

WINETALK

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WINE CONNOISSEURS CLUB OF HAMILTON

June 2023

Coming Functions

Jun 11	Cellar - Chardonnays
Jul 9	US and French Wines
Aug 13	Askerne tasting
Sept 10	

WINETALK JUNE 2023

AGM 2023

What an excellent AGM. Short, easily understood and then the main part - THE QUIZ and a chance to use our addled brains and taste some lovely wines. Quiz Master, Dave Edson says "Even better was a

significant improvement in the average scores by each table over previous years – maybe it's not empty space up there !! "

The wines tasted at AGM 2023 were:

LOVE NOT WAR 2019 Tempranillo (La Mancha) \$12.99

MIDDLE EARTH 2021 Albarino \$13.99.

ALTO LOS ROMEROS 2021 Carmenere \$11.99

BURLESQUE (Lodi) 2020 California Old Vine Zinfandel \$14.99. There were notable similarities to Italy's Primitivo grapes.

The above 4 wines were purchased at WINEALE.CO.NZ.

TORLESSE R18 WAIPARA, Riesling 2018 \$10 - (Purchased from the vineyard)

SELAKS ESSENTIAL Sauvignon Blanc \$11.99 (Purchased from New World).

A wide variety of wines, delicious and different and purchased at reasonable prices. Of course being a Zinfandel and lover of California wines, you can guess what I liked. And the \$10 Riesling from Waipara was such brilliant value. I am going to ring them and see if they have any left of this incredible bargain. Let's have a look at Zinfandel and California (we may be doing American wines in July along with French).

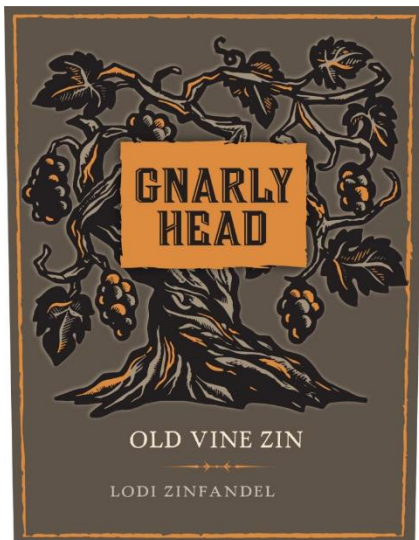
ZINFANDEL

As Sauvignon Blanc is to New Zealand, Malbec to Argentina and Prosecco to Italy, so Zinfandel is to the USA. It is grown in several areas across California such as the Napa Valley, parts of Sonoma (including Dry Creek and Russian River Valley) and Lodi. Lodi, the self-proclaimed Zinfandel 'Capital of the World' is home to some of the finest Zinfandels in California. Old Vine Zinfandel (which we tasted last month) is known to be bigger in flavour and more intense than younger counterparts and is considered to be a more premium version of the wine. White Zinfandel is another popular grape grown specifically to make semi-sweet Rosé.



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The true origin of Zinfandel (also known as Primitivo) was relatively unknown until recently. Widely planted across California in the 1800's it was thought to be indigenous to the USA. The vines thrived in the Californian climate but in the 1960's research showed that there was a big connection to the Primitivo grape from Italy. Further DNA testing in future years finally discovered the true origin which was the grape originated in Croatia. The Italian name for Zinfandel - Primitivo - is derived from the Latin for 'the first to ripen'.

Theories abounded about how the grape got to California. In the early 19th century a horticulturist on Long Island New York received shipments of grape vines from the Imperial Nursery in Vienna, Austria. It is believed the Zinfandel grape was mixed up with these. The grape name Zinfandel is likely to have come from an Austrian word 'Zierfindler'. With migration to the west coast of the USA with the Californian Gold Rush in the 19th Century, plantings went

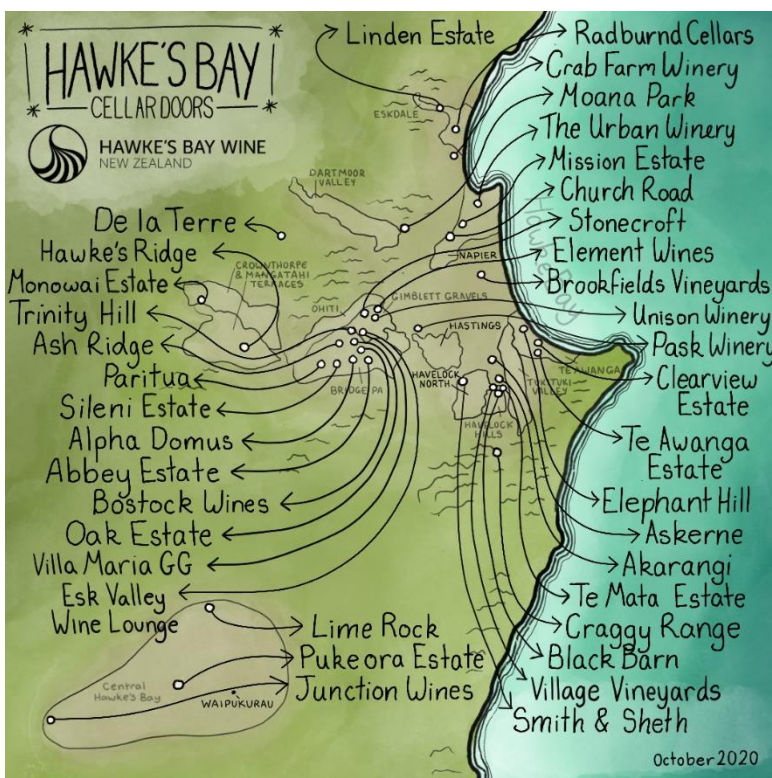
with the settlers and the rest is, as they say, history.

Zinfandel is a perfect food match for BBQ grills. "Lean on the ranch fence with the steaks and ribs sizzling and drink this wonderful full-bodied red." is what they say on bottles of red Zinfandel. Or as Americans say - "pour me a Zin." Mixed with spicy and sweet BBQ sauces - a match made in heaven. Goes well with smoked foods, fish, duck and pork, and tomatoey pastas. It can also be paired with soft or hard cheeses.

When Yvonne Lorkin visited the club a few years ago she bought a Hayes Ranch Zinfandel. It was delicious, I bought several and then Yvonne couldn't get any more of it. It is a fine bold red. It is a wine that exudes ripe red and black fruits, including raspberries and jammy cherries and red plums. along with spice, pepper and jam characteristics. There are still many Zinfandels around. Hamilton Beer and Wine have several and Caros Wine Merchants has a wide range of Zins. Gnarly Head, Old Vine Zinfandel for \$24 is an excellent example of a great Zinfandel - from Hamilton Beer and Wine. Enjoy this great American treasure.

HAWKES BAY CROWNED 12TH GREAT WINE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

Just announced, Hawkes Bay has joined 11 other global wine heavyweights as the newest Great Wine Capital of the World. After a stringent selection process by the Great Wine Areas of the World Network that looks at a number of factors including a Region's wine growing industry, its history, its wine tourism experiences, educational opportunities, business and trade, as well as the cities and region itself Hawkes Bay won this accolade. In announcing the news, Hawkes Bay Tourism CEO, Hamish Saxton said the significance of being made a Great Wine Capital of the World is a remarkable achievement. "It is recognition that Hawkes Bay wines are among the world's best and that our nation's wine growing industry, while still young, offers quality to rival the world's oldest. This new achievement gives Hawkes Bay a unique position in New Zealand and the world. It is a legacy for the region and will continue to give benefits to industry, education, business and tourism for years to come."



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To join such prestigious wine regions such as Bordeaux, Napa Valley and Adelaide is an exciting time for wine tourism, said Charlotte Read, General Manager, Marketing, Winegrowers Association.

Vines were first planted in Hawkes Bay in 1851 by Marist Missionaries and is well known for their Red blends and Chardonnays, as well as aromatic whites and impressive Syrah's. There are more than 200 vineyards, 125 wine producers and more than 30 cellar doors. The region offers a plethora of ways to experience the highly accloded wines of the region from well-developed cycle trails to architecture to wine tours.

The diversity of landscape throughout - plains, mountains, peaks, valleys and coastal hills make Hawkes Bay a destination wine lovers cannot miss, and becoming part of the Great Wine Capitals of the World network, recognises this. Congratulations to our wonderful Hawkes Bay wine region.



FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL 2023 - LIDO THEATRE HAMILTON

The French Film Festival 2023 runs from 8th-28th June at the Lido Theatre. There are many great films to be seen and one especially for wine lovers. "[THE TASTING](#)". About wine tasting of course! It is a comedy romance advertised as...."a thoughtfully expressed story about love and the power of a great glass of wine." Sounds like a bit of us...There are several sessions but we will be going on Saturday 17th June at 4pm. Come join us and perhaps enjoy a lovely glass of red afterwards at the Lido!!!! The full programme is available at the Lido, [online](#) or available at libraries.

LUNCH AT VILAGRADS 16th SEPTEMBER - 11.30am

We have booked Saturday 16th September for our Wine Tasting, tour of the cellars and vineyard and their famous lunch at Vilagrad Wines, Ngahinapouri. We will meet there at 11.30am. The cost is \$75pp so if you wish to come and spend Saturday drinking wine and eating good food with good company, please pay into bank account number: **030 0306 0208963 000**. You have 3 months to book your spot and there will be future reminders.



NEXT MEETING

This will be a beauty. You will be able to use your vast wine knowledge for a blind tasting of Cellar Chardonnays and Classic Red blends. Included will be a Coleraine from the cellar which you will be asked to identify. The Chardonnays will range in cost from average to over \$100. Pick the prices!! And there will also be a Vertical tasting of the 2012 Hawkes Bay Unison Merlot.

Looking forward to a great evening. See you there.

Cheers,
Gay Main

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