

WINETALK

375

WINE CONNOISSEURS CLUB OF HAMILTON

October 2022

Coming Functions

Oct 9	Johanneshof (delayed from 2021)
Nov 13	Petane Station & Wairiki
Dec 3	Xmas party (Note the date !)
Jan 8	Jan BBQ (date to be confirmed)
Feb 12	Delightful bubbles

WINETALK OCTOBER 2022

LAST MONTH'S CLUB TASTING

This was an outstanding tasting with wines from our Cellar, collected over the years. Each Viognier was just delicious and the reds excellent.

The cellarmasters over the years have done a great job keeping their eyes open for wines that will cellar well. We also buy particular wines from visiting wineries that have outstanding wines they have presented. It is also a learning occasion for members.

VOLCANIC HILLS WINERY IN ROTORUA DAY TRIP.

A very successful day was had by 19 members to Rotorua. Fabulous sunny weather so the views from [Volcanic Hills](#) Tasting Room after a Gondola ride to the top were magnificent. Brent was in full voice and gave an interesting and hilarious presentation. He has been so busy with sales he had no Rose or Sparkling left for us to taste, but I notice on the list sent out to all members he now has some Rose bottled. The Sav lovers loved the Sauvignon Blanc, the Pinot Gris was fresh and lively and as a long time Chardy drinker, I thought the Chardonnay was

outstanding. Brent was saying he was so low on stock he had bottled the 2022 the day before for us. It is a top-quality Chardonnay with all the beautiful flavours of tropical fruits, creamy and buttery. Talking to the other Chardonnay drinkers they all agreed for wine bottled the day before, this 2022 is a winner. Careful of that one!

A beautiful 2016 Central Otago Feltham Road Pinot Noir (the only older vintage he could muster) was sooooooo good. Also a 2020 Hawkes Bay Syrah was top class and reasonable at \$23 per bottle. We have bought two Pinots for the Cellar so you will get the benefit of these in the future. Top quality. The 12 year old Tawny Port was also a winner. Brent taught us a new wine term when talking about the Syrah. Some members were saying they like a fruity Australian Shiraz. Brent's reply?... "Well if you want a slutty Australian Shiraz, this is not that" This new wine



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term can be added to the "sweaty donkey" we learned from the movie about the Zimbabwean wine tasters. All the wines were excellent and of course with Brent in full flight, we were in top humour by the time we moved to the Restaurant for an amazing lunch. With views over Rotorua and the mountains of food of every type known to man, it was a very happy lot of travelers. It was really good to see that there were hundreds of people up there. The Rotorua Marathon was also on in the city so very busy with that and mountain bikers. Brent meanwhile, packed the bus with our wine orders - the bus sank noticeably with the many, many boxes. He has sent a wine list which you will have received online so you can benefit from the special prices.



NOW HERE IS A TALE AND THE STORY IS TRUE: When our group were booked in earlier in the week the ' i ' was left out of my surname. Therefore, we were booked in as Gay Man's Hamilton Wine Club. The staff were interested to see what a Gay Man's Wine Club looked like. When they realised that the 19 sitting at 3 tables was mainly women the Chef came out and we had a hilarious conversation with him and put him 'straight'.....story for the Annals of the history of the Wine Club????

Then it was on to the Blueberry Farm for a tasting. I couldn't call it a tasting as they tiny tastings were so small I



couldn't even swallow them - the wee bit stayed on the tongue, unfortunately. So not impressed with that or the presentation which wasn't really a presentation anyhow (they should get some tips from Brent). They did however have some pleasant pickled gooseberries, Chilli Blueberry jam and two sweaty donkeys out in the field. Some even managed to buy some plants from there. However would not recommend the Blueberry wines. What a super day and will look at another Day Tour to Tauranga way in the new year.

Thanks to all who came and made it such a good day.

HOW DO YOU TASTE WINE?

There are many ways of tasting wine. I would go for Wine Tasting 101: The 5 S's. This will set you on your way to make the most of your wine tasting.

SEE: What is the colour like for the wine you are tasting? Observe clarity and colour. **SWIRL;** Give it some air...swirl it around the glass a couple of times. **SMELL:** Also called 'the nose'. What do you smell? Smell is the main sense used in wine tasting so sniffing the wine before tasting is essential. What flavours or scents do you get? **SIP:** What do you taste on the palate? What notes are you getting? **SAVOUR:** Does the taste linger?

The **5 S's** will determine your opinion of the wine. Ultimately, do you like it, love it, or not and why. There are also special types of tastings we have run at Wine Club.

VERTICAL TASTINGS

A vertical tasting compares a number of wines from a single estate or producer in which all the wines are produced under the same name or label but come from different years. A 'Vertical' allows tasters to see the evolution of a specific wine over time as well as better understand the effect of growing conditions in different vintages, plus any changes to techniques in the winery and in the case of blends - assemblage percentages.

HORIZONTAL TASTING

A 'horizontal' tasting compares wines from the same year and region style. In this format, tasters look at differences between producers rather than comparing wines from the same producer. It is common for established wineries around the world to hold vertical tastings that include vintages spanning several decades.

Bordeaux Chateaux are very fond of these events, which can offer the taster a rare opportunity to witness the development of an estate's wines over time, where the primary non-constant is the vintage.

SIDE-BY-SIDE TASTING

In another type of horizontal tasting, organisers will present wines from the same grape but from different places around the world. So you could compare, say a Pinot Noir from France, Australia, USA or New Zealand. It is a good idea to choose the same year in each case. Great for discussions amongst groups. Climate, soils, terroir, winemaking techniques are all compared but still producing Pinot Noir, delicious or not. I have been to many of these and it is so much fun to discuss the wine, the countries, with everyone having a story to tell on their travels and adventures with wine, some great some bad. Let me know some of your adventures.

Few wine lovers drink one type of wine alone to the exclusion of all others. All of those who love wine love its diversity. No other alcoholic drink matches wine's multitudes. It's a kind of barometer for difference itself, reflecting the ever-changing places and climates in which vines are grown and the variety of cultures and talents of the craftspeople who vinify it. Long may they last.

PRIMO VINO

The monthly Specials from Henry of Primo VINO will be coming later this week

A REMINDER: *Mike Todd's Memorial service is scheduled for Sunday 30th October @ Tree Church & Gardens at Ohaupo - (Location details can be found here [A Tree Church](#))*

Arrivals from 4pm with a start **at 4.30pm & please bring a drinking vessel (glass).** Tipples will be provided!

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A REQUEST: Club member Jan Gilby is asking for volunteers for the 2023 International Breast Cancer Paddlers Commission Dragon Boat Festival at Karapiro April 2023. Talk to Jan or send details to: volunteers@newzealandbcs2023.com

THIS MONTH'S TASTING - JOHANNESHOF CELLARS:

We have a real treat with [JOHANNESHOF CELLARS](#), Marlborough, bringing their award-winning wines to taste. I have seen the list and it is exciting. They were coming to us last year when Jacinda closed the Waikato borders for Covid about 2 days before they were due to come to our club. They had just done a tasting at the Morrinsville Wine Club, who were not included in the Lockdown. So lovely to make the trip up again for us. They are on the main road just out of Picton and are recognisable for the large caves they use to store their wines.



See you there,
Cheers,

Gay Main

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