



# The Cellar Club Inc

Established in 1980

## Newsletter - March 2019

### Next Event: Villa Maria Winery

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

**Members \$10; Guests \$14**

**Presenters: Kirsty Warbrick and Marc Udy - Villa Maria**



## VILLA MARIA

NEW ZEALAND

In 1961, at just 21 years of age, George Fistonich leased five acres of land from his father in Mangere, Auckland and started off with just an acre of vines. George made his first wine under the name Villa Maria in 1962 with grapes harvested from this block.

Throughout the 1960s Villa Maria was a one-man band, with George's wife, Gail, supporting him in his venture. He made dry red and white wines, sourcing grapes from the greater Auckland regions.

In the early 1970s George started to employ staff and the company expanded rapidly. Today, Villa Maria employs more than 250 permanent staff, grows 28 different grape varieties, and exports wine to over 60 countries worldwide.

Kirsty is the Territory Sales Manager for Wellington and the Wairarapa while Marc is one of the winemakers. There will be an interesting selection covering mainly wines from Marlborough .

An iconic winery with a long history associated with the NZ wine industry. Don't miss it. Wines will include:

Villa Maria Cellar Selection Rose 2018  
Villa Maria Reserve Wairua Sauvignon 2018  
Villa Maria Single Vineyard Seddon Pinot Gris 2018  
Villa Maria Reserve Marlborough Chardonnay 2016  
Villa Maria Platinum Selection Pinot Noir 2018  
Villa Maria Cellar Selection Grenache 2017  
Villa Maria Cellar Selection Late Harvest Riesling 2015

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### From the Editor

A couple of your committee members have done some great work in sorting out tastings over the next two months. You will note that things have now been settled and we can look forward to two great evenings. Special thanks to Wayne and Murray for their efforts in putting these together. Just remains for us to enjoy them.

This newsletter is a little bit later in the month than we would like but we wanted to have as much information available as possible. My personal regret is that I will miss Joelle as we will be embarking on a 31 night cruise. Sometimes you just have to make sacrifices. I often say that a tasting is not to be missed but, to be fair, that applies to all of them.

Cheers *Robin Semmens*, Editor

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## Looking Back – February 2019 – Askerne Wines



ASKERNE

Another great evening with nice wines and an informative presenter. John Loughlin was a pleasure to deal with and kept the meeting running to time. A good level of orders resulted. But that all our tastings were as easy to organize as this one was. John says he would be more than happy to come back and has some interesting wines that we haven't yet tried. We will keep this in mind.

The wines tasted included; Askerne Sauv Blanc / Sauv Gris / Semillon 2018 as the quaffer; 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; rounded off with the Askerne Dessert Cabernet 2018.

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## Looking Forward - 10 April 2019 – Joelle Thomson



Joelle hardly needs an introduction. She is well known through her significant contribution to wine literature in New Zealand. She has featured in many news and other publications as well as being a regular contributor on Radio NZ. Among her other activities she is the Wine Programme Director and teaches wine courses at Regional Wines & Spirits in Wellington. She also does courses at the New Zealand School of Food & Wine in Auckland.

The theme for the evening will be **"Top Drops under \$25"** Having such a well established expert introducing good wines in the more affordable range will be welcomed by members. More next month, in the meantime put in your diary.

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## 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.

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## "Have you Heard"

*I have decided to move away from wine jokes this month. Editor's privilege you understand. I came across an item on "lexophiles", a play on words, and decided I would try a few.*

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's really good, I just can't put it down.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, then it dawned on me.

I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop anytime.

A thief who stole a calendar got 12 months.

A will is a dead giveaway.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

He had a photographic memory but it was never fully developed.

Police were summoned to a day-care centre where a three year old was resisting a rest.

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## In the News – NZ Wine to be showcased in new podcast series. *Drinks Business Staff – February 2019*

The Industry body, New Zealand Winegrowers has teamed up with podcast creator Lawrence Francis of "Interpreting Wine" in order to provide in depth coverage of its annual tasting.



The podcast series takes the form of seven episodes, featuring interviews with four winemakers and three regional masterclasses. The first episode was unveiled on 18 February with all seven released by 24 February.

The podcasts are available free of charge on major platforms including Spotify and iTunes. They will also be made available on the New Zealand Winegrowers website at a later date.

The episode schedule is as follows: episode one, Jamie Marfell, group winemaker at Pernod Ricard; episode two, Warren Gibson, winemaker at Trinity Hill; episode three, Sam Bennett, winemaker at Te Pa Wines; episode four, Kevin Judd, winemaker and owner at Greywacke; episode five, Rebecca Gibb MW, a masterclass on Central Otago, episode six, Ronan Sayburn MS and Kevin Judd, a masterclass on Marlborough; and episode seven, Rebecca Gibb MW, a masterclass on Hawke's Bay

Europe marketing manager at New Zealand Winegrowers, Chris Stroud, commented: "We were delighted when Lawrence approached us to cover our annual tasting on his podcast.

This series allows people who were not able to attend our tasting the opportunity to hear directly from the winemakers and learn from the regional masterclasses. We hope it brings a flavour of New Zealand to them."

Lawrence Francis, content director at Interpreting Wine added: "Podcasting is a versatile and effective tool for wine communication. I know farmers who listen to the show on their tractors and others who play it while driving or working off their wine calories in the gym. In September 2018 Ofcom found that half of UK podcast listeners are under 35 so I think it's an excellent way to connect with young wine drinkers."

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## Coming Events

**Wednesday 10 April 2019**  
Joelle Thompson

**Wednesday 8 May 2019**  
AGM

**Wednesday 12 June 2019**  
TBA



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