



The Cellar Club Inc

Established in 1980

Newsletter - January 2020

Upcoming Events – January to March 2020

Summer Barbecue - Sunday 26th January from 4pm, wet or fine

Derek Thompson's residence, 4 Arthur Carman Street, Johnsonville.

Once again we start the year with the summer BBQ on Sunday 26 January 2020.

As per usual we are grateful to Derek for providing his excellent facilities for this event. Of course you all have it in your diaries in any event but I like to remind you just in case.

This is a **No Charge** event but please be aware it is BYO in terms of the wine you bring. Wine is pooled so the people can share their nice wines with others who appreciate the variety. We would ask people not to take wine away to individual tables as this limits access to wines that people might want to try. Remember though that the Club provides no wine for this event so ensure that you bring enough if you think the summer heat will make you thirsty.

Your committee arrange the meat and salmon and we ask participants to contribute by providing a salad or dessert, this should be sufficient for **about 8 people**. This year we would ask that if your street address has an **odd** number, that you provide a dessert; and an **even** number, a salad.

We have noted in recent years that newer members have not always attended this event. I encourage you to do so. The weather does not matter, the venue has covered outdoor areas to suit any occasion, including rain. The BBQ is a great opportunity to mix and mingle so please think seriously about attending.

NB This is a repeat of information sent to you by email last week. Seeing as this newsletter is to be released before the BBQ we thought it would serve as a reminder.

12 February Tasting – Maison Noire – Hawkes Bay

**Wednesday 12th February 2020, 7:45pm for 8:00pm start
Johnsonville Community Centre Hall, 3 Frankmoore Avenue**

Members \$12; Guests \$16

Presenter: Guillaume Thomas and Esther Smith – Maison Noire



Maison Noire is small vineyard on the Waimarama Road, looking out to sea and surrounded by rolling hills. French winemaker Guillaume, along with NZ born wife Esther, have joined together to present a range of truly boutique wines from Hawkes Bay.

They Grow Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Chenin Blanc. Soils at the site are rich and black with a clay base, sloping gently towards the coast. Due to the small size of their vineyard they also source grapes from various growers in Hawkes Bay. This region has an amazing number of micro-climates and terroirs, each of them giving unique characters to the different grape varieties that are grown here.

They will present their- Arneis 2019 Sauvignon Blanc 2015, Rosé 2018, Chardonnay 2018, Cabernet Franc 2015, Syrah 2016, Cabernet/Merlot 2016. You will be able to order wines and pay on the night using Visa or Eftpos. It will be like going to France without the long flight.

21 March 2020 – Day Trip to Wairarapa

This is a full day excursion, leaving Wellington Railway Station at 9:55 am and arriving back there at 6:30 pm



The cost will be \$75 per head and will cover; bus travel around the Wairarapa commencing from and returning to the Featherston Railway Station; a tasting then lunch at Coney's Winery and a limited supply of wine at lunch.

In addition you will need to pay; the cost of return travel from Wellington to Featherston; The cost of any tastings apart from that at Coneys; any other expenditure.

A more detailed timetable will be supplied separately plus any further details as they are arranged. Remember we need your support for this special event. Please make your plans to join us.

From the Editor

2020 Is a very special year for our Club. We will celebrate 40 years of activity and tastings as the year progresses. Because of special events being organised you will note that this newsletter has a slightly different approach in that we are setting out activities for the first three months rather than one month at a time. I am sure that for many of you this is your favourite read but don't be alarmed, so much is happening that we will continue to come at you monthly.

Please find attached a calendar setting out the proposed events for the year and a Payment Advice for the February meeting.

A very interesting start to the year and we intend to keep the pressure on throughout the year.

Cheers *Robin Semmens*, Editor

Looking Back – December Dinner, Cashmere Lounge 4 Cashmere Avenue, Khandallah



With 44 attending and the change in the table layout there was more room in the restaurant this time. A little difficult for those against the wall to get out but nothing to worry about. It was a good dinner with nice food. It was noted that a couple of the meals were not quite the same as per the menu and this has been raised.

Another successful dinner and we thank Gayl for the organisation

Glasses Roster 2020:

Thank you to the volunteers, who took the wine glasses home last year and washed them.

We need volunteers once again for the 2020 glasses roster. Once a year you will take the wine glasses home after the meeting, wash them and return them to the next month's meeting. The meetings months this year are February, April to June and August to October and December

Please let Jenny Jebson (jenny.jebson@gmail.com) if you want to volunteer with an indication of your preferred month.

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" - *It's all a question of fact*

There are 13 minerals that are essential
to human life, and all of them are found
in wine.
Coincidence?
I think not!



In the News – History in the Bubbles : 105 and still loving her bubbly.

Joelle Thomson – 16/12/19

(This item is something of a prelude to our proposed June tasting. It relates to Dawn Ibbotson who is the matriarch of the Ibbotson family who operate Saint Clair)

This month marks the 105th birthday of the woman who inspired one of New Zealand's best bubbly made using the French traditional method, the same way that champagne is created. The woman and the wine are called Dawn. The first vintage of Dawn was made from the 2012 vintage to mark its namesake's 100th birthday in December 2014. Now, Dawn Ibbotson has turned 105 and her family says she enjoys a daily glass of the bubbly they made in her honour.

It's a top bubbly in taste too, as our instore experts pick it as one of their favourites, year round.

The wine is made from hand harvested, whole bunch pressed grapes, which were fermented in a combination of stainless steel (the Chardonnay) and seasoned French oak barriques (the Pinot Noir). The two still wine components were then blended and bottle fermented for three months to allow the carbon dioxide from the second fermentation to dissolve into the wine, creating its fine bubbles. It was then left on tirage (lees) for thirty-nine months until disgorgement.

Story of the name Saint Clair...

The Ibbotson family who founded Saint Clair Winery named it after the original land owners of their Marlborough vineyards, the Sinclair family. Saint Clair is also the name of a suburb in Dunedin, hometown to the Ibbotsons and to Dawn.

Dawn is made from...

Vines grown on stone and sandy alluvial soils on Rapaura Road, Marlborough; overlooked by Saint Clair Vineyard Kitchen. It contains 6 grams of residual sugar per litre; off dry, but only just, in other words. This wine tastes dry from the first sip to the last, lingering sparkling drop.



NB. It was with some sadness that I noted that Dawn passed away on 10 Jan after I had copied this item. Still 105 is a great knock and enjoying a nice wine right up to the end can't have been bad. Rest in Peace Dawn.

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Coming Events

Sunday 26 January 2020
Club BBQ

Wednesday 12 February 2020
Maison Noire, Hawkes Bay

Saturday 21st March 2020
Wairarapa lunch & wine tasting

Wednesday 08 April 2020
Crater Rim, Waipara

Wednesday 13 May 2020
AGM

Wednesday 10 June 2020
Saint Clair - Marlborough