the 2017 Spanish recipes for inclusion on the website. We will look to include future recipes as tastings progress.

There were a few dishes etc left at Derek's after the BBQ and I think these have been returned to their owners. If you have an item that you might have left there, let me know and we can pursue through Derek.

Cheers *Robin Semmens*, Editor

---

## Looking Back – December 2018 – Dinner at Juniper

# Juniper

Having the December Dinner on a Saturday night worked well. The food was great and was well received. The committee has received good feedback from people who attended. \$65.00 seems to an acceptable price point for dinner pricing. We could go back in the future or try a similar venue; and let us not reject the idea of Saturday dinners if there are future opportunities.



*At Juniper December Dinner*

## January 2019 – Club BBQ

Not much to be said except to say it was another fine day and everyone seemed to enjoy the occasion. Not sure if the attendance was 42 or 44. Depends on who counted and at what time during proceedings.

This continues to be a great venue for a gathering of this nature, the food was excellent, the wine very nice and the company superb. As always we give special thanks to Derek Thompson for making his excellent facilities available.



*Enjoying the BBQ at Derek's Place*

---

## **Looking Forward - 13 March 2019 – Under Negotiation**

We are negotiating with a very well known wine personality in NZ to present at this meeting. There are still a couple of matters to resolve and consequently we will not make any announcement at this time. We have other options so you may be assured that whatever the result you will be treated to the usual high standard of tasting. Watch this spot.

---

## **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 man walked into a bar and ordered a glass of white wine. He took a sip of the wine, then tossed the remainder into the bartender's face. Before the bartender could recover from the surprise, the man began weeping. "I'm really sorry. I keep doing that to bartenders. I can't tell you how embarrassing it is to have a compulsion like this."

Far from being angry, the bartender was sympathetic. Before long, he was suggesting that the man see a psychoanalyst about his problem. "I happen to have the name of a psychoanalyst," the bartender said. "My brother and my wife have both been treated by him, and they say he's as good as they come." The man wrote down the name of the doctor, thanked the bartender, and left. The bartender smiled, knowing he'd done a good deed for a fellow human being.

Six months later, the man was back. "Did you do what I suggested?" the bartender asked, serving the glass of white wine. "I certainly did," the man said. "I've been seeing the psychoanalyst twice a week."

He took a sip of the wine. Then he threw the remainder into the bartender's face. The flustered bartender wiped his face with a towel. "The doctor doesn't seem to be doing you any good," he spluttered. "On the contrary," the man said, "he's done me a world of good."

"But you just threw the wine in my face again!" the bartender exclaimed. "Yes" the man said. "But it doesn't embarrass me anymore!"

---

## **In the News – An International Sauvignon Blanc Celebration.** ***NZ Winegrowers – Media Release – January 2019***

The 'who's who' of the wine world descended on Marlborough for a three-day International Sauvignon Blanc Celebration kicking off on Monday 28 January.

"We have over 100 international wine producers, experts and key influencers visiting, giving us an exceptional opportunity to shine the spotlight on our diverse Sauvignon Blanc offerings," said Sauvignon 2019 Chair, Patrick Materman. The event boasted a world-class line-up of speakers who are experts in the fields of science, research, journalism and gastronomy.

Internationally acclaimed wine writer Matt Kramer returned to New Zealand to explore Sauvignon Blanc's place in the world of wine and speak on the future of Sauvignon Blanc. Nine Masters of Wine from all over the globe were among the speakers, including Debra Meiburg, founding Director of Meiburg Wine Media, and Sarah Heller, Asia Pacific's youngest MW at 30 years of age, from Hong Kong. From the UK came Justin Howard-Sneyd, buyer and consultant for over 20 years with some of the UK's leading distributors, and David Allen, originally from the UK and Director of WineSearcher. Dirceu Vianna Junior was the first South American male to obtain the title of Master of Wine and joined from Brazil, and Tim Hanni hailing from the US, where he is Managing Director of eCode.me and HanniCo LLC. Completing the exemplary line up were New Zealanders Emma Jenkins, Sam Harrop and Steve Smith.

Over 350 guests were expected to attend the celebration, which took attendees on a journey exploring the complexity of Sauvignon Blanc, emerging styles, vineyard practices, winemaking influences and future trends. The International Sauvignon Blanc Celebration is built around three themes; Place, Purity and Pursuit. Day one was themed Place and drew on Tūrangawaewae, the geographical places we feel empowered and connected to. Day two, with the theme of Purity, explored topics such as climate, sustainability and flavour. Finally, Day three dealt with what we should pursue domestically and globally, outlining future challenges and opportunities for the New Zealand wine industry.

The spectacular evening entertainment was also a highlight, with the sold-out gala event 'Blanc', a dinner-en-blanc theme, hosting 480 guests at Brancott Vineyard on the second evening of the 2019 celebration. Celebrity chef Martin Bosley was the culinary director of the gourmet feast that was matched with older vintages from the cellars of our wineries. The International Sauvignon Blanc Celebration brought this diverse, expressive and sought-after variety to centre stage for three action-packed days in Marlborough.

---

### **Club Contacts**

**President:**

Murray Jaspers  
[murray.jaspers@gmail.com](mailto:murray.jaspers@gmail.com)  
Phone: 479-3191

**Club Address and Treasurer:**

C/- Wayne Kennedy  
17 Stonefield Place  
Johnsonville  
Wellington 6037  
[Wayne.Kennedy@iag.co.nz](mailto:Wayne.Kennedy@iag.co.nz)

**Secretary:**

Jenny Jebson  
[jenny.jebson@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.jebson@gmail.com)

**Editor:**

Robin Semmens  
[semmens@xtra.co.nz](mailto:semmens@xtra.co.nz)

**Vice President and Membership**

**Coordinator:**

Anne Megget  
[ammegget@gmail.com](mailto:ammegget@gmail.com)  
Phone: 478-8573

**Club Website:**

[www.cellarclub.co.nz](http://www.cellarclub.co.nz)

**Bank Account for  
Internet Banking:**

06 0541 0056031 00

---

### **Coming Events**

**Wednesday 13 March 2019**  
Under Negotiation

**Wednesday 10 April 2019**  
Under Negotiation

**Wednesday 8 May 2019**  
AGM

**NB.** Planning is well under way with the March and April tastings but there are some minor issues and we might need a switch, so we will not announce current plans as they may need to change. We will keep you advised.

---