

WINETALK

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WINE CONNOISSEURS CLUB OF HAMILTON

July 2022

Coming Functions

Jul 10	"Mike's" Shiraz Tasting
Aug 14	Stonecroft Wines
Sept 14	TBC
Oct 9	Johanneshof (delayed from 2021)
Nov 13	Petane Station & Wairiki

WINETALK JULY 2022

JUNCTION WINES TASTING

What a super interesting tasting with John and Jo from Junction Wines.

Not only did we have some beautiful wines, but to hear about John's All Black career and what led him to run his love of grape growing and wine making alongside his beef and sheep farming, after his All Black career, was amazing. I liked the wines and thought the bubbles and Pinot Gris (which I had given up on as there are so many bad ones around) was superb. Perhaps Pinot Gris growers could talk to their son, Leith Ashworth, the winemaker, about how he evolved the Pinot Gris to a high standard.

TEMPRANILLO - THE WINE OF SPAIN

Tasted 4 Tempranillo wines which is the wine of Spain. From three different regions of Spain and one from Hawkes Bay New Zealand. All purchased locally and also on a visit from Hawkes Ridge a few years ago. The Spanish wines were very reasonable all around \$20 which is great value for the quality they were.

Finea Fabian Domino Functum 2019 from La Mancha in Central Spain. Typical Tempranillo flavours of dark berry, spicy.



FIG



CHERRY



CEDAR



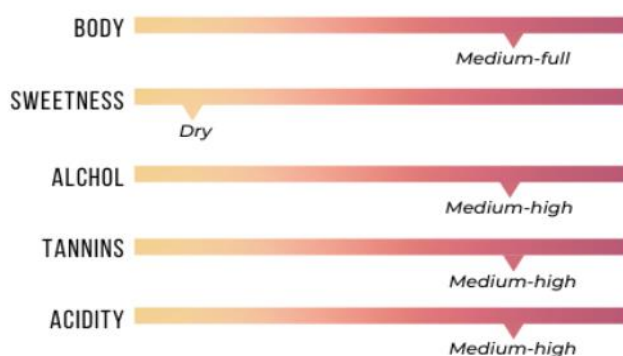
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BLACKBERRY



TOBACCO



Conde Valdemar 2016 from the famous Rioja Region of North Western Spain, near French border. Well balanced, high tannins, soft black fruit. I thought it should have been drunk last year but still very drinkable.

La Innocencia 2020 from Eastern region. Heavier but still cherry and dark fruit flavours. Thought a bit young.

HAWKES RIDGE 2020 Reserve Tempranillo, New Zealand. This was delicious and we all thought this was the best of the variety! Which is strange as it is a Spanish grape but Hawkes Bay have produced this winning wine. This was of course much more expensive around \$40. But I don't know if it was our 'New World' wine palate but it was just beautiful. Deep rich red and black cherry flavours. Candied spice and vanilla with a peppery finish. Drinking well now and will cellar well.

Top of the pops of the Tempranillos.

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Content - Gay Main, Graphical layout - Grumpy

WHAT DOES RESERVE ON THE WINE LABEL MEAN?

The idea behind wines labelled 'Reserve' most likely started in the cellar when winemakers would hold back or 'reserve' some of the wines from a particularly productive and good tasting vintage. Today the implication of a Reserve wine is that it is a higher quality wine that has been aged longer. Two main countries that have Reserve wines with specific requirements are Spain Reserva wines and Italy Riserva wines. Most countries including New Zealand have no specific requirements to adhere to, to put 'Reserve' on their special wine labels.

USA's Wine Folly Magazine says the word Reserve can mean a whole lot of nothing on a wine label. Words like old vine, special, or fine don't always mean what you might imagine. e.g., 'Fine' is actually the term used on the lowest quality range of Masala. You will find most wineries who use the term really put their best product into their Reserve wines. Unfortunately there are a few producers who take advantage of this concept as a great way to market their wine. Some wine writers and producers in New Zealand say it is the most mis-used word in wine.

Kingsley Wood, owner of First Glass Wines in Takapuna, has a grumpier version:

"Which is the most mis-used word used on wine labels? 'Reserve'. For many wines it genuinely indicates high quality, the finest grapes in a wine produced, extra effort has been put into the wine. Also saying the Reserve is an indication of quality but is only meaningful within the range of wines from a particular producer e.g. Villa Maria Reserve, Clearview Reserve, Church Road Reserve etc. But for many wines the use of 'Reserve' on a label means absolutely nothing." Interesting but difficult to sort out really.



WINE TOURS - GIVE US YOUR VIEWS

Now that travel is opening up, we would like to get an indication of what sort of wine tours the members would like to do... Here are some options you can consider with predicted prices and different lengths of time for each. Fill out the survey and we can then get an idea of what members want as far as wine tours are concerned. Here's a few to get you started.

ONE DAY SUNDAY TOUR: I have talked to [Leisure Time Tours](#), a Hamilton Company and they have quoted for the Wine Club for a One Day tour to Rotorua to

VOLCANIC HILLS WINERY. This includes, return coach Rotorua to Hamilton, Skyline Gondola Rotorua, lunch at the Stratosfare Restaurant, Volcanic Hills Wine Tasting. The total per person for the Wine Club members would be:

10 people: \$210 pp

15 people: \$190pp

20 people: \$160

25 people: \$150



It would include the driver of course but no tour guide to accompany us (which we wouldn't need anyway). We had Brent up to the Club early last year so would be a good chance to catch up with him and Larissa and tasting their delicious Volcanic Hills wines. Looking at the prices I think they are so reasonable so I am in!!! I'm sure we could get 25 members to go.

Leisure Time also have a ONE DAY TOUR to Soljans in West Auckland on Thursday 4th August. They would be happy for wine club members to join them. The cost of this day is \$180 and includes return travel Hamilton to West Auckland, a winery tour by Soljans, wine tastings and lunch. It sounds good value to me! If interested get hold of Leisure Time Tours @ leisuretimetravel.co.nz. Just book your own place if interested. I think I am also!!! This Day Tour was already on their itinerary of tours for the year and they mentioned it to me when I was enquiring after the other quote.

TASMANIA: We have been trying to get to Tasmania for two years. The prices will have risen substantially and would probably be \$3000 plus air fares, for about 8 days.

WAIHEKE ISLAND: One or two night stay would be up to \$1000 plus boat fare to island.

We could also look at MARLBOROUGH, HAWKES BAY, and WAIRARAPA. We have done tours there before for three-four days a few years ago and could get quotes for the land travel and the flights to Marlborough.

So let's do it - fill out the survey and send back to us ([see the last page](#))

WINE FOLLY TALKS ABOUT SPARKLING RED WINE - MISUNDERSTOOD AND UTTERLY DELICIOUS

We will be tasting a Sparkling Red Shiraz Wine at MIKE's BIG RED TASTING at our July meeting. So don't get that horrified look of 'oh really' and dismiss it as 'you're kidding me'?

Wine Folly describes sparkling red wine as 'thrilling but misunderstood'. Likened to cloying hard candy or frothy soda, in reality some of the finest styles are bone-dry, swinging from ethereally light to robust and bold. The trouble is, as soon as you mention a sparkling red everyone turns their nose up. Sparkling red wines are made the same way as sparkling white wines (which are popular right?), but they don't share the adoration world-wide of sparkling white wines. Their reputation has taken a beating with the likes of old Italian Lambrusca - but don't listen to the hype and don't be so snobby. Cheap Lambrusca flooded the world in the 1970s as a sugar fueled party drink but much of Lambrusco's today are dry and made to drink young. Today is a different story for sparkling reds. There are some stunners out there.

Australian Sparkling Shiraz is as iconic as Bondi Beach. The powerful fruit acidity and tannin you expect from Shiraz but with a cold blast of effervescence. The finest versions are bone dry to dry. Spicy, blackberries, plum, well-rounded tannins and brisk acidity. Great with lamb and beef and salad, very welcome at a BBQ on a searingly hot summer's day, but also save a glass for later - it is friendly with chocolate and frozen berries.

Grown mainly in South Australia the best Shiraz comes from ancient vines that escaped the global devastation of Phylloxera in the 1800's. Aussies combine the deft use of new and old-world methods to create this unique beauty. So, shake off any misconceptions, don't be a wine snob and give it a go. Sparkling Red Wine deserves a place in your glass!!

MESSAGE FROM GRUMPY

Grumpy is getting grumpier. PLEASE reply if you are coming to Wine Club or NOT, This is to let the 'food person' know about the amount of food and platters to prepare and also the number of tasting wines required, table numbers, glasses, etc. You would hate to have a tiny drop in your tasting glass because several people had turned up who hadn't let us know they were coming and we hadn't the bottles for a decent tasting amount! Thank you for your co-operation. Do this and it will calm Grumpy down for a while.



JULY BIG REDS - SHIRAZ TASTING IN MEMORY OF THE LATE MIKE TODD

Mike was a long-time member of the club who sadly passed away last year. He was on the committee and served as President for a number of years. Jan has told us that Mike requested a big Shiraz tasting to remember him and the happy times he spent with the Club. Shiraz was his favourite drink - "nothing beats a big Aussie red" he was often quoted as saying. So thanks to Jan, and Mike's Estate, the tasting is his gift to us to taste those "big Aussie reds". (We are going to compare them with a couple of New Zealand Syrah's which I am sure Mike wouldn't mind.) So can't wait for the GLOW OF THE REDS. See you there.



Cheers,
Gay Main

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Wine Trail Survey

Hi all

A few years back the Club organised an approx. 10-day wine trail to Tasmania on which a moderate number of you planned to go. Unfortunately, Covid and the following lockdowns came along so the trip has been on hold these past two plus years

Travel has now begun to return to normal with direct flights to Tassie now available.

The Committee is now considering whether to re-boot planning for the Tassie trip but needs to know whether there is still interest or whether travel priorities for members have changed. So we would like an indication of whether you are still interested in this trip and if so when you would like to do the trip etc.....

If there is not the interest for an extended trip overseas would there be interest for a shorter trip within New Zealand along the lines of the trip to Matakana in 2021? or a single day local trip as suggested in WineTalk. Depending on where in NZ is preferred the duration will possibly be a little longer than a long weekend - maybe up to a week for mor distant locations

Hence there is a wide range of questions to collect as much information as possible in one survey

To answer these questions below is a link to a short survey so the Club can hopefully get a good indication of what members are interested in. Options for trips to Australia are included for sake of completeness but these will only be pursued if there is considerable support due to the overseas travel considerations.

Please note - the survey is anonymous so while we know when the survey was answered we have NO IDEA whom the response is from. The survey is to an externally hosted web site ([Microsoft forms.office.com](https://forms.office.com)) and has been used by two clubs over the last few years without problem - there are no questions not related to the Wine Club and certainly none asking for passwords, money, or the like !

Please do answer the survey (with a no) even if you are not interested as it does make a difference when looking at the overall results

[Possible Hamilton Wine Club Trail](#)

Thanks for taking part - we will let you know the outcome when we have considered the responses

The survey will remain open for approx. 1 week until the Saturday prior to the next function

Hamilton WC Committee

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