

Decanter Club

June 2000

Coming Events:

Paul Wright: Penfolds Wines Thursday 15th June *cost: \$20.00*

Southcorp is the biggest wine company in Australasia and one of Australia's best red wine producers. Penfold's is one of the biggies in this range of wines. Paul will present some of the best in their extensive wine range including the Bin 389 and 407, and the highly rated RWT Shiraz the highly touted Tnew baby Grange'. A necessity for those venturing into the wine options competition at the end of the week.

Simon Nunns: Coopers Creek Thursday 22nd June *cost: \$15.00*

Wine maker for Coopers Creek, Simon Nunns has achieved very high standards indeed with his exquisite Rieslings from both Hawkes Bay and Gisborne. The Chardonnays have also had huge reviews over the years especially for the Swamp Road label. Don't hold your breath on the whites though as Cuisine has just rated the Reserve Merlot Cabernet 95:100 and the Reserve Cabernet 93.

Chris Staynes: Cuisine Tasting---Shiraz Wednesday 28th June *cost: \$25.00*

The latest Cuisine magazine will be waited on eagerly with everyone's favorite wine style. This tasting will be totally awesome with wines like Eileen Hardy to match up against some lesser known but equally good Shiraz. The cost of the tasting is high because these wines are all expensive. Please book well in advance for this tasting.

Monteiths Beer Thursday 6th July *cost: \$5.00*

Made with hops compared to grapes! This West Coast label has an excellent reputation. Made for the more serious beer drinker, they are made with more style than the old Speights. All the beers are from the West Coast brewery, and are unpasturised and made in the traditional way ~ coal fired boilers, open fermenters and matured in ice-cold cellars.

Peter and Chris: Winter reds Thursday 12th July *cost: \$20.00*

Peter and Chris will select some of their reds they have been consuming in the colder months. Expect to see some European, NZ and of course, good old Australian shiraz.

Cedar Creek Chardonnay \$10.95

Lyn and I consume a lot of this wee beauty. Toasty and rich. Buy before the price goes up (Bound to with the NZ \$ the way it is!).

Church Road Chardonnay 1999 \$19.95

Great balance between spicy oak and citrus fruits. A classy wine with rich complexity with ripe fruit.

Collards Queen Charlotte Riesling '96 \$15.95

We have managed to get hold of a few more cases of this wonderful bottle-aged Riesling. Packed with citrus flavours and a touch of honey. This would be an excellent example to put in your cellar so you can see (and prove the theory) that NZ Rieslings do change over time.

Domaine Andre Brunel Cotes du Rhone 1996 \$22.95

A meaty Grenache/syrah blend from the Rhone in France, and a world away in style from the more confected Australian style. Spice and game, with wild herbs, and that hint of French barnyard character. Drinking beautifully now.

E E Black Pepper Shiraz 1998 \$57.95

This wine reminds me so much of my all time favourite, Eileen Hardy Shiraz, with its smooth-talking oak and full-bodied fruit. Ripe, rich and with intense concentration of flavours. A powerful Barossa Shiraz with great length of flavour and gripping velvety tannins. Once tried never forgotten, as is testament by the number of faithful followers it has. There is only a small quantity of this wine available.

E E Sparkling Shiraz 1997 \$42.95

Ripe chocolate and leather characteristics dominate the palate with well integrated vanilla oak nuances adding complexity. The finish is smooth and velvety. Along with the Joseph Sparkling Red, this is without doubt the top of sparkling reds and well worth the money.

Ebenezer Shiraz 1997 \$29.95

Traditional Barossa Shiraz. Complex flavours of berryfruit, leather, chocolate and American oak have combined beautifully to produce a big full-bodied wine.

Forrest Cornerstone Cab. Merlot 98 \$35.95

One of the finest NZ reds I've tried. Made in a very ripe Bordeaux style the wine is very concentrated and intense. Worth every cent and will definitely cellar well.

Friedrich Wilhelm Gymnasium Riesling Kabinett 1994 TBA (\$20-25)

Opens up with that classic German nose; sulphur and minerally, leading on to a honeyed palate with refreshing acidity. Like all Mosel Saar-Ruwer Rieslings there is surprising power given the slender (8%) alcohol level. We have another couple of Germans in stock just now, so if you have a penchant for this style, please enquire.

Greenhaugh Hope Chardonnay 1998 \$29.95

One of my absolute favourites. Nelson grapes producing a rich complex, very intense flavoured wine. Packed with flavour. Superb.

Highland Park Malt 12 year old \$89.95(1 Ltr)

One of the great malts at the price of a 750ml. Succulent and smoky with honey sweetness and great maltiness. (Michael Jackson, Malt Whiskey)

Kumeu Dry White 1999 \$10.95

A refreshing blend from the Master of Wine, Michael Brajkovich. Don't be fooled by the price, this chardonnay predominant wine has a lovely melon palate and is one of the best quality wines in this price range I have tried.

Kumeu River Chardonnay 1999 \$36.95

It was a pleasure to have Paul and Melba Brajkovich down for Decanter Club recently, and the pleasure was returned when they poured this wine. Long established as one of NZ's classic wines, this is more French in

style with its savoury complexity and mealy texture and mouthfeel. Intense and lovely.

Leasingham Bastian Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 \$15.95

Robust and rich with intense spicy aromas and ripe cherry and blackberry fruit. Great now or cellar for up to 5 years. When we tried this blind we put it into the \$20–30 range; what a steal!

Mildara Chardonnay 1999 \$9.95

It is getting harder to get good chardonnay at a good price. This is a great buy. Very fresh and lively with a touch of oak.

Mildara Shiraz 1998 \$11.95

Excellent spicy Australian shiraz. We've bought this in bulk at a great price. Fantastic drinking now but will cellar for a few years. Delicious

Moculta Cabernet Merlot 1997 \$15.95

Be in quick before the vintage changes. Soft rounded flavours of sweet berries with plummy richness in a charming style. Excellent value.

Mt. Edward Pinot Noir 1999 \$34.95

Alan Brady set up his Mt. Edward winery after leaving Gibbston Valley, and like the pioneer he is has produced one of the best Pinots from this area. This is Alan's second vintage and has not disappointed. Full of wonderful cherry flavours and in my opinion is every bit as good as some of the other high-flyers at a better price.

Peter Lehmann Grenache \$12.95

Flavoursome sweet, ripe, raspberry, blackberry and black cherries on the palate. Lyn's current house red.

Robertson's Well Cab. Sauvignon 1997 \$18.95

Gold medal winner. Everything a good Coonawarra cabernet should be. Intense and rich fruit. This wine has been greatly reduced, so I suggest you buy a case for the cellar.

Rosemount Mountain Blue Shiraz Cabernet 1997 \$61.95

Hailing from Mudgee in NSW this is one of Rosemount's flagship wines. James Halliday wrote the following review in his winepros web site "The smooth power and balance of the bouquet flows into a satiny/velvety palate with succulent ripe berry fruit and seamless, integrated French and American oak. The tannins are equally soft and ripe. Liquid seduction!" Rated 95. A special wine indeed!

Sacred Hill BF Chardonnay 1998 \$20.95

Hand harvested Mendoza grapes. Like the Riflemen the grapes are whole bunch pressed in the gentlest manner, before going into French barriques for maturation. Results in a rich complex and aromatic creamy wine.

Sacred Hill Rifleman's Chardonnay '98 \$34.95

Couldn't go past this Chardonnay for a special occasion. It has been superbly handled with the grapes being hand-harvested and whole bunch pressed before being matured in top quality French oak. Elegant creamy melon flavours to savour and enjoy.

Selaks Drylands Pinot Noir 1999 \$16.95

The Drylands range is one that I have found to be very consistent over the years; consistently good and good reasonably priced. The Pinot offers some budgeting relief for those of you keen on this style but struggling with an inclement bank balance. A supple little number with a bit of substance, at a sharp price.

Coming Events:

Shingle Peak Merlot 1998 \$16.95

Don't overlook this excellent Marlborough Merlot and head straight for the Aussi section. You will be delightfully surprised. Lovely spicy plum flavours and gentle soft tannins. Great value +++

Taylors Merlot 1999 \$19.95

From the Clare Valley, this is a charming wine with blackcurrant and raspberry-like fruit and a hint of plum pudding. Medium bodied with a generous fruity middle palate and moderate tannins.

Veuve Clicquot Non Vintage \$76.95

Laurie and Peter's favorite fizz. Rich and buttery with superb yeast treatment makes this the queen of Champagnes at this price in town.

Wairau River Sauvignon Blanc '99 \$17.95

Excellent example of Marlborough sauvys. Elegant tropical fruit with traditional gooseberry aromas with nicely balanced acid and fruit.

Wynns Chardonnay 1999 \$15.95

Some Aussi Chardonnays are fat and blowzy; this isn't one of them. Zesty white peach and tropical fruit notes are balanced well by the integrated creamy, nutty oak. A great little wine at a great little price.

Wines of the Month

Peter's choice:

Maxwell Lime Cave Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 \$25.95

No question as to what my wine of the month is. Fantastic new vintage. Rich and ripe with incredible length and power. Because this wine was rated so highly by Robert Parker Jr (94 to 96), most of the wine was sold to the American market where it sells for about \$US50.00 so there is not a lot of this wine available in New Zealand. Cellar for up to 10 years.

Lyn's choice:

Pertaringa Shiraz 1998 \$36.95

The perfect wine to share with your special someone. Enhanced by maturation in American and French oak it has wonderful intense black cherry pepper and spice overtones. Another McLaren Vale beauty!

Nautilus Marlborough Chardonnay 1998 \$22.95

This is a typical mouth-filling Marlborough wine but to add to the usual Chardonnay it has a wonderful spicy oak flavour which adds to the ripe citrus and melon fruit right through to the finish. Fantastic vintage which will ensure longevity.

Mark's choice:

Robertson's Well Shiraz 1998 \$22.95

When one thinks of Coonawarra one thinks of Cabernet, but this is one of the small bands of excellent Shiraz from this region. Quite different in style from the McLaren Vale and Barossa wines we see most often and all the better for it. For me, it's spice, cracked pepper, and that tarry liquorice note more reminiscent of Victoria, with intense underlying berry fruit. Enjoy it now or cellar mid term.

Benfield and Delamare 1998 \$49.95

Coming Events:

Bill Benfield and Sue Delamare run this tiny winery in Martinborough, committed to making Bordeaux styled red wines, and using the traditional techniques of low trellising and high density planting, with low yields per vine. A merlot dominant blend in '98, this very elegant wine needs cellaring for several years to show its best.

The following is an actual excerpt from this month's Forbe's Magazine:

A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo, and when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole because the general speed and health of the whole is maintained or even improved by the regular culling of the weakest members.

In much the same way, the human brain can operate only as fast as the slowest brain cells through which the electrical signals pass. Recent epidemiological studies have shown that while excessive intake of alcohol kills off brain cells, it attacks the slowest and weakest cells first.

Thus regular consumption of beer, wine etc., helps eliminate the weaker cells, constantly making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. The result of this in-depth study verifies and validates the casual link between all-weekend parties and job related performance. It also explains why, after a few short years of leaving a university and getting married, most professionals cannot keep up with the performance of the new graduates. Only those few that stick to the strict regimen of voracious alcoholic consumption can maintain the intellectual levels that they achieve during their college years.

So, this is a call to arms. As our country is losing its technical edge, we cannot shudder in our homes. Get back into bars. Quaff that pint. Your company and country need you to be at your peak, and you shouldn't deny yourself the career that you could have. Take life by the bottle and be all that you can be. Forward this to all of your friends, acquaintances and co-workers that may be in danger of losing their edge.

Wine options 2000

As a result of some disgruntled options players of bygone years, the wine options will now be held at the Dunedin Art Gallery on Sunday 18th June at 12 midday. Richard Walls has agreed to officiate for us. The options will only be held if another 4 teams (of 4 people) can be found, so all your budding wine tasters, come along and have a day of wine and heaps of fun. Contact Alan Pay at 455 3374.

Cheers, Peter, Lyn and Mark.