

WINETALK

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WINE CONNOISSEURS CLUB OF HAMILTON
Since 1965

September 2025

Coming Functions

Sept 14	Wooin Tree
Oct 12	JK Wines
Nov 9	Volcanic Hills
Dec 6	Christmas – Note the Date !
XX Jan	January Summer BBQ

WINETALK September 2025

**CLUB 60th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION -
AUGUST 10th, 2025.**

WOW!

What an unforgettable celebration we all enjoyed for the Club's 60th Anniversary. It could not have been more fun or interesting with the most outstanding Guest, Master Sommelier CAMERON DOUGLAS presenting some fine wines from the Club's cellar. His knowledge and presentation were breathtaking and we have to congratulate members on being completely silent during his presentation. We learned more in the time he was at the celebrations than we could possibly have thought possible. He and his lovely wife thoroughly enjoyed his time with us and are happy to come back. Cam's website is brilliant and he can also be heard recommending wines he has just tasted on Jack Tame on NewstalkZB every third Saturday morning about 10.45am.



Well done us and well done the Anniversary Committee for putting together such a great celebration. The Committee worked extremely hard to make it all happen over several months. The food was delicious and the committee excelled themselves by setting up the venue to make it festive and special.

You will be also be pleased to know the elderly yellow table cloths have been put to rest and replaced by stunning black ones! Thanks Jason for spotting a special at Spotlight and buying their entire stock!!

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Congratulation to Judie Rees (long time Treasurer and member) and Judy Fitness (longtime everything) becoming Life Members. It was a complete surprise to them and they were very moved to accept the accolade.

Everything went very smoothly and here are the wines that Cam selected and presented from the Club cellar:

THE BUBBLES BEFORE: MISSION ESTATE 'FETE', ASHRIDGE 'ELODIE', LEVERETS 'IQ'.

WHITES: ALPHA DOMUS, Hawkes Bay, 2022, 'The Wingwalker', VIOGNIER.

MATAWHERO, Gisborne. 2021, 'Church House' CHARDONNAY.

CLEARVIEW, Hawkes Bay, 2021, 'Endeavour' CHARDONNAY.

REDS: ELEPHANT HILL, Hawkes Bay, 2020, RESERVE SYRAH.

ELEPHANT HILL, Hawkes Bay, 2019, 'Aravata' SYRAH.

MISSION ESTATE, Hawkes Bay, 2018, 'Huchet', CABERNET SAUVIGNON.

OAK BARRELS ARE A WINEMAKING TOOL.

Found this article by Canadian MOW CHRISTINE MARSAGLIO. Cam had been talking about the use of Oak in winemaking at our Anniversary night so thought it would be a good follow-up.

* Oak lets in tiny amounts of oxygen, softening tannins and changing colour.

* Lignis, Lactose's and tannins in the wood add flavours of vanilla, clove and coconut.

* FRENCH OAK (*Quercus Petraea*). Tighter grain = subtle spice, cinnamon and clove.

* AMERICAN OAK (*Quercus Alba*) Looser grain = bold coconut, dill and sweet spice.

* TOASTING (Heat treating the inside) transforms Oak compounds - more toasts = more smoke notes, caramel and clove. Barrels are often lightly toasted for whites, medium to heavy for reds.



ONE VESSEL, ENDLESS NUANCE!

WINES OF PORTUGAL AND SPAIN TASTING

Had a great tasting with my 'other group' where we tasted the wines from Spain and Portugal. The Iberian Peninsula is vast with diverse landscapes and soils and a mild sub-tropical climate. It has the Atlantic Ocean to the West and the Mediterranean Sea to the East and South. The wines were as diverse and interesting as the whole Peninsula.

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PLUMA VINHO VERDE 2023 from North/East Portugal. The grapes are picked very early so small and young. A surge of gas and bubbles appear and fade quickly. Aromatic, fresh fruits, and decided this was a lovely refreshing summer wine. So lots will be consumed with summer just around the corner.

CASA SANTOS LIMA, ALVARINHO 2021. From Lisbon, Portugal. A blend of several Portuguese grapes. We considered it a quiet, calming wine with a fine blend of fruits. Lovely, soft, easy drinking.

L'INNOCENTIA, TEMPRANILLO 2024. Spanish, from the Manda-Lupana Region, a Region known for its wolves (hence the Red Riding Hood motif and a big bad wolf on the label). Smooth, juicy with strawberry and raspberry flavours. Soft red fruit, stunning and enjoyable any time of the year.

MILENO DAO NATIONALE, DOC DUORO REGION 2020. Portugal. Blend of Torego and Aragone grapes. Rich, ruby red with 'irreverent tannins'! Soft red berries and dark fruit. Fabulous wine full of character. This was our favourite of the tasting. Brilliant red. Give me more.....

The wines could be drunk with pates, hard cheeses, sardines and fish dishes with the whites, meat and tomato based pastas with the reds. Wines were bought from either Vetro or Hamilton Beer and Wine.



DIANE GRAS

It is with sadness we note that long-time member Diane Gras passed away on September 3.

Diane during her long association with the club was a long-time member of the Committee and served as Vice President.

She will be sadly missed. We are thinking of her family and friends at this time.



NEXT MEETING: 14th SEPTEMBER, 4.30. WOONG TREE, CENTRAL OTAGO.

We don't often have a Central Otago Winery visit, but we are happy to welcome the famous WOONG TREE WINERY and the owner Steve Farquarson.

WOONG TREE is a family-owned winery with a single vineyard at the top of Lake Dunstan nestled below the Pisa Range with the cellar door in the town of Cromwell, in the heart of Central Otago. Steve has an interesting history and knowledge of winemaking. We look forward to hearing his story and to taste his wonderful award-winning wines.



See you there.

Cheers

Gay Main

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