

WINETALK

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WINE CONNOISSEURS CLUB OF HAMILTON

January 2023

Coming Functions

Jan 14	Jan BBQ (this is a Saturday !)
Feb 12	Delightful bubbles
Mar 12	Abbey Road
Apr 16	Forrest Wines (Apr 9 is Easter)
May 14	AGM / Options Tasting

WINETALK JANUARY 2023

GOODBYE 2022

Ending with a happy, gourmet Christmas party at Karen's ranch, the Wine Club can be proud of the very busy year members enjoyed. We have gained several new people and now have 58 members. The word is out there that we are a friendly busy club, with top wineries bringing their wines to us from around New Zealand, top presentations of wines from our cellar and for the first time in 2 years, a Day Trip to Volcanic Hills. Future trips are in the planning. We have managed to successfully steer our way through Covid regulations and kept up the tradition of an under 20-minute AGM. Go us.



RECIPES FROM KAREN FROM THE CHRISTMAS DO ARE ATTACHED.

NOW FOR 2023.

Beginning with an "Anyone Around and Not on Holiday BBQ." This is to get us back into the swing of things. A fun relaxed evening. Then we get down to the nitty gritty with February bringing us Karen's Classic Bubbles tasting, sparkling from different countries. This is always a good evening as we compare and contrast and come up with what the general opinion is of the different wines. Then in March, Abbey Cellars from Hawkes Bay bringing their wines to us, followed by April with Forrest Wines from Marlborough. May is the AGM with David's famous quiz and a tasting of cellar wines. (Let's try for 15 minutes for the AGM this year!). June is still getting organised and in July our Club member Maxime will be presenting French wines from his home country to celebrate (a little early) Bastille Day. As it is also close to 4th July we may also throw in a few American wines to taste. We still have many wineries wanting to come to visit us. So, we will let you know later when we can fit them in. Keep reading [WINETALK](#) for updates. Also, tours are being discussed, looked at, and will be offered. YEAH, another busy Wine Club year.



DAVID'S BEEN TO HAWKES BAY - HERE IS A SORT OF REPORT:

"Just before Christmas spent most of the week prior to Xmas in Hawkes Bay. Weather was horrible with lots of rain..... However, came back with heaps of brochures on wineries, although sadly the number of cellar doors appears to have decreased since my last 'serious' visit back before Covid arrived!

Doing some further research now as to how a Wine Trail to the area could work later in the year.....

Did discover one thing - was given a page long printout from the [Napier Info Centre](#) with current Cellar Door Listing info. Seems that outside the main holiday period many wineries are on short hours/days at present because of hard-to-find labour and other factors but this has changed once the holidays proper commenced. So, as we are not sure

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when restricted hours will return it could pay to check prior to a visit, but as a starting reference find attached a copy of the Cellar Door Info as provided.

Another learning moment – till the start of April there are numerous cruise ships, some with large numbers of ‘guests’, due to visit Napier so if it’s possible miss visiting the popular cellar doors on those days!

Click this link for the [Napier Cruise Ship schedule](#) for the next few months

Lime Rock vineyard is no more – the grapes have been removed and the land returned to paddocks – so sad !"

OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Been drinking some delicious wines over Christmas and New Year. Seem to have got the taste for Rosé and a cold beer in this heat. Seems the right thing to drink at the moment. Have a look at Fickle Mistress, The Arrogant Frog and Graham Norton's Rosé, all reasonably priced at the moment. Johanneshof Pinot Gris is going down well. Got out the [Junction Vineyard 2020 Sparkling Persistence](#) for New Year. Brought to us by Junction when they visited us last year. This was an exciting wine from their Takapau Plains vineyard. Everyone loved it. It has a unique blend and as John said "will keep you guessing". It was zesty and uplifting with floral aromas. Beautifully balanced and thoroughly enjoyable. We kept discussing it as it was unusual but full of zest and flavour. It has a unique blend of traditional sparkling varieties, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay with hints of sweetness from Flora, Gewurztraminer and Pinot Gris. Delicious and well worth a change from the usual. It is about \$28 online. I like the silver and black Junction Labels as well.



NEW ZEALAND WINE EXPORTS REACH NEW HIGH



A new high for New Zealand wine exports for the year ended September 2022, up 6% from the previous year, despite a drop of 4% in volume sales. Exports reached NZD \$2.03 billion, thanks in no small part to large growth in the USA and Canada markets.

The month of September set its own export record with sales of \$NZD287 million, the first time the New Zealand export value has exceeded a quarter of a billion dollars in a single month.

The good news is to some extent balanced by the rising cost of wine production, shipping delays, the scarcity of skilled workers and the collapse of cellar door sales for the past two years (as David stated above).

NEXT EVENT FOR WINE CLUB -

BBQ JANUARY: SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY at 4pm.

See you there,

Cheers,

Gay Main



P.S. Attached are some of the "Santa Photos" from the last function - as time permits the remaining photos will be processed & sent out along with WineTalk

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