

# The Cellar Club Inc



*Established in 1980*

## *October 2023 Newsletter*

### *Maison Vauron 'Le Tour'*

*French Wine Merchants Established 1999*

*Dedicated to bringing the best of French wine and food to New Zealand*

*Presented by Scott Hurrell*

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 8pm Start**

**Door Price: Members \$18 / Guests \$22**

## Bonjour ! Welcome to a slice of France

For our newer members, Maison Vauron is a French Wine Merchant company set up in Auckland in 1999 **to bring the best of French wine and food to New Zealand**. They have presented their wines to our club several times previously and we are very lucky to have them do so again.

The company resulted from a visit to NZ in 1991 by Jean-Christophe Poizat who wanted to learn more about NZ wines. Jean-Christophe is the great-great-grandson of Antoine Vauron who in 1879 set up a wine merchant business in Saint Etienne, 50kms southwest of Lyon, the city scheduled to host the All Blacks last 2 pool games in the 2023 RWC.

Six months after arriving JC [as he is often called] would meet his future wife and then some years later, his business partners, Peter & Scott. The importance of family is central to Maison Vauron's operation, with siblings of JC and Peter involved in the business, as are the partners of JC and Scott.



Every year Maison Vauron likes to return to France to taste the wines and try the cheeses, meet their producers and most importantly, make new discoveries. This year, wine mentors, Jean-Christophe and Will are also attending the Rugby World Cup, hosted by France.

As a result of their absence, Scott [responsible for trade sales] has agreed to step up to the batting plate and will lead us through a tour of French vineyards that will reflect various grapes and wine styles.

Scott is well qualified to present these wines, as he previously trained for 11 years as a wine maker in the Bordeaux area of France.

The wines to be tasted are:

- 🍷 Monmousseau Brut "Etoile" NV (Loire Valley/Chenin Blanc, Ugni Blanc)
- 🍷 Chateau le Cedre Blandine le Blanc 2021 (Colombard/ Ugni blanc)
- 🍷 Cave de Lugny Macon-Villages 2021 (Burgundy/Chardonnay)
- 🍷 Château Roubine Cotes de Provence Rosé 2022 (Provence/Grenache, syrah, Cinsault)
- 🍷 Burgaud Beaujolais Villages 2022 (Beaujolais/Gamay)
- 🍷 Vieux Lazaret Chateauneuf du Pape 2020 (Rhône Valley/Grenache, Syrah)
- 🍷 Château Baulac-Dodijos Sauternes 2020 (Bordeaux/Sémillon)

We look forward to seeing you next Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>.

## *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 - Clearview Tasting*

The evening was well attended and our presenter was Tim Turvey, winemaker, vineyard owner and the person who had returned tanned from Australia the day before, after planting a pineapple plantation.

Tim regaled us with the history of how and why he set up the vineyard, built the house, established a native tree nursery and the expansions through to other regions of New Zealand for the different grapes he wanted to be able to use. He has 28 grape varieties that they work with at the moment, plus a 100-year-old Olive tree that was planted by the original property owners, Vidals.

He told us about how the 'White Caps' range got their name, simply by white caps being the only colour available at the time for the new wines.

A special treat for us all was the extra tasting of their 2022 Reserve Chardonnay with a big buttery nose and taste, that came from a difficult vintage, so is in short supply.

The evening was finished off with their Sea Red Dessert wine, a nice sweet touch to finish with.

A reminder of the wines we tasted during the evening:

- 🍷 2021 Clearview Sparkling Blush *arrival wine*
- 🍷 2023 Clearview Coastal Pinot Gris
- 🍷 2022 Clearview White Caps Chardonnay
- 🍷 2020 Clearview Reserve Semillon
- 🍷 2021 Clearview Martinborough Pinot Noir
- 🍷 2021 Clearview Cape Kidnappers Syrah
- 🍷 Clearview Sea Red Dessert Wine [500ml]



## *Committee Musings*

It was great to have everyone help with the tables and chairs at previous meetings and taking the same down at the end. Also taking the spittoons/water jugs/cracker plates back to the kitchen. Could we please continue this new routine.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *We can't arrive to do the setting up activities any earlier than 7:30pm as we interrupt the cleaner(s) schedule, the cleaners are in the hall until 7:30pm.*

## Looking Ahead:

- Y **November** – Bubbles Evening, tbc
- Y **December** – Christmas Dinner, tbc
- Y **January** - TBC

## Tasting Glasses

A friendly reminder that all members are expected to bring their own tasting glasses to our meetings, unless otherwise advised to do so.

This said, your club does provide glasses on the night for guests, presenters and for a member who does forget [it does happen].

The Club does have glasses for sale at \$18 for 6 if you would like to buy some. Please order from [waynekennedy51@gmail.com](mailto:waynekennedy51@gmail.com).

Or, you can purchase your own from the likes of Moore Wilsons who do stock the 215ml XL tasting glasses used by most of us. But the choice of glass and glass shape etc is yours.

## Wine News

### River of red wine flows through streets of Portuguese village after tanks burst

*Nick Squires of The Telegraph 09:13, Sep 12 2023*

It is enough to make a connoisseur weep – the sight of millions of litres of red wine flooding down the streets of a [Portuguese](#) village.

The freak occurrence took place when two huge wine tanks burst at a distillery in Sao Lourenco do Bairro in the centre of the country.

Bemused locals watched as an estimated 2.2 million litres – equivalent to the water held in an Olympic-sized swimming pool – cascaded through the village on Sunday, swirling around street signs and parked cars.

Video footage showed the torrent of red wine flowing down a slope and around a bend in the road.

The wine flooded the basement of one house, though much of it was diverted into fields, Portuguese media reported.



*The tanks contained 2.2 million litres of wine - enough to fill an Olympic-sized pool.*

There were fears that it could contaminate a nearby river, but local authorities said they had managed to prevent that from happening.

The distilling company, Levira, apologised for the damage and said it took full responsibility for the unusual

accident.

“The causes of the incident are being investigated by the competent authorities. We are fully committed to covering the costs associated with cleaning up and repairing the damage, with teams

ready to act immediately. We are committed to resolving this situation as quickly as possible,” the company said.

‘The miracle of Settecani’: The incident came three years after locals in a village in Italy were delighted when they found that red wine, rather than water, started pouring out of their taps.

The bizarre water-into-wine mix-up happened in the village of Settecani in the northern region of Emilia-Romagna.

The local winery, Cantina Settecani, is connected to the public water supply, but a valve malfunction during maintenance work meant that instead of water being piped into its bottling plant, sparkling Lambrusco started flowing in the other direction.

“[Our] staff intervened fairly quickly, much to the disappointment of the locals, some of whom had started bottling it,” Luisa Malaguti, a representative of the company, told The Telegraph at the time.

“People are talking about it as ‘the miracle of Settecani’ and comparing it to the story of Jesus turning water into wine.”

The reality was more prosaic. “The problem was traced to the malfunction of a valve. The pressure of the wine was greater than that of the water and the wine flooded into the public water network,” Ms Malaguti said.

## The surprising story behind the world’s most perfect wine glass

*Stuff: Victoria Moore, Aug 31 2023*

Last summer, 67 Pall Mall, the private members’ club for [wine lovers](#), sent out what must surely rank as one of the most first-world-problem apologies of all time. ‘We have used Zalto glassware exclusively in the club since opening,’ it began, before explaining that, because of production delays, the club had been ‘forced’ to put ‘alternative glassware’ on the tables. The horror!

### *Wine glasses can make all the difference to a good glass of vino.*

But that’s how people get about Zalto. In the 20 or so years in which they’ve been around, these handblown Austrian glasses have acquired a cult-like international following. They are used for service in 19 out of France’s 29 three-star [Michelin restaurants](#). Most sommeliers and wine writers I know – including me – have at least a couple of the huge, extremely thin, straight-sided Zalto Denk’Art Universals (right) in the cupboard.



Along with the Rolex Oyster, Zaltos were one of six ‘perfect things’ to be given an ‘unimprovable award’ by The Wall Street Journal, which I suppose makes the price tag – the ‘use for everything’ Universal is now about £50 (NZ\$106) a pop – look almost accessible.

I recently met up with Zalto’s GM, Christoph Hinterleitner, in London. He told me a key moment in Zalto’s rise came in 2007 when the German current affairs magazine Stern tested out a bunch of [wine glasses](#) in a blind tasting and Zalto took first place in three categories. Wait – a blind tasting of stemware? How does that work? ‘You had to wear an eye mask, and thick glove, like a skiing glove, so you couldn’t feel or see anything.’

In London, I saw Zalto gain traction in the tasting equivalent of word of mouth: you try one, you buy one – or put a pair on your Christmas list. One influencer named her dog Zalto. The Universal

became a kind of gold standard. It altered glass fashion. The overall size and shape became familiar even to those who don't pay Zalto prices (see the Large Wine Glass at Zara Home, £9.99).

Hinterleitner explained that it takes a team of eight to make each glass. But pinning down the story of how Zalto glasses came into being proved impossible as the Hinterleitners, who now run the company, and Kurt Zalto, whose family originally owned it, agree on almost nothing.

Hinterleitner tells me the 'vision' belongs to the late Father Hans Denk, incongruously a Catholic priest and influential Austrian wine lover. Denk, he said, felt he was 'missing the perfect glass' for the Wachau Grüner Veltliner he loved to drink, believed there must be an alternative to the 'traditional egg-shape' and created the Zalto range in collaboration with Kurt Zalto.

Kurt Zalto, who no longer has any involvement with Zalto Glass and left the company over a decade ago, selling them the right to use his name, says he alone conceived of and drew the thin, straight-sided glasses. He credits an Austrian feng shui expert, Thomas Schwäbisch, with one key input – the use of the angle of the tilt of the earth's axis in the design.

But he says when Father Denk – one, he says, of many people to give feedback – came in the picture, the designs were 'already like they are now', and only 'minor changes' followed. In short, behind one of the world's most loved and perfect glasses, is a very ugly mess.

## *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.

## *Club Information*

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### **Club Website**

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*Home Improvements in mind?*

