

# WINETALK

350

WINE CONNOISSEURS CLUB OF HAMILTON

August 2020

## Coming Functions

August 9	Georges Rd
Sept 13	Stonecroft
Oct 11	Bushmere Estate
Nov 8	
Dec ?	Xmas Function

What a brain testing night we had with the Options Night. We thought we knew everything about wine, however, as I said in the last WineTalk, we did at least know a red wine from a white wine so we are on our way to knowing the full story! Thank you to Cellar Master, Dave Edson for spending hours working out the quiz and the wines. Next year we promise we will all do better

Dave. (Don't want to brag, but I will - our table full of Eccentric Elves won).

## FOLEY WINES

I keep receiving emails from [Foley Wines](#) (along with dozens from other wineries) and couldn't work out who they were and where they were. They seem to have a series of wines available from all over the country but couldn't remember visiting Foley Wines anywhere or putting my email address there, so did a bit of research.

Foley Wines is a conglomerate of wineries owned by American millionaire Bill Foley. He has built a wine empire including highly prized producers throughout the USA in California, Oregon and Washington. Seeing the potential of New Zealand wines he has purchased [a collection of iconic wineries and brands from New Zealand's most acclaimed regions](#). He feels each region has a unique story to tell and Foley Wines feel their wineries are linked by a common purpose - to make great wine that people love to drink. The three regions they have chosen is Martinborough, Marlborough and Otago. Their labels include some of the most iconic labels of New Zealand and they are developing their wineries to include cellar doors, beautiful restaurants and an experience for the visitor and the wine taster.

The areas and brands that are now part of Foley Wines:

**MARTINBOROUGH:** [Te Kairanga](#), Martinborough Vineyard and is also the home of Lighthouse Gin. Te Kairanga sits on the original land holdings of Martinborough founder John Martin. At the heart of TK home is "the Cottage". Built in the 1800's and once home to John Martin's senior stockman, it now serves as the cellar door. There is also a restaurant nestled on the property.

**MARLBOROUGH:** The labels now owned by Foley are the [Vavasour](#) - [Dashwood](#) - [Grove Mill](#) - [Russian Jack](#) and [Sanctuary](#) wines. The home of world renowned Sauvignon Blancs developed to perfection at the vineyards amongst other grapes in their range.



### Foley Wines

— *made by land & hand*

CENTRAL OTAGO: [Mount Difficulty](#) - [Roaring Meg](#). The Bannockburn area with New Zealand's prize winning Pinot Noirs. The spot to experience their unique wines while taking in the spectacular views of Bannockburn, dramatic rugged rocks and Thyme landscapes.

They have made big investments in their vineyards and all the wines reflect the terroir of the area and all are making great wines that people love to drink. They have a very generous Wine Club so I purchased some Te Kairanga Pinot Noir Rosé on special \$90 for 6 bottles, normally \$120. Why are you buying Rosé in July, I hear you say? Well, having just visited family in Christchurch where it was freezing cold, all of them were drinking chilled Rosé with lunches during the day and afternoon, moving on to the whites and reds in the evening - so I got into the swing of it (not hard), and it is a lovely winter drink. The Te Kairanga Pinot Noir Rosé is an elegant coral hue with bright aromas of strawberry and watermelon - 100% Pinot Noir Fruit. This beautiful fresh fruit palate leads to a mouth-watering finish. I am really enjoying this as light and refreshing so try it - in the middle of winter - nothing nicer and apparently I get 100's of points with the purchase which go towards more wine from the Club. I can highly recommend the Te Kairanga Rosé.



## PENFOLDS 1951 - SETS NEW RECORD



A bottle of 1951 Penfolds Bin 1 Grange created a new record for the highest price paid for a single bottle of Australian wine, when it fetched AUD\$103,000 at Langtons Auctions, beating the previous record of AUD\$81,000.

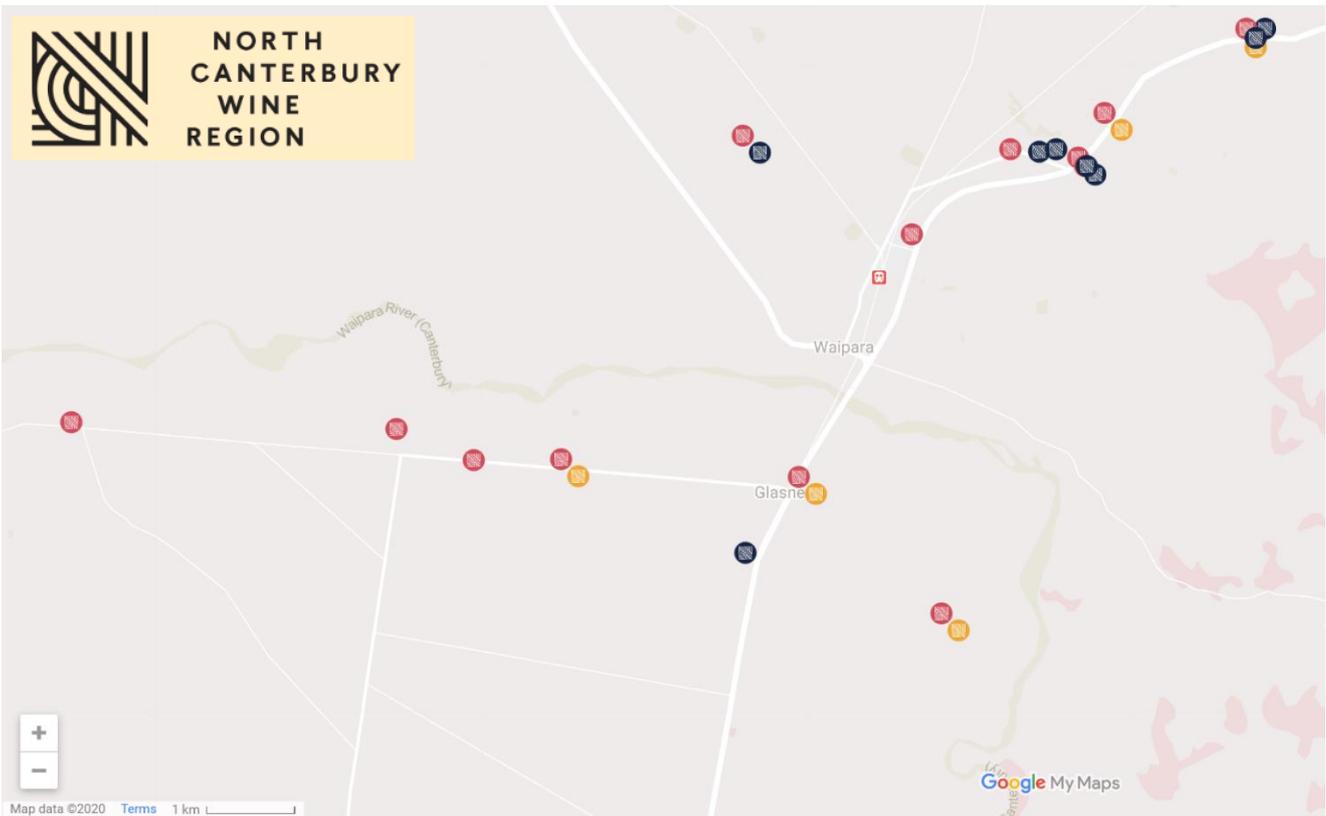
The 1951 Grange was the first vintage under an experimental label. Winemaker Max Schubert made just five hogsheads of the wine, equivalent to around 2000 bottles. He chose Shiraz grapes because he could source high quality grapes on a regular basis. The wine was described in 'The Rewards of Patience' by Master of Wine Andrew Cullard as 'moderately successful' but it lacked the richness and concentration of the wine made the following year, the first commercial release. After the poor review in 1957, Chairman Gladys Penfold Hyland ordered Schubert to stop making Grange. Instead, Schubert hid stocks of Grange and continued to make it. In 1960, a second tasting for Board members was greeted with enthusiasm and Schubert was allowed to officially continue to produce Grange. He was then promoted to Production Manager ....and the Penfold's story continued.

All the grapes were from the Grange Vineyard at Magill and from the privately owned Honeypot Vineyard at Magill. Penfold's Magill Estate in the foothills of Adelaide, South Australia is the original home of Australia's most prized wine, Grange. It is today still producing iconic Australian wines and the cellar door and the award-winning restaurant are outstanding. You can taste these Penfolds icons, have an educational talk and tour and enjoy the food and wine in this beautiful Adelaide spot. Let's hope we can all travel overseas again in the near future.

In December 2019 a set of Penfolds Grange from 1951-2015 set a new record when it was sold for over AUD \$372,000 by Langtons. (Langtons is Australia's leading fine wine marketplace and auction house. While it began as a specialist wine auction house, Langtons now embraces a comprehensive online wine business together with a private brokerage service.)

## WAIPARA WINE AREA

As we are having Georges' Road Winery from Waipara, North Canterbury for our next Wine Club meeting I thought we had better have a look at the area.

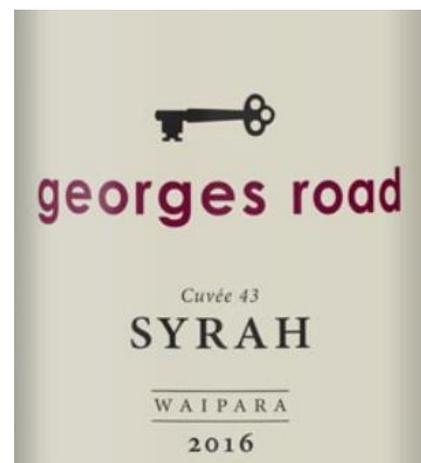


( click on the map to be taken to the on-line version of the map which contains all the winery names )

Only an hours drive north of Christchurch, the North Canterbury wine region spans nearly 200kms of the South Island's eastern coastline with the magnificent Alps to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east. The climate is cool and dry with good sunshine and a long growing season which promotes full varietal expression; wines are renowned for their intense flavours, richness and complex fruit. The Waipara Valley is a fast growing region producing vivid eloquent Rieslings, Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays. Soils are gravel and clay. Though the drying Nor'wester can challenge, the surrounding hills offer protection and a slightly warmer climate than the rest of Canterbury.

[Georges Road](#) is a premium single vineyard with Pinot Noir, Syrah, Riesling, Rose and Pinot Gris, their wines are hand crafted from grape to glass from their 8-hectare estate in the Waipara Valley. Their commitment to meticulous viticulture and traditional winemaking techniques shines through in every glass, so that you can be assured that each bottle from Georges Road Wines will be sure to delight. Bob Campbell has this to say: "Canterbury's stunning Waipara Valley region is one of the unsung heroes of the wine industry in New Zealand. Simply amazing."

So we should be in for a fine tasting with St Georges Road Winery owner and Winemaker Kirk Bray.



## WINESPEAK:

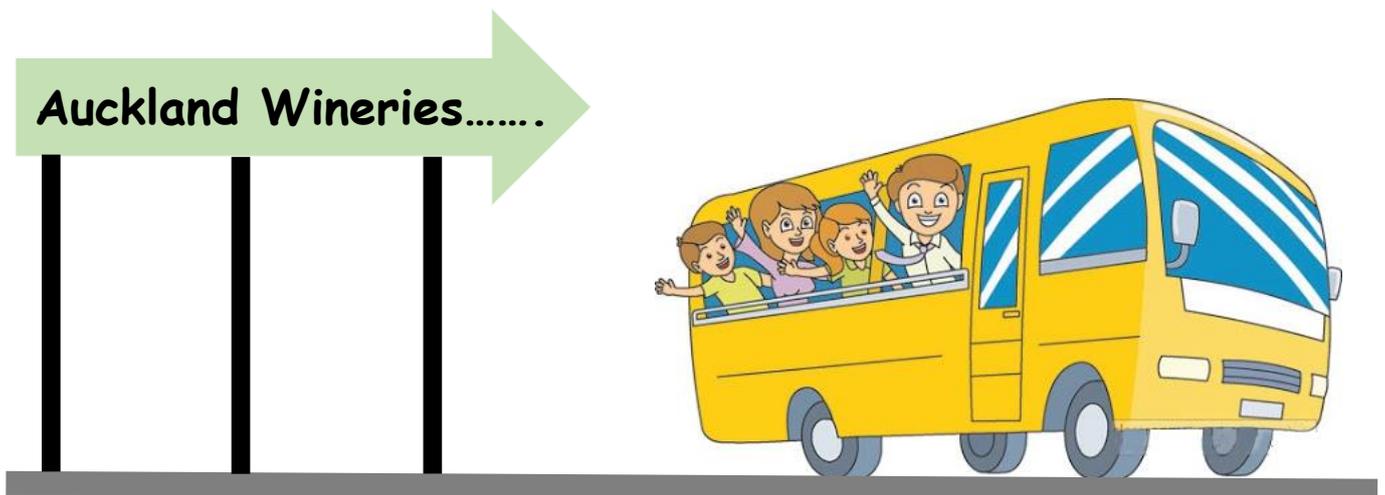
**FINING:** Initial clarification of wine using a protein, or similar substance, which precipitate out unwanted solids.

**FILTERING:** Occurs after Fining to completely clarify a wine of yeast or lees etc., but can strip complexity from wine.

**FERMENTATION:** The work of yeast on the grape juice turning sugar into alcohol.

Looking forward to the Wine Tour to West Auckland. By the time you get this we will have been up to Kumeu and surrounds so will taste lots and report back on the wines we have tasted and the wineries visited.

Cheers,  
*Gay Main*



P.S. Clicking on some of the images and text will via a prompt open a new tab in your browser to take you to the original article