

The Cellar Club Inc



Established in 1980

March 2021 Newsletter

THIS MONTH -

8pm Wednesday 10th March

Hawkes Ridge Wines

Presented by Douglas Haynes

Winemaker and Viticulturist

Door Price \$11, Guests \$15



Hawkes Ridge Wine Estate is a family-owned Boutique Cellar Door, Vineyard, Winery and Olive Grove located in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand.

Their name and logo were chosen to symbolise the contour of their property and the Hawks that soar along the ridge formed by the ancient Ngaruroro River, as depicted above.

Hawkes Ridge encourages wine drinkers to 'try something different.' Along with the more well-known varieties Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris they produce lesser known varieties Viognier, Semillon and Tempranillo.

The "something different" wines for the evening are:

- Y C'est beau to start off.
- Y Deux Blancs
- Y Viognier
- Y Rosado
- Y Pinot Noir
- Y Syrah
- Y Tempranillo
- Y Late harvest



PLEASE NOTE: QR Code

When you arrive at our tastings you will now find that the club has its own QR code to assist you keeping track of where you have been. Please use that if you have that phone capability. Thank you.

2021 Events Coming Up:

- 🍷 **April:** Del Mundo – Wines from around the world
- 🍷 **May:** AGM
- 🍷 **June:** Mahi Wines (Marlborough)

Looking Back

January:

Our Club year started off in the same fabulous way that it usually does, with our annual BBQ held at Derek's place – thanks Derek!

Helped by the magnificent cooking done excellently by Richard and Wayne – *as witnessed in this photo.*

Forty club members attended and the mixing, conversations, joviality and general socialising went down well.

Everyone enjoyed the fare of Salmon, Angel Bay burgers and sausages, together with the salads and desserts brought by the members. It was a proverbial feast that was needed to help soak up the huge variety of wines that accumulated on Derek's outdoor bench. The 20+year bottle of Penfolds 389 was the highlight for many, but its presence did re-enforce the need for everyone to always take a small tasting at the annual BBQ and AGM.

The weather came to the party too with the sun unrelentingly beaming down on the gathering. A great time was had by all 🍷



<http://member.cellarclub.co.nz/gallery/2021-2/>

Delayed Cellar Club 40th year celebration Wine Trip:

It was a brilliant day weather wise, to travel via train, then bus to Martinborough. The three vineyards that were organised for us to visit, thanks to Gayl's marvellous efforts, were Nga Waka, Tiwaiwaka and Grava/Alana.

We were divided into three groups, with each group assigned to two of the three vineyards to taste at – for ease of the smaller cellar tasting rooms, and the exuberance of the people attending ☿

Each of the vineyards was fully welcoming and at the Grava tasting room, if you asked, you could taste the Alana version of the wine being tasted, which was great if you were



tasting with a partner.

At **Grava/Alana** where Lunar are the new owners, the vineyards brands are kept very separate. Grava has its vines on the Lake Ferry Road which has gravelly/alluvial soil and Alana's wines are made from vineyards further in around Martinborough. The wines tasted were:

- ☿ 2018 Sauvignon Blanc – *12 months in oak/12 months in barrel fermented*
- ☿ 2020 Alana Pinot Gris
- ☿ 2016 Riesling [*also tasted the 2016 Alana Riesling*]
- ☿ 2017 Alana Pinot Noir
- ☿ 2018 Pinot Noir
- ☿ 2017 Late Harvest – *Sauvignon Blanc harvested mid-May*

At **Nga Waka** – where the new American owners are stuck in Nevada - the wines tasted were:

- Y 2020 Sauvignon Blanc – *planted in 1988/89, the first wines made in 1993*
- Y 2019 Chardonnay – *fermented in oak barrels for 10 months*
- Y 2019 Rose – *from Pinot Noir grapes*
- Y 2018 Pinot Noir

At **Tiwaiwaka** the tastings were conducted under the branches of a lovely oak tree. The wines tasted were:

- Y 2020 Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Blend – *an excellent surprise to start with*
- Y 2019 Semillon
- Y 2018 Rose
- Y 2020 Chardonnay
- Y 2018 Pinot Noir
- Y 2019 Cabbage Tree Pinot Noir – *the second favoured tasting for group B*
- Y 2019 Merlot



Orders were good for all vineyards and many have been delivered direct to members already, with the delivery of the smaller lots being arranged by Wayne and Murray in the coming days.

The bus driver, Craig, was brilliant, and was always where he was needed Y

Our tasting and lunch at Coney's was entertaining, with one of the owners Tim Coney regaling us with his stories of the vineyard, his band and his love of opera (which is where the musical names for the wines comes from), and life in general in the Wairarapa.

To accompany the wines each table as served with a small platter of food. The wines tasted during this session were:

- Y 2020 Rallentando Riesling
- Y 2018 Riesling
- Y 2020 Ragtime Riesling
- Y Piccolo Pinot Gris
- Y 2019 Foxy Lady Syrah Rose'
- Y 2016 Reserve Pizzicato Noir – *a gold medal winner made to go with food*
- Y 2015 Que Sera Syrah
- Y 2020 Ramblin' Rose Pinot Noir
- Y 2020 Sticky Fingers Riesling Dessert – *double gold award winning wine*

The lunch was well received when served.

The train trip to the Wairarapa and back was an added highlight for everyone, with many having never travelled that line before.

Thanks to Gayl and Wayne for your efforts in making this event such a memorable occasion.

Finally, if you are interested in viewing the various photos taken on this wine trip, they are on the club's web site. Click on this link to get there cellarclub.co.nz/40trip

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

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