

Decanter Club

June 2001

Coming Events:

Agnes Seifried: Seifried Estate Thursday 14th June *cost: \$10.00*

If you think that Seifried wines have been around forever, then you're almost right...their first vintage was 1976 and certainly the first in the Nelson area. One of our most popular tastings from last year. Great Rieslings, Chardonnays and a new Pinot Noir.

Cuisine tasting: Aussie Cabernet Sauvignons Thursday 21st June *cost: \$25.00*

What a line-up of Aussie Cabernets for this tasting! Personally, I can't think of a better way to spend a cold blustery Thursday evening, than to drink good Aussie reds with convivial company. The average alc. vol. of these wines will probably be around the 14% mark, so after 10 of these I would recommend not driving. Bound to have some pate to match the Cabs.

Duncan Forsyth: Chard Farm Thursday 28th June *cost: \$15.00*

An expose of Chard Farm Pinot Noir wines, including a vertical tasting of the wonderful Finla Mor. Duncan will taste different Pinot Noir clones and the new Pinot Gris. This will be a great tasting. Book early.

Cuisine Tasting: NZ Rieslings Thursday 5th July *cost: \$20.00*

In Bob Campbell's introduction to the Riesling tasting he said that the demand for Rieslings was up as was the quality of the wines. He goes in to say, "NZ makes good, and sometimes great, Riesling" and I would whole-heartedly endorse this.

"Who's who" of Central Otago Pinot Noir Thursday 12th July *cost: \$20.00*

This will be the tasting of the year with Pinot's being presented by Rudi Bauer (Quartz Reef), Greg Hay (Peregrine), Dick Bunton (Hayes Lake) and Alan Brady (Mount Edward). Everyone knows how good Central Pinots are now and knowing how parochial Otago folk are, I am sure this tasting will be hugely popular so please book early.

Wines Recently Tasted:

Brookfields Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 \$18.95

We've managed to secure five more cases of the excellent Brookfields Cabernet reviewed in an earlier newsletter. One of Charmian Smith's 'Wine of the Week' choices in the ODT and a good call by her. Outstanding value for money in this Hawkes Bay Cab.

Collards Rothesay Chardonnay 1998 \$18.95

We've done a great deal directly with Collard's. This fabulous top of the range Chardonnay is normally

\$28.95, and from the very good 1998 vintage, it makes great buying. The wine has great weight, with ripe peachy, citrus and nut flavours. Drinking superbly now.

d'Arenberg grenache Shiraz 1998 \$19.95

Meaty earthy floral spicy full of warm soft McLaren Vale fruit. A very generous wine with rich, supple fruit and the usual d'Arenberg silky, smoky oak. Has received fantastic reviews in Australia for years. Try with a casserole. Was \$23.95

Ferraton 'Samorens' Cotes du Rhone 1999 \$19.95

Another new label for us. This organically farmed producer in the Rhone is now working in conjunction with Chapoutier, and having their wines made by the Chapoutier team. Cotes du Rhone is generally a Grenache (dominant) and Syrah blend, and this wine is no exception. I tend to think of Cotes du Rhone as a 'style' rather than fruit driven...this is more peppery, leathery and earthy with red berry fruit in the mix.

Greiner Tokay Pinot Gris 1998 \$46.95

Very stylish Alsatian wine. Smoky, rich deep flavoured, with lovely overtones and great persistence on the palate. A real treat. Would be fabulous with scallops or maybe a French Onion Tart.

Kawarau Reserve Pinot Noir 2000 \$34.95

Wow, fabulous Central Otago Pinot! What a colour. This is a beauty. Very complex and powerful with cherry and spice and a touch of smoky oak. Deep rich and firm

Lindeman's Bin 65 Chardonnay 2000 \$11.95

The biggest selling Chardonnay in the USA and no wonder. Voted wine 'buy of the year' too many times to keep count. Incredibly soft and smooth, it fills the mouth with ripe melon and fig fruit. Say no more!

Lurton "Les Salices" Syrah 1999 \$16.95

The 'Old World' fights back again! After years of losing market share to 'New World' reds with their sweet fruit, appealing oak, and sheer drinkability, the French are heading south to Provence and the Languedoc to produce stylish wines at competitive prices. With supple texture, berryfruit and wild herb notes, this remains a very French expression of Syrah, and a nice comparison/contrast to Australian Shiraz.

Mt Riley Cabernet Merlot 2000 \$19.95

We've just had "Digger" Hennessy at 'wine club' presenting his Mt Riley range of wines (and jolly good they were too), and for me this was the surprise package. A combination of fruit from both Auckland (Auckland had a fantastic 2000 vintage) and Marlborough creating a remarkably lush, supple wine without that NZ green character. Very good value for a Kiwi Cabernet.

Petaluma Coonawarra Cabernet Merlot '99 \$64.95.

Rock and roll! I tried this after it had been open for eight days and it was still fresh, dark and brooding. This is the best vintage according to Halliday and he gave the 1998 97:100. Almost black in colour. Very rich ripe, full of blackcurrants, a great future lies ahead. Very limited. Go on spoil yourself. For me, better than the Bin 707 at half the price. Exclusive to Munslow's in Dunedin.

Peter Lehmann Grenache 2000 \$14.95

The best yet. Fresh and zesty and packed with boysenberry and raspberry flavours. This is a great quaffer with Sunday lunch.

Roberts Estate Chardonnay 2000 \$13.95

Charmian Smith's wine of the week, and no wonder. Delicious, ripe melon flavours and a nice touch of toasty oak at a user-friendly price.

Roberts Estate Merlot 2000 \$14.95

From Victoria, this is not what you think of when you consider Australian Merlot. It's big, warm and cuddly, and a nice change.

Sanctuary Riesling 2000 \$13.95

Another beauty with a rich floral bouquet. The palate has loads of stonefruit and heaps of rich, ripe passionfruit flavours. Drinking well now.

Stonier Pinot Noir 1999 \$34.95

From the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, this is a very stylish Pinot. James Halliday writes "a wine of genuine style and complexity, dense and concentrated, with layer upon layer of totally lovely fruit". 5 stars.

Taylor's Shiraz Cabernet 1998 \$15.95

Not many bargains left from the fabulous 1998 vintage so be in quick. Rich and plummy with loads of spice and currants. Very moorish. Probably our best selling Aussie red in store.

Te Whare Ra Chardonnay 2000 \$10.95

Lovely unoaked style packed with peach and melon flavours and a long lingering finish. Buy now for the summer months, as it's unlikely that we will be able to maintain this price for long.

Te Whare Ra Riesling 1999 \$13.95

Luscious medium dry Riesling with limes and rose petals. Perfectly balanced. Yummy! A great buy.

Wynns Coonawarra Chardonnay 2000 \$15.95

Tried this wine recently with friends and we were all thinking it was Kiwi. It has freshness often lacking in Aussie Chardonnays at this price, with peach and nectarine fruit, and a mealy texture, and deftly handled oak.

Yalumba Barossa Shiraz 1998 \$18.95

Made from 30–50 year old vines. Sweet ripe fruit on the nose. The palate shows very intense and concentrated Berry, plum and liquorice flavours. We had a bottle last night with a fantastic steak and kidney pie

Wines of the Month

Peter's choice:

Mt. Edward Pinot Noir 2000 \$38.95

Another superb Pinot from Alan Brady. Solid gold for my money. Rich, yet delicate with lovely cherry, spice and raspberry flavours. If you liked the '99, you'll love this. Rates above most of the other big names. Limited stock available. Buy now, as most good Central Pinot's are well sort after, there will only be available for such a short time.

Mark's choice:

The Willows Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 about \$32.95

This label has had remarkable success in recent years in Cuisine tastings, both for its Shiraz and Cabernet. Once again it makes the TOP 10, and will be featured in the Aussie Cabernet tasting coming up in July. Another big cuddly Barossa wine, which can be enjoyed now. Heaps of blackberry fruit and nice toasty oak to complement it.

Lyn's choice:

Rosemount 'Hill of Gold' Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 \$24.95

Alright, don't call me indecisive, but I have actually changed my mind! Maybe it's winter and snow, or maybe it's because I'm off to South Australia this week, who knows, but last month I picked the "Hill of Gold" Shiraz, and this month I have chosen the Cabernet Sauvignon. Dense purple-red with a voluminous bouquet of blackcurrant, earth and cedar. A no holds-barred on the palate with gobs of rich, ripe plummy fruit. Several golds to its name. Bound to find a bottle or to in the Barossa.

Frescobaldi

Frescobaldi is one of the more famous names in Italian winemaking, with a history going back some 700 years. They have nine estates located in different parts of Tuscany with some 1000 hectares devoted to vineyards. While the use of the 'French' varieties of Cabernet and Merlot has become synonymous with modern 'Super Tuscan' wines, it may come as rather a surprise to you to discover that the Frescobaldi's were the first in Tuscany to plant Chardonnay, Cabernet, Merlot and Pinot Noir back in 1855. They were also amongst the first wineries in Tuscany to introduce stainless steel and French oak to their winemaking and ageing practices. Today they produce almost seven million bottles annually and export to over sixty countries around the world and last year were gracious hosts to Peter and Laurie and friends. The arrival of a couple of highly rated 'Super Tuscans' seemed the ideal time to revise the range that we carry.

Pomino Benefizio 1996 \$53.95

Grown at the Pomino estate on the slopes of the Tuscan Apennine Mountains, this is Frescobaldi's flagship Chardonnay. For those of you planning 'around the world Chardonnay tastings', here's your chance to add to the mix.

Remole 1998 \$17.95

Primarily Sangiovese with a little bit of Cabernet, with grapes being sourced mainly from three estates in the Chianti Rufina and Chianti Colli Fiorentini areas. Very much a modern internationally styled red.

Nipozano Riserva 1996 \$33.95

The grapes for this wine are grown on the Nipozano Estate in Chianti Rufina, north east of Florence. The wine is given 12 months in small French oak and a further 12 months in large oak casks, and has potential for further ageing.

Castelgiocondo Brunello Di Montalcino 1994 \$73.95

The Castelgiocondo estate is located south of Siena near the hilltop town of Montalcino. Produced from a different clone of Sangiovese to that used in Chianti, the wine is given three years ageing in barriques, large oak, and stainless steel, before a further year in bottle. A very traditional, earthy style and a style that will last for years in the cellar. This wine was an absolute highlight of the visit to Frescobaldi last year. Montalcino Brunellos were a real find.

Montesodi 1995 \$97.95

Also grown on the Nipozano estate, this is Frescobaldi's ultra premium Chianti.

SUPER TUSCANS

The following two 'super Tuscan' wines from the superb 1997 vintage have just arrived and are in a very, very limited supply. Please see Peter or Mark if you are interested, as these will only be available to Decanter Club members.

Merlot Toscana 'Castelgiocondo' Lamaioine 1997 \$97.95

This wine has been touted as the best Merlot ever to come out of Tuscany. "Unbelievable. A monster Merlot. Dark, with stunning of exotic spice, ripe berry and vanilla. Full-bodied and very concentrated, with masses of ripe fruit and tannin." 96:100 Wine Spectator Magazine.

Cabernet Sauvignon Toscana 'Mormoreto' 1997 \$97.95

"Big soft and rich, loads of crushed berry, blackberry and cherry aromas follow through to a medium-bodied palate with soft tannin and alight dried herb finish. Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet franc." 96:100 Wine Spectator Magazine. We managed to try this on our first evening in Florence fabulous restaurant with the most magnificent pasta with fungi sauce!

Jenke wines

Jenke is a new range of wines for us, hailing from the Barossa Valley, and one that we are very pleased to represent. The Jenke family has been vignerons since 1854, but have only been producing their own wines since 1989. With 25 hectares of very old vineyards to call upon, these wines have a real depth of

flavour. Our sample bottles slipped down very easily!

1998 Jenke Shiraz \$39.95

The vinous equivalent of taking a Daimler for a drive; cocooned in plush leather upholstery, surrounded by fine wood paneling and oh so smooth a ride! This wine has it all; sumptuous fruit, finely balanced oak, and a silk palate leading to a long finish. Fabulous!

1999 Jenke Mouvedre \$40.95

One of the southern Rhone red trio, and most often seen blended with its stablemates grenache and Syrah (Shiraz) in wines such as Rosemount's G.S.M., Charles Melton None Popes, Penfolds Old Vine and of course Chateauneuf du Papes itself. This wine is outrageously perfumed with hung game, violets and blackberries, while the palate is richly spicy and manages the fine balance between depth of flavour, without excessive sweetness.

1999 Jenke Grenache \$21.95

Lashings of fruit with savory, earthy and porty notes. I sometimes find the sweetness in Aussie Grenache just a bit too much, but like the Mouvedre this wine manages the intensity of fruit without excessive sweetness.

Jenke Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 \$29.95

A big soft cuddly Barossa Cabernet. Chock full of blackcurrant fruit, chocolate, and a touch of eucalypt, with soft tannins. Perhaps not as complex as the Shiraz and mouvedre, but a classy wine nevertheless.

John and Dinah Berragan's Mulled Wine Recipe

3 litre red wine

1 bottle Maxwell Spiced Mead

Cinnamon sticks to taste

Whole cloves in an orange

Sugar to taste

Simmer gently

Introducing Alastair McDonald who has recently joined the Munslow's team. His previous experience included working for Oddbins in London for 5 years. He says, "My favourite wines would have to come from either the Northern Rhone (Cote Rotie, Condrieu, Crozes Hermitage) or a nice beefy Barolo from Northern Italy. However since arriving in NZ, I've been recently impressed with the Central Otago Pinot Noirs, Nevis Bluff, Peregrine and Leaning Rock spring to mind. I'm enjoying working

again in a "serious" wine shop and I look forward to acquainting myself with all the wines that NZ has to offer".

Cheers, Peter, Lyn, Mark and the Crew