

WINETALK

407

WINE CONNOISSEURS CLUB OF HAMILTON
Since 1965

August 2025

Coming Functions

Aug 10	60 th Anniversary - Committee
Sept 14	Wooing Tree
Oct 12	JK Wines
Nov 9	Volcanic Hills
Dec 6	Christmas – Note Date

WINETALK August 2025

LAST MONTH'S CUVAR VISIT

What a truly memorable tasting of Cuvar Wines. Cuvar meaning Guardian in Croation, honor's Sir George



Fistonich's family heritage and that of his fellow countrymen, who have done so much to establish the New Zealand wine industry.

Dave Mackintosh, Senior Winemaker was an outstanding presenter, probably the best we have had, with a great knowledge of winemaking, and engaged well with the members. The wines were first rate from the Fistonich Family Vineyards in Marlborough and Hawkes Bay. It was an excellent evening and we are now enjoying the beautiful Cuvar wines which many of us bought.

DIP RECIPE FROM THE CUVAR TASTING EVENING

VERY, VERY SIMPLE: 1 X Jar of Chow Chow (OR Corn Relish, Piccalilli),
 1 x 250gm tub of Cream Cheese (spreadable is easiest to mix).

Combine in a bowl.
Can be served hot or cold.....very simple.

MALBEC - THE WINE OF ARGENTINA.

With the very chilly weather around in these months, it's time for the red wines to be brought out. What better than a stunning, comforting MALBEC

MALBEC originates in the Cahor Region of France, south of Bordeaux but is now considered an Argentinian wine, growing on the slopes of the Eastern Andes, being noticeably different in taste, depending on whether from the cooler climate of Cahors or the warmer climate of Argentina. It is most popularly grown as high as 1500 meters above sea level in the Mendoza region of Argentina.

MALBEC is rich with an aromatic nose of blackberries, plum and a hint of violet. On the palate it is full bodied and velvety, with a deep flavour of dark fruit and cocoa. It has lingering tannins, with earthy undertones, fruit forward and savoury notes of vanilla and tobacco. Just the wine for my 'other group' on a cold evening. We tried three Malbecs from 3 different wine regions to see how they measured up to our expectations.



www.hamiltonwineclub.co.nz

Content - Gay Main, Graphical layout - Grumpy

CHATEAU DE CEDRE, 2018 Malbec, Cahors Region, south of Bordeaux, France. This is THE region in France for Malbec as the grape originated from here. However, Malbec is now most famously associated with the Mendoza Region in Argentina Flavours of plum and Blackberry. Thought there was a thinness about this wine. High tannins. high acidity which balanced the fruit and tannins. Quite different from an Argentinian Malbec. Although this was the oldest wine we tasted.

CASARENA 505, 2020, Mendoza Region, Argentina. Elegant, more fruit forward, deep violet/red colour. The nose intense with aromas of dark red fruits. Full, sweet palate with round tannins and long finish. A true example of what to expect from an Argentinian Malbec. Loved this delicious wine. No wonder Argentina's Malbec is so renowned in the world of Malbec production.

ABBEY ESTATE TEMPTATION, 2021, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand. Aromatic, layers of dark fruit, ripe cherries, chocolate and violet flavours. Very fruit forward, so New Zealand in flavours and textures, Fresh, lively stunning Malbec.

We enjoyed the three examples of Malbec and of course it is all about the TERROIR. The grapes produce a subtle difference for the natural environment in which they are grown, including topography, climate and soils. A great wine, in different ways, wherever it is produced.

WHY IS FRANCE PULLING OUT LARGE SWATHES OF THE COUNTRY'S VINEYARDS?



Euro News (Decante) reports that the French Government has announced plans to uproot 30,000 Ha of grape vines across the country. France is a country renowned for its wines, with people flocking to the country, especially the south, to admire the sprawling vineyards and drink the famous wines produced there.

This drastic measure is the Government's response to a shrinking wine sector and forms part of a wider plan to uproot a total of 100,000 ha of vineyards. Costing about Euro 120 million, the plan was devised by the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region and the Bordeaux Wine Interprofessional Council. Once the offer is accepted these vineyards will be prohibited from re-planting vines on this land until at least 2029.

With a drastic 70% reduction in France of wine consumption, the average yearly consumption of a single French person is now only 40 litres. Not only is the domestic demand for French wine

down, but the industry has also been affected by a reduced international demand, especially from China, with China producing its own wines and currently preferring Italian and Spanish wines over French wines...

Changing attitudes with young people opting for beer over wines, and in some cases they are rejecting alcohol entirely as a concept.

Another factor is climate change which is impacting the French wine industry in the long term.

In response to this combination of factors, the plan to uproot vineyards is continuing. Time will tell if this is an effective way to balance out supply and demand.



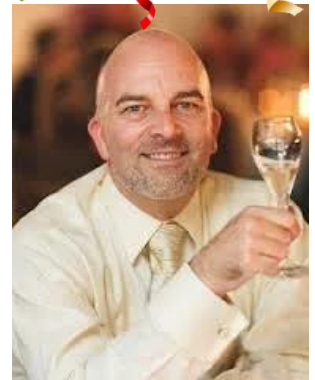
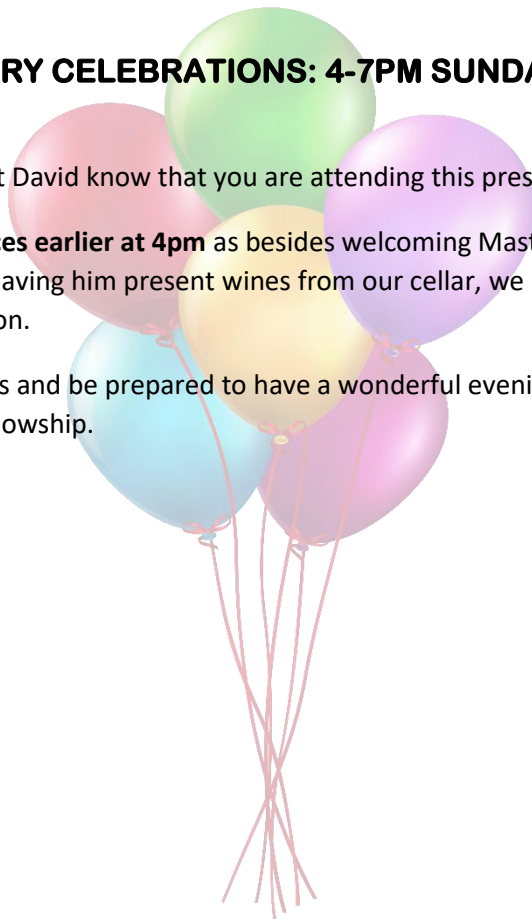
NEXT MEETING:

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS: 4-7PM SUNDAY 10th AUGUST 2025.

By now you will have let David know that you are attending this prestigious event.

Remember it commences earlier at 4pm as besides welcoming Master Sommelier Cameron Douglas and having him present wines from our cellar, we have other surprising things going on.

So, get on your glad rags and be prepared to have a wonderful evening of good wine, good food and good fellowship.



See you there.

Cheers

Gay Main