

# WINETALK

353

WINE CONNOISSEURS CLUB OF HAMILTON

November 2020

## Coming Functions

Nov 8	Wines from Out West
Dec 12	Xmas Function
Jan 10	TBC - New Year BBQ
Feb 14	Sparkling Wines
Apr 14	Hawkesridge Winery

## WINETALK NOVEMBER 2020

Last month's Hunter's tasting was an absolute cracker with a superb presentation by Winemaker Inus van der Westhuizen and delicious Marlborough Wairau Valley wines tasted.

As Bob Campbell, Master of Wine said: " If there is one company that started the whole international story called Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, it is Hunters. They got the magic started."

Well it was certainly magic last month and judging by the laden pallets of wines ordered, in Kathy's garage, members agreed. There will be gallons of Hunters Miru Miru Bubbly being drunk this summer! Inus has said if you require refills the same prices will apply to Hamilton Wine Club Members. Go online and join the Hunters Wine Club and you will get great newsletters and specials. There is no expectation for you to have to buy (in some wine clubs you are expected to buy so many wines a year), but Hunters is purely giving you information and keeping you up to date with what they are offering and the happenings in the vineyard. They also send you Reward Vouchers with every half-dozen bottles you order which when you have 10 vouchers, you get \$20 off your next order.

## NELSON WINE REGION TASTING



A tasting of Nelson wines held recently at the Hamilton Beer and Wine Company showcased this small area at the top of the South Island and presented some delicious, crisp wines. Being a smaller area next to big brother/sister Marlborough, Nelson benefits from high sunshine hours, a sheltered moderating coastal climate and free-draining, semi- fertile soil.

Long renowned for its beautiful crops and orchards, Nelson's wine roots were cultivated in the mid 1800's

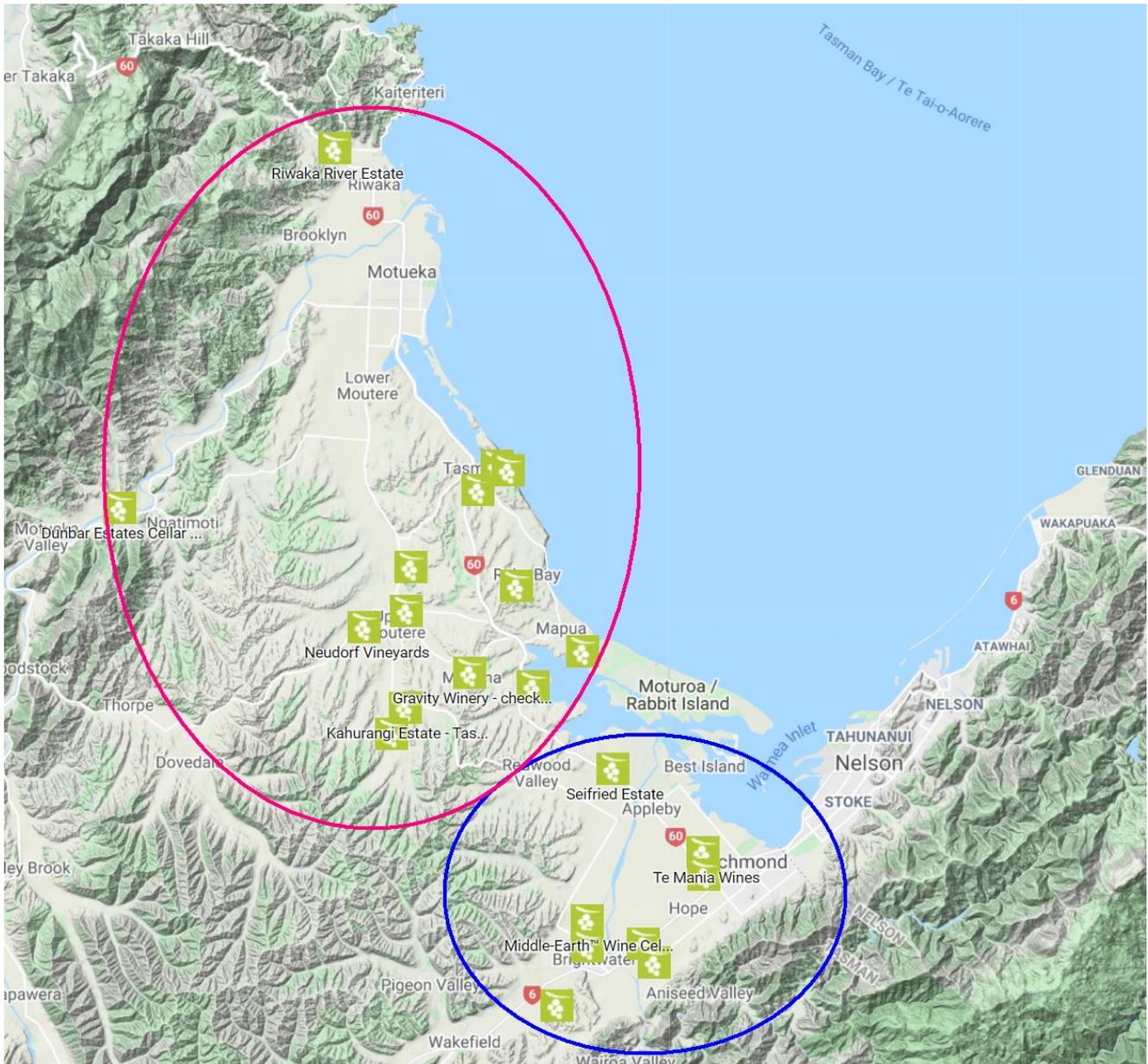
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when German settlers planted the area's first grape vines to produce wine. Pioneering 1970's producers established the modern wine industry. The Nelson wine region is split into two sub-regions: Moutere Hills and Waimea Plains.

1. To the west of the city, the verdant MOUTERE HILLS are slightly warmer and wetter than Waimea and the gravel threaded clay soils give richness and texture to the wines. Perfect for Pinot Noir with structure and fine tannins. The Chardonnay has complexity and depth and the Sauvignon and Aromatics offer a mineral intensity.

2. The WAIMEA PLAINS is Maori for 'river garden'. This traditional area for arable crops, orchards and hops has seen most of Nelson's recent vineyard expansion. The Pinot Noir is perfumed, the Chardonnay rich and expressive and the Aromatics are vibrant with a flinty undercurrent.



The tastings included 5 wines from 5 different Nelson wineries:

**NEUDORF TIRITIRI SAUVIGNON BLANC 2019:** Grown on the alluvial gravels on the Waimea Plains was complex but remaining true to varietal characteristics - succulent, bracing and refreshing- \$19.99.

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[TOHU "WHENUA MATUA' MOUTERE ALBARINO 2018](#): A refined, classy take on this famous Spanish white grape of Albarino. The Nelson sun ripening to perfection. Absolutely delicious - dry and crisp, stone fruit and citrus notes and a saline note (famous in Albarino). Unique. \$24.99. Albarino is touted to be the next BIG THING in white wines in New Zealand. Bring it on.

[MIDDLE EARTH PINOT MEUNIER ROSE 2020](#): Middle Earth wines are located in the geographical center or middle earth of New Zealand in the Nelson wine area. 100% Pinot Meunier, a medium bodied Rose with Pomegranate and citrus notes. Vibrant and dry in style with spicy note and fresh acidity. JRR Tolkien would have been proud. This wine can be used as an Aperitif with cheeses, smoked salmon, salads and Prosciutto. \$22.99.

[RIMU GROVE PINOT NOIR 2014](#): Moutere Hills from Rimu Grove Vineyards. Sam Kim's Wine Orbit, November 2018 - 5 stars, 95 points said: "This is a gorgeously composed Pinot with fragrant aromas of Black Doris Plums, raspberry, floral, vanilla and sandalwood with spicy complexity. The palate delivers excellent weight and depth, silky texture leading to a long delectable finish. At its best until 2024." \$39.99.

[KAHURANGI MONTEPULCIANO 2019](#): Montepulciano is not commonly grown in New Zealand but has found a friend in the heart of Upper Moutere with small plantings of this Central Italian classic. Deep ruby purple, aromas of wild forest berries and oregano. Spicy, blackcurrant and plum flavours, density and smooth texture. A delicious wine to savour. \$20.99.

What beautiful wines from a stunning area with top class wineries producing top class wines. Interesting and exciting that different grapes are being grown here, in Nelson. Can't wait to do a wine tour of the area.

## VILLA MARIA LAUNCHES SELTZERS

Villa Maria Estate plans to launch what it claims to be New Zealand's first wine-based Seltzers amid new trends for lighter style drinks. Millennials were driving the trend for seltzers, as a low alcohol alternative.

Ready to drink (RTD) beverages account for 27% of alcohol sales and hold the second highest share of the category after beer, according to Nielson figures.



Villa Maria which owns a number of wine brands, think wine-based seltzers will be Leftfield Wine Seltzer. "The wine in the Seltzer come from Villa Maria's Leftfield label," said VM spokesperson Sarah Segota. "We will be launching the seltzers in November."

The Wine Seltzer will cost \$15.99 for a pack of four 250 ml cans each containing 4.8% alcohol. They will come in three flavours: yuzu, mint and cucumber with Sauvignon Blanc; Pear and Ginger with Pinot Gris; Strawberry and Hibiscus with Rose. Should be fun to try and easy to pop in the picnic hamper.

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## NEW WORLD WINE AWARDS

For the 18th year New World Wine Awards has found the top 50 drops under \$25 and has made them available for all to share. Jim Harre, Chair of Judges said: "After many days of sniffing, tasting, spitting, robust discussion, re-tasting, more discussing and finally agreeing, we have reached a consensus of the best wines. We enjoyed selecting them and we hope you enjoy your own personal discovery of them."



The winners can be found online or at New World Supermarkets. Wines are available in the wine sections at New World.

### CLEARVIEW ESTATE TE AWANGA HAWKES BAY

Can we forget the lovely Michelle and the fast and furious Clearview Estate tasting earlier this year?

Michelle informs me that the Clearview 2019 Beachhead Chardonnay (of which I am sure we Chardie lovers have drunk copious quantities of) has just won a Double Gold Champion Wine of the Show at the New Zealand International Wine Show held recently. They also won a Gold Award at the New World Wine Awards, just released. Power packed with cashew nut aromatics, a creamy viscosity and stone fruit flavour profile. Clearview are offering 12 bottles of this wonderful Chardonnay for \$282 (\$23 per bottle). The RRP for this wine is \$27. Go online if you would like to take advantage of this offer or get hold of Michelle at Clearview.

### WINESPEAK:

**BALANCE:** How acid, alcohol, fruit and tannin in a wine work together. The aim is to produce the most satisfactory 'mouth-feel'.

**COMPLEXITY:** Found in top-class wines where there is a multitude of aromas and flavours.

**DEVELOPED:** How mature the wine is and whether it is ready to drink.

For the November tasting, after our tour to West Auckland we will be tasting some of the wines from the Wineries Out West that we bought on the tour.

The area is steeped in history with wineries that date back to 1916. You will be tasting boutique artisan wineries through to some of the most well-known names in the New Zealand wine industry. Alongside our superb selection of award-winning wines made from locally grown West Auckland grapes, we will be tasting outstanding wines made from grapes originating in Hawkes Bay, Gisborne, Marlborough and Central Otago. The wines will be presented by Club members so should be a relaxing, fun night.

Look forward to seeing you there.

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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