

The Cellar Club Inc



Established in 1980

April 2023 Newsletter

New Zealand and Portuguese Wines With Victor Kattenbelt from Confidant Wines

Wednesday 12th April, 8pm Start

Door Price: Members \$14 / Guests \$18

If you drilled down from New Zealand through the centre of the earth, where would you come out Iberia, and if it is not in Spain, it would be the wine heart of Portugal. Therefore, there must be something special than links the viticulture and the wines of our two countries.

Victor from Confidant Wines will present a mix of special boutique wines from New Zealand and some wonderful new wines from Portugal and several repeated favourites. This is your chance to try both some new varieties and new vineyards, and also to support one Hawkes Bay vineyard (with a great sparkling Rose') that was impacted after the devastation of Cyclone Gabrielle. The evening will take a small journey from Hawkes Bay to Nelson to Waipara in North Canterbury; and then to Portugal with an array of blended wines and to finish, a Tawny Port. Be prepared to be impressed.

We will see the influence of terroir in Waipara wines, the influence of climate on Nelson wine, what makes Hawkes Bay special and some delicious red styles from award winning Casa Santos Lima vineyard in Portugal. The Portuguese selection will focus on new vintages and some previous wines that were very popular and still available. Do you remember that Waipara Pinot Blanc? Something new, something known, gold medals, new vintages, comparisons and varieties to experience. This array of wines has been specially selected we believe to suit the members' preferences for this tasting.

In summary, we will kick off with a Linden (NZ) Sparkling Rosé, followed by a Portuguese Rosé and two classic NZ white wines, Riesling and a Viognier or Chardonnay. We will then compare the new award winning Portuguese Confident red and a blended Mosaico red with a NZ Pinot Noir. We will conclude with a delicious Tawny Port from the home of all great ports.

We look forward to enjoying these wines with you.

Please remember your tasting glasses 🍷

Let's Look Out for Each Other

As always, please if you are feeling unwell, do not attend the evening's presentation. Thanks

Looking Back – Forrest Wines with Carlos Rojas Stiven

This was an evening of tasting grape varieties from around the world but produced right here in NZ. Adding to this international flavour was our presenter Carlos, who was born in Chile and came to NZ in 2010 and now resides in Marlborough with his wife and daughters. Carlos informed us that Forrest are now second-generation owned and operated and that they loved working with a great number of different grape varieties .

As a reminder of the wines we sampled during the evening:

- The Doctors Riesling 2021 - *German style wine*
- Forrest Albarino 2022 - *Spanish/Portuguese grape variety*
- Forrest Chenin Blanc 2022 - *French/now South African grape variety*
- Forrest Gruner Veltliner 2022 - *Austrian grape variety*
- Tatty Bogler Pinot Noir 2020 – *Burgundy French grape style*
- Forrest Lagrein 2020 – *Piedmont Italy grape variety*
- Forrest Botrytised Riesling 2018

Forrest has 150ha approximately of grapes plants in Marlborough, with additional plantings in the Waitaki Valley, with the latter having limestone ground, similar to Burgundy conditions.

70% of their Sauvignon Blanc goes overseas each year, with 100 cases to Waitrose per year!

Notably, most of their Forrest Botrytised Riesling, with a honey/marmalade taste - is made for and sold to Air NZ. So when COVID19 hit NZ, the unwanted stock was stocked by NZ based stockists – a bonus for the NZ public.

There were 15 orders from Club members for this tasting, evidence of just how much this tasting was enjoyed by our members. Thank you to Carlos and Forrest Wines for your support of our club.

Committee Musings

1. Your committee continues to review the way in which it operates, particularly in respect of trying to work out which tasks need to remain with the committee, and which can be delegated. This review is timely, given that two of the committee are stepping aside for the coming year and we need to ensure that we have a good match of skills to match with the roles being vacated. This process will only work if members continue to provide us with their support when asked.
Thanks.
2. We also continue to be delighted and thankful of everyone's help with set-up of the hall for our gatherings, and then the pack down at the end of the evening..

But please remember: We can't arrive to do the setting up activities any earlier than 7:30pm as we interrupt the cleaner(s) schedule, who have the hall until that time.

Looking Ahead:

- Y **10th May** – Cellar Club AGM – The AGM Agenda is being emailed with this newsletter. We would ask you to note that if you have any Notices of Motion, these need to be in the hands of the Secretary – Jenny Jebson – by 19th April 2023.
- Y **June** – Askerne, Hawkes Bay
- Y **July** – Club Dinner, details tbc

Wine News – Challenging Harvest Off to Good Start

by Julie Asher

Feb 28th 2023, Otago Daily Times

A classic Central Otago harvest season began yesterday with the first fruit plucked from the vines at Bendigo.

Quartz Reef winemaker Rudi Bauer said the harvest looked set to be a good one but would have its challenges as unsettled weather during flowering in early December resulted in uneven fruit set.

Daily decisions would be made about which fruit to pick but overall the average yield looked to be very good, Mr Bauer said.

Harvest had started three to four days earlier than last year so it was a normal season. The spring had been very good with good rainfall until January when it became very dry.

There was around 50mm of very welcome rain last week.

A forecast of cool nights and warm days was exactly what the winemaker wanted for the cool climate wines such as the Pino's, Chardonnay, sparkling and Gewurztraminer wines that did so well in Central Otago.

He had plenty of labour available and there was no sign of infection in the grapes so it promised a good solid season.

Last year's white wines had been very well received and the Pino's would be bottled after harvest.

More winemakers in Central Otago were expanding into organic production.

While Central Otago wine made up about 3.5% of the country's total production, their reputation and quality meant they were highly regarded.

"We punch way above our weight," Mr Bauer said.

All the winegrowers in the region were mindful of the losses suffered by their North Island counterparts following Cyclone Gabrielle.

All were donating what they could to the Hawke's Bay and Gisborne winegrowers associations.

It would be some time before the scale of damage could be assessed but it would be massive and include machinery destroyed by having silt through it as well as vines which could take years to replace.

AND for those that travel to Australia to enjoy their wines:



More than 50 firefighters needed to combat Hunter winery blaze

By [Olivia Ireland](#)-Sydney Morning Herald
March 24, 2023

A Hunter region winery was engulfed by flames on Thursday night, taking more than 50 firefighters about four-and-a-half hours to put it out.

NSW Rural Fire Service received calls regarding a possible fire at Tamburlaine Organic Wines on McDonalds Road in

Pokolbin about 9.30pm.

Inspector Ben Shepherd said when crews drove towards the winery they could see a large glow from the area and called in more firefighters. "When crews arrived, one of the main structures was already alight," he said.

"It took crews until after 2am and required more than 50 firefighters to put out the flames."

There were no reported injuries, however Shepherd said the main function area was "basically destroyed". "It was a very large building, and when you're getting fires in more rural areas water can be an issue."

While there was a dam onsite, the structure was already well alight as crews were trying to relay water quickly and went into defensive firefighting.

Investigators will begin assessing the cause of the fire on Friday, which Shepherd said may take the next day or two.

Tamburlaine Organic Wines' Hunter winery was purchased in 1985 and centres on creating organic, vegan-friendly and biodegradable wines.

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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