

The Cellar Club Inc



Established in 1980

March 2024 Newsletter

Pegasus Bay, Waipara Valley

Presented by Ed Donaldson, Marketing Manager

www.pegasusbay.com

Wednesday 13th March, 8pm

Door Price: Members \$16 / Guests \$20

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR GLASSES



The Donaldson family have been seriously involved in wine since the early 1970's and were pioneers of local grape growing and wine making.

Associate Professor and Consultant Neurologist, Ivan Donaldson, first became interested in wine when his girlfriend at the time, Christine, gave him a book simply called 'Wine', penned by English industry legend, Hugh Johnson.

After travelling to explore the wine regions of Europe, Ivan return home to plant one of the first vineyards of modern times in Canterbury, and to marry Christine, who has been an integral part of the Pegasus Bay story.

The first vineyard was a hobby with Ivan making wine in the garage at home on the weekends. In-between seeing patients at his private practice in the evening and after his shifts at the public hospital. He also started writing a wine column in the local newspaper and was a judge in numerous wine shows around the globe.

By the mid-1980s Ivan and Chris had decided there was definitely a future for wine making in Canterbury. They went on to plant Pegasus Bay with the help of their four sons, who have all ended up working in key role within the business.

Ed will be presenting a selection of wines from their premium Pegasus Bay label as well as some from their Main Divide collection:

- Y Main Divide Rosé 2023 - Welcome wine
- Y Pegasus Bay 2021 Sauvignon Blanc
- Y Pegasus Bay 2020 Chardonnay
- Y Pegasus Bay 2023 Bel Canto 'Dry Riesling'
- Y Main Divide 2021 Te Hau Pinot Noir

- Y Pegasus Bay 2020 Merlot Cabernet
- Y Pegasus Bay 2021 Finale 'Noble Semillon Sauvignon Blanc

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 –Riverby Estate with Kevin Courtenay

Kevin presented to us, with his views on the Marlborough history of wine growing, supplying and the present, as well as his predictions for the future of the area. All very informative and well received, leading to more than a bit of discussion by the members present. An intriguing evening of information and wine tasting.

A reminder of the tastings we had during the evening:

- Y Riverby Rose' 2023 – *Welcome wine* – gold medal winner at NZ International Wine Show
- Y Cicada Gewurztraminer 2023 - gold medal winner at NZ International Wine Show
- Y Riverby Reserve Chardonnay 2022
- Y Riverby Sauvignon Blanc 2023 - gold medal winner at NZ International Wine Show
- Y Riverby Gruner Veltliner 2022
- Y Riverby OVB 2021
- Y Riverby Reserve Pinot Noir 2020
- Y Riverby Noble Riesling 2019 – multiple award winner

As well as the above, we were offered a small tasting of two of Riverby's Rieslings:

- Y Sal's Block Riesling 2023 – this was a dri-ish tippie with 20gm of sugar
- Y Eliza Riesling 2023 [blend of Riesling and sweet grapes] with 40gm of sugar

Both well received, depending on how sweet you like your wines. Kevin mentioned that most of his Rieslings go to the Scandinavian countries in Europe.

This tasting was clearly enjoyed, as evidenced by the 141 bottles ordered from Kevin. Well done.

Looking Ahead

- Y **April** – Gold Medal Wines from the New Zealand International Wine Show, hosted by Michelle Fraser (Clearview Wines and Wine Judge). This tasting includes a number of trophy wines and so is a best of the best tasting, not to be missed.
- Y **May** – AGM

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. We need to ensure that we have a good match of skills to match with the roles being vacated and in relation to this your committee is looking for someone to take on the role of Secretary. This role is not arduous but includes attending the monthly committee meetings and taking minutes. The process of minute taking has largely been templated to lighten the load on the person in this role.
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.

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

Wine News - Wine deal secures Olympic Games spot for Marlborough Stuff News



Indevin founder Duncan McFarlane is thrilled the company is the official wine supplier of the New Zealand Olympic Committee.

Marlborough will be well-represented at this year's Olympic Games in Paris, France.

Indevin Group has announced it will be the official wine supplier of the New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC).

Indevin will provide its Villa Maria wines at all NZOC events around the globe, including those hosted at New Zealand House in Paris during the Olympic Games.

Indevin was started by Marlborough man Duncan McFarlane in 2003. In 20 years, it has grown to become New Zealand's largest wine company, with its 15 Valley winery - the company's largest - at Cloudy Bay, south of Blenheim. Today, it is mostly owned by Blenheim's Greg Tomlinson and his Tomlinson Group.

Indevin bought the Villa Maria brand, with its connections to Marlborough dating back to the 1980s, in 2021.

McFarlane, who plans to retire as chief executive of Indevin this year, said the company was thrilled with its partnership with the NZOC. "This is the pinnacle event for New Zealand's athletes and an opportunity for all New Zealanders to support the hard work and success of our team ... we're honoured to have Villa Maria contribute to the celebrations as our incredible athletes compete on the world stage."

McFarlane said Indevin and the NZOC were the perfect pairing.

"We share NZOC's ambition to deliver meaningful impact both within our own teams, and in the communities within which we live, work and play.

"As the official wine supplier of the NZOC, we look forward to raising a glass of Villa Maria to the success of New Zealand athletes and contributing to the vibrant spirit of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games."

NZOC chief executive Nicki Nicol said the NZOC was proud to welcome Indevin as an official supplier. "We're thrilled to be welcoming Indevin to our Olympic family at a really exciting time," Nicol said.

"Indevin is known for excellence in winemaking, and at the NZOC, excellence is what we stand for, so there's a really nice synergy between our brands and we look forward to promoting and showcasing their fantastic locally-made products."

Wine Tasting at Seifreds, Nelson

Seifried Family Winemakers are Nelson's oldest family-owned winery and is home to the internationally renowned *Sweet Agnes Riesling*.

We called into Seifried's whilst having a week with family in February to indulge in a tasting, and weren't alone in that instinct. There were plenty of German's sampling as well!

The wines we samples were:

- Y Aotea Sauvignon Blanc 2022 – strong passionfruit and nectarine on the nose and in the mouth
- Y Old Coach Road Rose' – blush colour, a mixture of Sauv Blanc/Malbec – smooth cherries and slightly dry

- Y Wurzer 2018 – which is a hybrid of Gewurztraminer and Muller-Thurgau, this was off dry with rose water in the mouth and green gage – a small cropper but nice to indulge in
- Y Winemakers Collection Barrique Fermented Chardonnay 2022, this has been in oak barrels for 20 months – definitely wood on the nose, smooth, light and not too strong on the palate, also good for cellaring for quite a while
- Y Seifried Zweigelt 2020 – this is a red grape variety originating in Herman’s homeland, Austria – blackberry and tree-ripened plums on the nose, with generous berry flavours and hints of liquorice. Goes well with venison for a main or plum tart for dessert
- Y Winemakers Collection ‘Sweet Agnes’ Riesling 2019 – this is their flagship range, with luscious stone-fruit, mandarin and zesty in the mouth, very drinkable. This could also be put away for up to 10 years.

This was well worth a visit, as we were treated really well and there was a good description of each wine and growing conditions. The tasting room had couches with a low table as well as the high bench with bar stools we sat at. They even have their own restaurant on site if you want to book for a meal.

\$141 Donated to Kidney Kids

Kidney Kids is a non-profit organisation established in 1990 to support children with kidney disease and/or urinary tract disorders and their whānau nationwide. As Starship Children’s Health is the main hospital for children with chronic kidney disease, this can mean lengthy periods away from home for the child and their parent/caregiver. During this time away, Kidney Kids aims to help alleviate the stress by offering emotional and practical support to families while their child receives specialised medical treatment.

Last December, Wayne collected another trailer load of screwcaps from Anne, to which he added 3 bags of crushed Aluminium cans provided by a friend of his. These were then taken to Wellington Scrap Metals in Ngauranga Gorge and redeemed for \$141 which was then donated to Kidney Kids.

So thank you everyone for bringing along your screwcaps and a special thank you to Anne for continuing to coordinate this activity.

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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