

The Cellar Club Inc



Established in 1980

August 2020 Newsletter

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FROM THE EDITOR

Last month we were finally able to hold the Club's AGM and it was well attended with 32 members and 1 guest present. If you would like to read the President's report, you will find this on the Club's website. Changes to note from the meeting:

- Robin Semmens was fare welled from the Committee and as newsletter Editor, although he stays in the Club
- Evelyn Dawson is the new Editor of the Newsletter
- Steve Eades is now not on the Committee either, but is still managing the Club's website
- Terry Friel joined the Committee

THIS MONTH: We are meeting as usual on 12 August at the Johnsonville Community Hall, Ground Floor for an 8pm start with:

CONFIDANT WINES

Providers of Fine Boutique Wines



CASA SANTOS LIMA

Confidant Wines is a small (boutique) local importer of Portuguese wines in Wellington distributing the well-regarded Casa Santos Lima winery and a range of notable NZ wineries that are available in selected retail outlets and a number of Wellington restaurants.

Victor Kattenbelt has been around the Wellington wine scene for a number of years and travels to Europe every year (even early 2020), for wine trade expos in France, Netherlands and Germany, and to visit his suppliers in Portugal.

Victor's Portuguese portfolio is extensive, and some of his wines this time round are new to his portfolio and we have decided to expand the tasting to **8 wines** for the tasting to do justice to his wide range and to celebrate our European tasting country of the year.

If you are interested in doing more reading on Casa Santos Lima winery, please click on the link here: <https://casasantoslima.com/pt>

The wines for the evening are:

- Y A Portuguese bubble - Casa Santos Bruto [NV] to begin the evening
- Y a Galodoro Rose 2018
- Y a (NZ) VK Gewurztraminer 2016
- Y a (NZ) Linden Estate Chardonnay 2018
- Y Then an array of 4 unique Portuguese reds
- Y - Bons Ventos 2017
- Y - Confidencial Red 2017
- Y - Valcatrina 2018
- Y and to finish a superb Alicante Bouschet premium red

The member door price will be \$15 and guest price \$18

LOOKING FORWARD

- September 9th – a tasting night with Alan Evans
- October 14th – Saint Clair Family Estate, Marlborough
- November 18th – Our 40th Anniversary dinner at Bellamy's (run by Logan Brown) at the Beehive
- December 9th – CoLab's Simon Bell – Fun with wine.

GLASSES ROSTER

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to be part of the Glasses Roster.

SCREWCAPS

Screwcaps are still very welcome, please bring these along to any Club meeting and leave them with Anne, remembering that the cause that benefits from this collection is Kidney Kids NZ and their families.

WINE NEWS

Two NZ vineyards make top 50 global list: Central Otago, Hawke's Bay estates crack top 20

A list of the world's 50 best vineyards for wine tourism has named a Central Otago and a Hawke's Bay estate as being among the best.

And those two Kiwi vineyards rank in the top 20 in the world in the list out today.

The global list of wine tourism destinations named Argentina's Zuccardi Valle de Uco in the top spot for the second year running.

Bodega Garzón in Uruguay was second for a consecutive year and Domäne Wachau in Austria jumped 16 places to claim third spot this year.

But Central Otago's Rippon, on the Wanaka-Mt Aspiring Rd, placed 13th and was also named the best vineyard in Australasia.

The Hawke's Bay's Craggy Range was 17th best on the list.

Last year, the biodynamic Rippon was in eighth place and Craggy Range was 11th.

The list said Rippon had "jaw-droppingly beautiful views from the shore of Lake Wanaka, stunningly sleek biodynamic wines" from winemaker Nick Mills and "precise, site-specific noble varieties of Pinot Noir, Riesling and Gewürztraminer".

"What makes Rippon one of the most desirable estates in the world to visit? The wines, the views and the people – in equal measure. Lake Wanaka, an ancient moraine lake, shimmering under the crystal light of a sunny Central Otago day must count as one of the most Instagrammable images on the planet. That Rippon maintains 15ha of vines in this immaculate landscape is wonder enough, but the quality and sense of place of its wholly estate-grown wines gives this little corner of heaven an extra special appeal," the citation said.

Burgundy-trained fourth-generation Mills and his team were praised along with the organic and biodynamic methods and intensive handwork on display.

"Rippon's cellar door is open for small group tastings by uncharged appointment throughout the year. Expect to enjoy an informal yet informed tasting of some of the best wines of Central Otago as you're guided through a selection of five or six Rippon wines by a switched-on member of the Rippon team, who will talk you through the farm, the family's history and, if you're game, the arcane world of biodynamics," the list said.

On the 17th-ranked Craggy Range, the list said it was in a "stunning location in the shadow of Te Mata Peak, luxury boutique accommodation; award-winning restaurant". It cited winemaker: Julian Grounds and said wines were "everything from aromatic whites to Bordeaux blends, and terroir Syrahs and Chardonnays.

"Over the past 20 years, Terry and Mary Peabody have expended every possible effort to make Craggy Range an exceptional visitor experience. Whether it's the cellar door, inspired by some of the Napa Valley's leading wineries, the award-winning restaurant with 360-degree views of the local landscape, or Craggy Range's exceptional boutique accommodation, expect nothing but the best in this beautiful little corner of Hawke's Bay," the list said of that operation established in 1998.

"When it came to establishing their vineyards, from the off Terry and Mary pursued an innovative multi-regional approach, focusing on the Gimblett Gravels in Hawke's Bay, ideally suited to high-quality reds including Syrah, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon and Te Muna Rd in Martinborough - better for Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc - to produce a range of wines that speak eloquently of their place," the list said.

"On a typical cellar visit, former New Zealand sommelier of the year Michael Bancks greets guests at the door and begins the tour in the main cellar building, Sophia, where you learn the history of Craggy Range. Then it's on to the subterranean barrel hall, The Quarry, where you will taste from the estate's unreleased prestige collection wines still in barrel.

"From there, the tour moves on to the restaurant garden in the shadow of Te Mata peak. At the award-winning Craggy Range Restaurant, head chef Casey McDonald has devised a menu inspired by the elements and produce abundant in Hawke's Bay. Finally, it's on to the sun terrace to enjoy a guided tasting of Craggy Range's diverse multi-region range, with a variety of flight options available to suit each guest's tastes," the citation said.

The world's best vineyards list is based on nominations from a voting academy made up of more than 500 wine experts, sommeliers and travel correspondents from around the world. It

aims to raise the profile of wine tourism and encourage travellers to enjoy wine-related experiences globally.

LOCAL WINE NEWS

WINETOPIA 2020 in WELLINGTON – *hosted by Lemongrass productions*

Winetopia ticket link: <https://www.ticketmaster.co.nz/winetopia-tickets/artist/2515960>

Dates: **9 & 10 October**

To be held at the TSB Arena

Session times:

- Session 1: Friday 9 Oct (5pm – 8.30pm)
- Session 2: Sat 10 Oct (12pm – 3.30pm)
- Session 3: Sat 10 Oct (4.30pm – 8pm)

INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENT:

- More than 50 of New Zealand's best wineries
- A full schedule of tastings, talks and new experiences
- This is your chance to immerse yourself in the New Zealand wine scene and celebrate the growers and winemakers that have put this country on the vinous map
- **NEW TO 2020:** 'Wine Blind' tastings and your chance to sample some ultra-premium wines (these wines are usually found upwards of \$100 per bottle) with our new 'Golden Coin' currency
- Masterclasses with Bob Campbell (MW) and Joelle Thomson in Wellington
- Egmont St Eatery will also have a pop-up restaurant within the event
- Local band: Super Bad Soul Section will also round out the last hour of the show

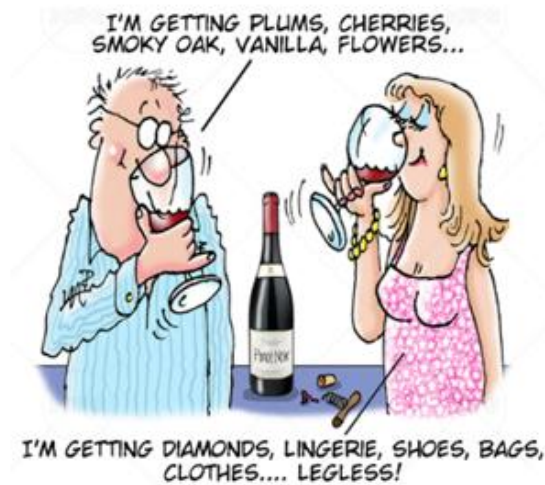
For your group at Cellar Club, I've also thrown in a 10% discount which can be applied to the website at Check Out: **"treehugger10"**



Amy Zhou
Brand & Campaign Manager
022 394 8093
L5, 44 Anzac Avenue, Auckland
lemongrassproductions.co.nz



WINE Humour



CLUB CONTACTS

President

Murray Jaspers

Murray.jaspers@gmail.com

479 3191

Vice President & Membership

Anne Megget

ammegget@gmail.com

Secretary

Jenny Jebson

Jenny.jebson@gmail.com

Editor

Evelyn Dawson

59evelyndawson@gmail.com

Club Address & Treasurer

C/-Wayne Kennedy

17 Stonefield Place

Johnsonville, Wellington 6037

Wayne.Kennedy@iag.co.nz

Club Website

www.cellarclub.co.nz

**Bank Account
for Internet Banking
06 0541 0056031 00**