

WINETALK

370

WINE CONNOISSEURS CLUB OF HAMILTON

May 2022

Coming Functions

May 8	AGM
Jun 12	Junction Wines
Jul 10	"A Syrah Tasting" - TBC
Aug 14	Stonecroft Wines
Sept 14	TBC

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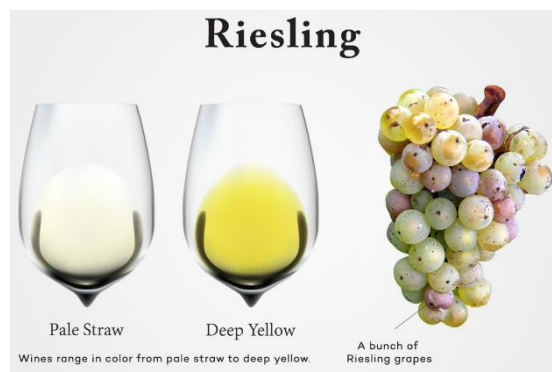
MISSION ESTATE TASTING

What a great tasting presented by Trevor Howes from Mission Estate. He was knowledgeable, well organised and the wines were superb. The Fete Sparking was delicious made with Pinot Gris and Chardonnay grapes - fine bubbles, pear flavours. The Jewelstone Syrah from Gimblett Gravels: As Trevor said 'the magic of Hawkes Bay in a glass'. This will last for many a day with the promise of greater things to come. Trevor emailed and said he had enjoyed meeting us all and thanked us for having him. He then went on to Morrinsville Wine Club and the Porirua Club - all great people as well he said. Do visit Mission if you are over in the Hawkes Bay and mention you are from the Hamilton Wine Club.

RIESLING

Riesling is a white grape variety which originated in the Rhine Region of Germany and has been around since the 15th century. It is an aromatic grape variety displaying flowery almost perfumed aromas as well as high acidity. It is used to make, dry, semi-sweet, sweet and sparkling wine. In terms of importance for quality wines, it is usually included in the "top three" white wine varieties along with Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay. Riesling is a variety that is highly "terroir expressive", meaning that the character of Riesling wines is greatly influenced by the wine's place of origin. Although recognised as a German wine, Rieslings from Alsace in the north-west region of France produce gorgeous Rieslings. Becoming more popular for wine makers in New Zealand with the South Island producing some stunners.

Recently went to a Riesling tasting and discovered some lovely wines of all types - sweet, semi-sweet, dry. They were all New Zealand Rieslings. The top three out of five wines that I enjoyed the most were surprisingly all from the South Island :



PEGASUS BAY 2019, Waipara Valley, North Canterbury. This was a rounded and complete Riesling. Lemon, straw colour and on the nose a zesty bouquet and a fusion of quince, citrus blossom and green apple. In the mouth a richness and precision, texture and poise. Hint of spritz ensures a fresh and lively finish. To me it was the whole experience of a Riesling, sophisticated and complete. Around \$27.

MISHAS VINEYARD LIMELIGHT RIESLING 2019, Bendigo, Central Otago. Grown on a perilously steep hillside overlooking Lake Dunstan. Mishas say "the wine is as pristine as the icy waters of the lake." As the name suggests there are hints of citrus and lime, with honey and crisp apple finish with underlying fruit, peaches and red apple. Rich, weighty with cleansing acidity and awesome length. This will cellar for

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5-8 years. Ideal with seafood, cheese platters or Asian cuisine. Michael Cooper and Bob Campbell have given this 5 stars. Brilliant rounded wine. Could not fault it. Around \$34.

CARRICK 2019 Dry Riesling, Bannockburn, Central Otago. Organic. If you like a very dry Riesling, this is the one for you. A classic Central Otago Riesling with citrus flavours and pure minerality. With less than 2 grams of residual sugar it finishes dry, clean and fresh. About \$25.

NEW ZEALAND HARVEST 2022

The grapes of the 2022 vintage have been harvested despite setbacks faced by winegrowers and low stock levels from last year's harvest, they are hoping for a significantly larger harvest this year. Last year's harvest, although of exceptional quality was 19% smaller than the previous year, New Zealand Winegrowers Chief Executive Philip Gegan said. "New Zealand wine sales for last year were 324 million litres, meaning they were 48 million litres more than was actually produced in the 2021 vintage. This stock drawdown highlights that we desperately need a bigger harvest in 2022, to replenish cellars, and help satisfy international demand. "These are difficult times with



worker shortage, the ongoing effects of Covid 19 on the border, increasing production costs and Red Light restrictions on operations in the hospitality industry are a major challenge to wineries. However, the ongoing demand for New Zealand wine internationally had proven that its flavours, quality and sustainability resonated with international consumers."

Although the 2022 vintage was experiencing challenges, the experience of operating harvests during the pandemic had strengthened the industry in its resilience to respond quickly and adapt during difficult times said Gegan.

VILAGRADS - A CENTURY UNDER THE VINES IN THE WAIKATO



This family-owned winery was founded by Ivan Milicich Snr and is now in its 5th generation of New Zealand winemaking. Present generation, three Nooyen brothers, Jacob, Kristian and Adam reflect on the history of Vilagrad Winery that they and their parents took over from their grandparents, ensuring that the family is always at the heart of the business. "It's quite incredible. There are not many wineries in New Zealand that can boast and celebrate 100 years," said Jacob.

The history of the winery began with their Croatia great-grandfather. Ivan Milicich Snr travelled down from the North in 1906 and cleared the land to make way for a variety of features including an orchard and a deli, fig trees and a small vineyard. Since then the venture has continued to grow and thrive and been passed down the generations. Some of the grapes growing in the Waikato vineyard are the same as their great- grandfather and grandfather had planted said Jacob. Of course it hasn't all been plain sailing with a fire damaging facilities in 2015. The family have had to push hard to get over that. Covid has also proved difficult financially for the family with all that brought with it for the hospitality industry. The help from the community and the family helping Vilagrad get back on its feet, has been outstanding. Weddings and the restaurant and wine tastings are back again and the family is looking forward to the next 100 years of this exciting Waikato winery. "Keeping traditions alive and achievement is what our family is all about and an inspiration for the future", said Jacob.

Vilagrad has a full range of wines with several winning awards at the New Zealand Wine Awards. Their Sherry and Port are also award winners. Their Port is only made in the most outstanding vintages. It is aged in the bottle creating blackcurrant and blackberry flavours. All their wines are worth a tasting and available - the Nooyens welcome you to their Rukuhia site.



POUR YOURSELF A GLASS OF NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand winegrowers are calling on all white wine lovers across the world to celebrate New Zealand white wine in May. The theme of the month, "[Pour Yourself a Glass of New Zealand](#)", comes at a time when New Zealand's top three exported white wine varieties internationally celebrate with Sauvignon Blanc Day (6 May), International Pinot Gris Day (17 May) and International Chardonnay Day (26 May), all falling in May.

During May, New Zealand Winegrowers will be running a series of activations, as well as petitioning the Unicode Consortium to develop a white wine emoji and shine a spotlight on the breadth of high-quality white wines that New Zealand produces. "New Zealand white wines make up 93% of our global exports," says Charlotte Read, General Manager, NZ Winegrowers. "We want to make the world aware that we excel in the production and an increasing range of styles, Rieslings, Alberino's, Chenin Blanc as well as the top three - there is a white wine for every palate." You can view information about the Pour Yourself a Glass of New Zealand campaign online at the New Zealand Winegrowers Association website. [Vote for the white wine emoji!](#)



AGM IN MAY - PLUS - BLIND TASTING AND QUIZ

Get ready for a short AGM (ALL PAPERS ATTACHED). After the short AGM there will be a blind options (brown paper bag) tasting of several wines from who knows where, AND - then the extremely difficult Cellarmaster David Edson's Wine Knowledge quiz. We all think we know a bit about wine, BUT this quiz will throw that out the window. So start studying the history of wine in every country in the world, know every wine label from every vineyard around the world and of course you must know which hill the grape was grown on and in what area. Nothing too hard then so no panic. See you there.

Cheers and remember to support New Zealand white wines in May.

Cheers,
[Gay Main](#)

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