

Decanter Club

August 2000

Coming Events:

Lyn Wright: Lyn's Best Buys Thursday 27th July *cost: \$15.00*

Lyn plans her annual tastings with great fervor. Lyn tries to ensure that she sells what her clients want so expect to see some hearty Aussi reds.

Mike Jemison: Fromm and Greenhough wines Thursday 3rd August *cost: \$15.00*

Both of these are fantastic vineyards from Marlborough. The Greenhough Hope Chardonnay is one of the best New Zealand Chardonnays I have tried along with Kumeu River and Elston. The Fromm wines are made by the very able Hatsch Kalberer and has produced some very good results with their excellent reds and whites .

John Hancock: Trinity Hill Wednesday 9th August *cost: \$15.00*

A relative new comer to the Hawkes Bay wine scene, Trinity Hill has received very good reviews since their first vintage in 1996. John Hancock made wines for Morton Estate for many years and he is a wine judge for Cuisine and the Air New Zealand Show, so even though he may be an Australian he certainly knows a lot about the local wine scene. The wines I have tried have been excellent and I look forward to trying their new releases.

Mission Estate Thursday 17th August *cost: \$10.00*

Established in 1851 by the French Marist Brothers, Mission is clearly New Zealand's oldest established winery. Jewelstone is Missions premium label with a Chardonnay and Cabernet merlot in the series. However, Mission also has an excellent range of wines in all price brackets, with almost all varietals represented in their label.

Chris Staynes: German and European Thursday 24th August *cost: \$20.00*

This tasting will predominantly be made up of the wonderful German wines we have available in-store. There will possibly be offset by Italian and French reds. Come on the night to find what Chris has up his sleeve.

Wines Recently Tasted

Andrew Garrett Shiraz 1998 \$15.95

Full of peppery spicy characteristics that McLaren vale is famous for. Aged in American and French oak it has developed wonderful black cherry flavours.

Charvin Cotes du Rhone 1998 \$23.95

This wine was produced in a fantastic hot vintage in the Rhone valley. This is a mini Chateau Neuf du Pape, a style that I love. Gorgeous wine made of mainly Grenache and Shiraz grapes packed with ripe spicy fruit, yet made in an elegant feminine style (compared to the huge robust masculine Australian shiraz). Will be available from early August.

Collards Queen Charlotte Riesling 1996 \$15.95

Wonderful to be able to buy an aged riesling. This has lovely development now with gorgeous citrus fruit.

Cooks Chardonnay 1998 \$11.95

A super deal. This wine has lots of pineapple fruit and nice toasty oak. This wine is exclusive to Munslow's and for that reason we have been able to secure this fantastic price. A cancelled export order makes this a super, super deal. Buy 12 bottles @ \$10 a bottle.

Corbans Sauvignon Blanc 1999 \$13.95

Packed with tropical fruit and gooseberries. Another great buy.

Corbans Select Marl Chardonnay '98 \$17.95

A gold medal winner, this is a complex elegant wine with layers of peach, apricot and toasted oak and a rich creamy palate.

Corbett Canyon Zinfandel 1997 \$19.95

The (few) blockbuster Californian zins that we get our hands on are now topping the \$50 mark, so it is nice to be able to source a zin which is more affordable. With its cherry like nose and palate, this is an opportunity to try a grape variety which California calls its own. The interesting bottle shape could prove handy to those who chilli or herb infuse their own olive oils over the summer.

Forrest Chenin Blanc 1998 \$24.95

Fantastic wine, more like a developed French Vovray, with honeyed peach characters and a lovely touch of sweetness, but enough acid to counter it.

Fraters Rise Cabernet Merlot \$17.95

Great value, lovely ripe fruit with lots of blackcurrants, made by Lintz Estate from Martinborough.

Henschke Cyril Henschke Cabernet Sauvignon 1996 \$106.95

A long history and a great track record has turned Henschke into one of Australia's wine icons; performing consistently well in tastings, and as a star in the auction market. We have minute quantities of the latest Henschke releases in store now (sorry, no Hill of Grace), so devotees of this label should get in quickly.

Lanson Champagne \$53.95

Still the best value French Champagne in the shop. Powerful, ripe with lovely yeast flavours.

Leasingham Bastian Shiraz Cab. 1998 \$14.95

Another great buy. When we tried this wine blind, we thought it would retail at above \$20.00 so are thrilled

to be able to offer our clients a really good quality red at such a good price. Full of rich blackberry fruit, full bodied. Will cellar for about 5 years or so.

Moculta Shiraz 1998 \$15.95

It's not always true that everything goes up in price these days. Moculta Shiraz is testament to this going down a dollar. Powerful wine with superb mulberry spice and peppery flavours. Smooth well integrated vanilla oak with a soft velvety finish.

Nautilus Chardonnay 1998 \$22.95

Matured in French oak and impressively concentrated. A well structures wine with an oaky bouquet and an abundance of ripe citrusy fruit characteristics.

Robertson's Well Shiraz 1998 \$22.95

5 stars in Cuisine. Very powerful, spicy fruit, yet elegant in its structure. From a vintage year. This was a sell-out after the Cuisine Shiraz tasting second to the beloved Eileen Hardy and by far the wine most preferred by tasters as the most value for money in the tasting;

Rosemount Show Reserve Shiraz 1997 \$32.95

Another great wine from the irrepressible Rosemount team. Full-bodied rich and very concentrated this is a powerful assertive wine with wonderful spicy flavours. Exactly what you would expect from this label.

Sandihurst Riesling 1997 \$10.95

Lovely lemon-lime citrus flavours with a nice touch of bottle development. Still able to be cellared for a couple of years yet.

Sevenhill Dry Red 1997 \$15.95

At 14% plus alcohol, this wine is a big bugger. Heaps of spicy fruit, with lots of plum, and cassis flavours. This would a great match for venison or a juicy steak.

Shingle Peak Pinot Noir 1999 \$19.95

Matua Valley's Marlborough label has always been a source of good honest wines that you can rely upon to provide great fruit, yet without having to take out a mortgage. This is another of the new crop of entry-level pinots, that Marlborough is beginning to do so well. You can enjoy this while saving up your pennies for the boutique Central Otago and Martinborough producers.

St Hallett Old Block Shiraz 1994 \$41.95

A producer and a wine with a huge reputation in Australia and overseas, yet in a very different style to some of the current crop of blockbusters. A rich yet subtle wine; all the rough edges of youth have been smoothed away and provide a wine that you can enjoy now. The new '97 release of this wine will be over \$50.

Taylor's Merlot 1999 \$19.95

Taylor's offers consistent good value wines. Very rich ripe and packed with plum and spice flavours and a touch of fresh mint and herbs.

Tennyson Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 \$11.95

Another good value Aussi red with lots of blackcurrant flavour as you would expect from a great vintage.

Wairau River Sauvignon Blanc 1999 \$18.95

A powerful, intense and classy wine from a producer with a big following in the UK. All the flavours that you would expect in a good Marlborough savvy, with a lovely texture and excellent complexity.

Yalumba Galway Hermitage 1998 \$14.95

Rich colour with distinctive spicy fruit and elegant well balanced oak.

Wines of the Month

Peter's choice:

Maxwell Ellen Street Shiraz 1998 \$33.95 Rated 94 by Parker, I prefer this to many \$60 Shiraz's. Rich plum and

licorice with spice and raspberries. The palate is rich and juicy sweet pepper and spice flavours augment the long sweet palate. The wine is unfiltered and has been matured in American oak hogsheads it's great now, but will improve and get even better over the next couple of years. Winemaker, Mark Maxwell considers this could be the wine of the decade from Maxwell's.

Mark's choice:

d'Arenburg D'Arry's Original Grenache Shiraz 1998 \$22.95

This wine has been around for years but was known simply as D'Arry's Original. While the wine never used to have its varietal make-up labeled, it has always been a blend of grenache and shiraz which d'Arenburg stood by over the years. With both grapes now strongly in fashion, they get a discreet mention on the label. This vintage is a potent mix of ripe fruit, spices and a bit of the shiraz pepperiness. I thought it was yummy.

Mt. Difficulty Pinot Noir 1999 \$34.95

At the recent winter reds tasting, Matt Douglas (manager of Mt Difficulty) gave us an unexpected surprise. We were able to try the Chardonnay and Pinot Noir which have just been released and the not yet been released Pinot Gris and Sauvignon Blanc (all of which were stunning). The Pinot is a big brooding beast, dark in colour, with its black cherry and savory notes providing a foil to the grippy tannins. It needs warming at this time of year though. I think it will cellar well for a few years at least. Watch out for the other Mt Difficulty wines, there is no doubt you will be hearing more about them in the future).

Lyn's choice:

Shingle Peak Pinot Gris 1999 \$15.95

Strong well ripened flavour of peaches and exotic fruits and spice with an almost imperceptible sliver of sweetness adding to its appeal. Nice change from Riesling and Chardonnay. Great value with good cellaring potential. 14% alc.vol.

GERMAN RIESLINGS

Since the Roman era, German wines have won worldwide acclaim. Today the finest German wines grace the tables of the finest palates. There hasn't been much of a demand for German wines in New Zealand since the mid-eighties, when European imported wines dominated the market, and before we Kiwis developed a southern mind-set about huge fruit-driven wines from Australia. Not that I deride the Australian wines, as most people know, we at Munslow's are big fans of our neighbouring cousins, but give me a good European wine and give me elegance, finesse and centuries of history.

The best German wines are made from fully ripened Riesling grapes made with no added sugar. Qualitatswein Mit Pradikat indicates the wine is from the best quality grapes. The levels of sweetness go from Kabinett, Spatlese, Auslese and then onto Beerenauslese and Trokenbeerenauslese. The first

three are available in small quantities however the latter two are very sweet and rare.

There are eleven wine-growing areas with 4 bordering the Rhine River. Probably Germany's most famous wine region is the Rheingau with the wines characteristically ripe and full-flavored. The Rheinhessen area (known for Liebfraumilch) and Rheinpfalz are the other two predominant Rhine River wine growing areas. Two important tributaries to the Rhine, are the Mosel and Nahe Rivers and each produces stunning wines of top quality. The other two districts worth mentioning are the Saar and Ruwer areas that feed into the Mosel River and make up the Mosel-Saar-Ruwer wines.

The following German wines are available at Munslow's:

Staatliche Weinbaudomane Trier St. Maximer Auslese 1990 \$34.95

Rated 97 by Bob Campbell. An absolute treat with rich, intense, luscious nectarine flavours and an awesome finish. Try it after a meal with fresh fruit or maybe my favourite desert, crème brulee. There is years of life ahead if you want to cellar it longer for a big occasion.

Staatliche Weinbaudomane Trierer St Maximer Riesling Spatlese 1990 \$29.95

Also rated very highly by Bob Campbell in Cuisine, this fresh-faced Riesling belies its age. After 10 years it has lost much of the traditional German sulphur on the nose and is now redolent of flowers, with a marvelously honeyed palate and great length. A fine example of an aged Riesling.

Peiter Mertes Klusserather St. Michael Auslese 1998 \$16.95

Made in the Mosel-Saar-Ruwer area. Fantastic value with all these beautiful honeyed flavours you expect from a good German Riesling. Medium sweet but not cloying, and with 8% alcohol it makes it a great afternoon wine, or with stonefruit after a meal. Cellar for a few years for that added dimension.

Peiter Mertes 1998 Niersteiner Gutes Domtal Spatlese \$14.95

Great value, a drink-on-its-own style. Medium-drier than the Auslese, with good peach flavours and nice balance. From the Rheinhessen area.

Cheers, Peter, Lyn, Mark and the Crew