

The Cellar Club Inc



Established in 1980

November 2022 Newsletter

Fun with Bubbles Evening

Wednesday 9th November

Members \$18



Guests \$22

From weekend brunches to happy hours at home, popping a bottle good time. However, knowing what to seek out, is key.

housewarming parties to casual of bubbles generally promises a you're drinking, and which bubbles

This month the club intends to present a number of different wine styles of quite a diverse quality in the hope that we can make your Christmas buying a little easier and more informed.

And our plan is to do so in a number of different ways, some of which will be with nibbles whilst others may require a little deduction on your part to decide what is in your glass,

The wines are currently being sourced but our plan is to include wines from around the world that will reflect the varying degrees of dryness/sweetness that are typical of the areas being tasted, These are likely to include a Prosecco, a Cava, a Champagne and several Méthode Traditionnelle wines from elsewhere.

We don't want to say much more for fear of spoiling the surprise, But the slightly higher door price does reflect some of the quality you will be tasting as well as some of the additional costs in bringing this tasting to you.

We look forward to having you join us for this fun evening with bubbles.



Looking Ahead

Y **December** – End of Year Celebration – *to be held at Istana Malaysia, 1-5 Allen St, Wgtn*

This will be an evening to remember: Club bubbles on arrival, shared meal dishes - some new/some old favourites, b.y.o. wines to share – perhaps try and match your bottle with Malaysian food – Gertz, Riesling, a Rose', Pinot Noir or a Cabernet Sauvignon.

This is the 30th year of operation for Istana Malaysia, with Danny the owner/chef still on board. Everything is prepared fresh in the kitchen each day, guaranteeing quality and enjoyment.

We have planned no dessert for the evening, but please bring your favourite dessert wine, as this will complement both the food and finish the evening off nicely.

PLEASE NOTE: This will be on our usual Wednesday night, **14th December** -not on a Saturday, arriving at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Cost is \$50 per head *incl. GST and corkage*.

Y **January** – The Club BBQ, a great way to kick the 2023 tasting year off. Details to follow

Committee Musings

The Club is an Incorporated Society and the Act that governs such bodies is currently being reviewed and there are number of amendments proposed. It is not expected that these changes will have much impact on the Club's Constitution or operation, but the outcome will be known only once the details have been finalised. If there is a need for Resolutions to effect changes to the Constitution, they will be put to members in the usual way. Rest assured, the Committee is keeping a close watch on developments and will keep Members informed. *Richard Taylor*

Looking Back - A panel discussion on NZ Rosé

28 Club members chose to attend this diverse and interesting pink evening, but those that did were pleasantly surprised by most of the wines tasted, educated and now appreciative of **Rosés**.

From when to drink **Rosé**, regional styles, the variety of grapes now used for the various wines, from the opening bubbly, everyone connected with and enjoyed the tastings. Opening with a Toi Toi Sparkling **Rosé** which comprised of a mixture of Riesling and Merlot through to the last McArthur Ridge Lilico Pinot **Rosé** the diverseness of the 21st century **Rosés** was indeed on display. **Rosé** is a style of wine, not a grape variety.

The wines were selected from wine sites and supermarkets and all were below the \$20 mark, so can be purchased and enjoyed by everyone next time they're doing their shopping or computer browsing. The wines we sampled during the evening were:

- Y Toi Toi Sparkling **Rosé** NV – Riesling and Merlot blend from Marlborough
- Y 2021 Giesen Estate Riesling **Blush** – from Marlborough and Waipara
- Y 2022 ME by Matahiwi Estate – Pinot Noir from Masterton *this was thought to be the best value for money in wines*
- Y 2021 Haha Hawkes Bay **Rosé** – Merlot and Malbec from Hastings and Bridge Pa *this is a Bordeaux blend with added Cab Sauv and Cab Franc*
- Y 2020 Left Field Moon Shell Moth **Rosé** – Arneis, Pinotage and Merlot from Hastings
- Y 2020 Middle Earth Pinot Muenier – a faux pas for the evening, turned out to be a red! A Pinot Muenier - *this was enjoyed by everyone none the less and will go on to be purchased*
- Y 2019 Spade Oak Voysey Blonde **Rosé** – Tempranillo, Albarino, Syrah, Viognier and St Laurent from Gisborne - *this was indeed Blonde! And was a special blend as this vineyard has been on-sold since this mixture was bottled*
- Y 2019 McArthur Ridge Lilico Pinot **Rosé** – Pinot Noir – *from Central Otago*



Edmond de Rothschild Heritage Wines buys Otago vineyard, its second in NZ

by Melanie Carroll Stuff website

French wine producer Edmond de Rothschild Heritage Wines has bought Central Otago vineyard Akarua Estate, which it hopes will eventually produce 60,000 bottles a year of premium organic pinot noir.

Bordeaux based Edmond de Rothschild Heritage Wines received Overseas Investment Office approval to buy the 52-hectare estate, with 34.5ha of vines, in Central Otago's Bannockburn, along with the Akarua Estate vineyard from New Zealand company the Skeggs Group.

Ariane de Rothschild, president of the Edmond de Rothschild Group which also owns [Marlborough vineyard Rimapere](#), said the region's soil was world-famous for its exceptional growing conditions for [pinot noir](#).

The terroir, or environment, at Bannockburn was on par with the Burgundy region in Eastern France, she said.

"The addition of our second New Zealand winery is part of our wider strategy to develop a portfolio of premium international wines from exceptional terroirs.

"Central Otago's international reputation for pinot noir provides a unique opportunity for us to complete our range and move into the production of organic wines - one of the fastest growing categories," she said.

Winemaker Ann Escalle, who was technical director at Rimapere before moving to Akarua Estate, said the soil had all the elements they were looking for, and the slope was gentle enough for the vines to be able to develop well.

The region's climate was known for its extremes, both hot and cold, but the site was not too harsh. At the same time, it was dry and windy enough to keep diseases away.

"We think that what we have here at Akarua is really top potential, and we can bring it to the world. We would like to produce some of the best pinot noir in the world because it's possible," she said.

The vineyard, which produced about 80% pinot noir along with small amounts of chardonnay and riesling, was not organic yet but work was starting straight away on converting it.

When fully converted and organically certified, the vineyard would produce more than 60,000 bottles of organic wines annually for the international and domestic markets.

The wines would continue to be produced under the Akarua brand. The Akarua Estate vineyard was founded in 1996 by former Dunedin mayor Sir Clifford Skeggs.

Skeggs Group managing director David Skeggs said the new owners had significant global influence and networks and would bring new opportunities for the Central Otago wine industry.

The Skeggs Group would continue to produce its Rua brand from its 90 hectares of established vineyards in the Bannockburn and Pisa sub-regions.

The nine vineyards owned by Edmond de Rothschild Heritage in France, Spain, South Africa, Argentina and New Zealand produced 3.5 million bottles of wine a year.

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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