

WINETALK

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WINE CONNOISSEURS CLUB OF HAMILTON

December 2020

Coming Functions

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|--------|-----------------------|
| Dec 12 | Xmas Function |
| Jan 9 | New Year BBQ |
| Feb 14 | Sparkling Wines |
| Apr 14 | Hawkes Ridge Winery |
| May 9 | AGM & Options Tasting |

WINETALK DECEMBER 2020

Now we are well into the Christmas and summer season what's available out there for the summer whites for the Season? At a recent 'different' white wine tasting some beautiful, different whites were tasted and mainly enjoyed. Not your usual Sav

Blancs, Chardonnays and Pinot Gris but different types of grape were tasted:

[ELEPHANT HILL Le Phant Blanc 2017](#). Is an aromatic white blend from several of their Te Awanga Hawkes Bay coastal vineyards. Bright straw colour with stonefruit flavours, floral notes with complex minerality and nutty detail. This wine is a blend of Pinot Gris, Viognier and Gewurztraminer. It is a refreshing white wine with lovely texture. It can easily be enjoyed on its own or as an Aperitif or with a wide range of seafood, Mediterranean as well as spicy Asian dishes. I loved this wine and found it so cool and refreshing. Their labels are gorgeous too with green gold lines and with a grey texture similar to elephant skin.



[HUNTING LODGE 2020 Albarino](#). Bold, fresh with acidity, structure and body from the Awatere Valley in Marlborough. This delicious up-coming favourite white wine has floral, fennel and white peach flavours with unique salty minerality. We had tasted this at our West Auckland tour at Hunting Lodge and loved it. It is a delicious favourite.

[JACOBS CREEK Barossa Valley, South Australia. Moscato](#). Sparkling, with flavours of tropical fruit, honeysuckle blossom and sweet sherbet. Musk with a citrus finish. Certainly not my favourite as too sweet and could only manage a small tasting and did not want anymore. But if you like a sweet sparkling, this is it!

[CLEARVIEW Reserve Semillon 2019](#). Golden skin grape used for dry sweet wines mostly in Australia and France and known in South Africa as Wyndruif. Very popular in Australia and the four different varieties mainly grown in the Hunter Valley. Pleasant and easy drinking. Liked this drier type of Semillon and quite different.

[FORREST Gruner Veltliner 2017](#). This grape is the most widely grown grape in Austria and also popular in Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Flavours of Green Tea and white peppers with citrus lime and savoury. Loved this wine as fresh, very easy to drink and good with seafood. Also made into a sparkling.

So there are some new ideas for your Christmas drinking - give them a try. Also good conversations can be had over the names of the wines, the different areas of the world they come from and unique flavours.

TWO NEW ZEALAND WINES MAKE THE GLOBAL TOP 100 WINE DISCOVERIES LIST

A North Canterbury winery is celebrating after one of its wines made it on a prestigious list. Greystone Wines 2017 Vineyard Ferment Pinot Noir is being heralded as one of this year's Top 100 Wine discoveries by world-leading wine authority Robert Parker. It is one of only two New Zealand wines to make the list, along with Bish's Heartwood Chardonnay from Hawkes Bay.



Parker is one of the world's most influential wine critics. The American pioneered the 100-point scoring model used to rate wines worldwide. Did you know that his nose and palate are insured for \$1 million? You heard it here on Winetalk.

Greystone Winemaker Dean Maxwell said the brilliant score of 93 points was great recognition of an epic experiment. "Vineyard Ferment is about as close as you will get to nature making wine. We pick the fruit and de-stem it in the vineyard where it is put into open vats and the environment's natural yeasts turn the fruit into wine". Not only was every vintage different, but every vat could vary because it was affected by the environment while it sat in the vineyard, Maxwell said. "We don't add anything at all during fermentation and by isolating the wine outside we keep its own specific profile. We don't use any new oak barrels or anything else - this wine tastes strictly of this place in the world. The Vineyard ferment was a completely different wine that had already proved incredibly popular with buyers around the world. Since we started producing in 2016 we have struggled to keep up with demand and even now, although we are producing more, we still sell out.

The wine sells for \$75 so Cellarmaster David, PLEASE can we have a tasting at our mid-winter Special Reds Night tasting of reds in 2021?



The other wine to make the top 100 was Tony Bish's Heartwood Chardonnay from Hawkes Bay. You will remember Jenny Rae and Peter Middleton's article on their trip to Tony Bish Wines in the October Winetalk.

Tony uses innovative egg-shaped wooden fermenters (read your October Winetalk). Jenny and Peter probably tasted this Chardonnay which is now in the top 100 in the world!

More than 30,000 wines were reviewed by the 10-strong team of wine critics over the last year to complete the top 100 list.

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Content - Gay Main, Graphical layout - Grumpy

NEW ZEALAND WINE EXPORTS HIT \$2 BILLION

New Zealand wine exports have reached a record breaking \$2 billion for the 12 months to October 2020 according to NZ Winegrowers Association.

This result reflects the appreciation that the world has for New Zealand wines and reinforces our international reputation for distinct, premium and sustainable wines, said Clive Jones, Chair of NZ Winegrowers Association. "This means there are millions of bottles of NZ wines displayed in stores, in restaurants or sitting on tables in dining rooms all around the world, proudly showing New Zealand on the label, and profiling our regions. "What we are seeing is, despite a world changing with Covid, our wine industry has withstood a Level 4 lockdown during the 2020 Harvest, but what has not changed is peoples' love for New Zealand wine."



BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU 2020

Marked in France on the 3rd Thursday in November every year since the 18th Century. Although less celebration this year in France because of Covid, it is usually a wonderful Festival of music, fireworks and drinking of the famous red wine. It is celebrated around the world on the same date. Beaujolais is a red wine made from the Gamay grape, produced in the Bordeaux Region of France. Under French law the Beaujolais can be released at 12.01am on the third Thursday in November just weeks after the wine's grapes have been harvested. It is considered a great way to clear lots of 'Vin Ordinaire' at a good profit and selling wine within a few weeks of harvest was great for cash flow!

BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU - JAPANESE STYLE

Visitors to a hot spring resort near Tokyo were able to bathe in the newest Beaujolais in November after the spa celebrated the annual event with staff pouring the French wine into the bath tubs. The Hot Springs Theme Park moved the event outside for the first time in 7 years to help prevent the spread of Corona. Situated at an altitude of 700 meters, bathing-suit-clad visitors enjoyed scenic views of the hills and autumn leaves while sipping on and bathing in the wine. Partitions were set up to prevent people crowding and having close contact.

Because of the reduced flights between France and Japan the wine was sent earlier to be there for the 3rd Thursday. Japanese companies and Japanese consumers are craving for high-end items as they are forced to stay at home to avoid contact, and during this time, there has been an enormous splurge on internet items like top brands of wines, with orders surging. What a great way to spend a day, drinking and bathing in French wine, outside, enjoying lovely views.



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HEADACHES AND HANGOVERS

Many of us will have experienced a hangover. Alcohol acts on various parts of the body in various ways. The most common side effect of alcohol consumption is a headache characterised by a throbbing pain at the front of your head. I am sure most of you will know what I am talking about!

This happens as a result of your blood alcohol concentration. More alcohol in your bloodstream means a



greater build-up of acetaldehyde once alcohol has been broken down by your liver. In short, acetaldehyde is a highly concentrated toxic compound that transfers very quickly from the bloodstream to fluids in the brain and the spinal cord. It irritates the membrane surrounding the brain and the spinal cord, resulting in a throbbing pain in the front of your head. There are many hangover remedies. The best, and it has helped me in the past, is to try and drink a litre of water before you go to bed. I also think you should have drinks of water throughout your drinking and a bit of food throughout helps. So with this advice we should all be fine over the holiday period - and our livers will thank us for it also.

HUNTERS ORDERS

We have recently ordered more wine from Hunters Wines and they will give Hamilton Wine Club members the same prices as Inus gave us for his presentation. Just call Hunters Wines on 03 572 8489 or email: wines@hunters.co.nz, mention you are from the Hamilton Wine Club and they will give you the prices plus free delivery.

WINE CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

Be prepared and do your research for the famous (or infamous) KAREN'S QUIZ. You really must know the names of the reindeer, names of the three wise men, names of every Christmas movie EVER made, every Christmas Carol **EVER** written and **EVERYTHING** else about Christmas on the planet in **EVERY** country in the world - and you will be in for a win at the Christmas Party. Arguing and indignation will not be tolerated and Karen will have her Security Detail present to protect her from 'what the xxxx?' members.

We have had a fabulous year of wine tasting and have met great winemakers and presenters, and had good fellowship so we can celebrate another vibrant Wine Club year on December 12.



Enjoy some wonderful wines and food over Christmas.

Look forward to 2021 with more exciting events planned for the Wine Club.

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

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