

Decanter Club

June 2002

Coming Events:

Bill Hardy – BRL Hardy Friday 24th May *cost: \$10.00*

Venue: Dunedin Art Gallery Bill will introduce some new and exciting wines from their Australian portfolio. Bill has an extensive knowledge and experience of the Australian wine industry. Tickets are required for entry. These are available from Munslow's.

Tony Montgomery – Australian Shiraz Thursday 30th May *cost: \$20.00*

Mostly from Southcorp's impressive range of Shiraz from Australia. The tasting will include a few surprises as well as, Lindeman's Padthaway Shiraz 1999, Hill of Gold Cabernet and Shiraz 1999, Lindeman's St George, Pyrus and Limestone Ridge all from the 1998 vintage. Please book in early for this tasting. We Southern folk enjoy our reds and there will be a huge demand for seats.

Mike Jemison – NZ portfolio Thursday 6th June *cost: \$15.00*

Fantastic portfolio from top New Zealand wineries including Greenhough, Fromm, and Daniel Schuster. Mostly boutique wineries, and probably the only opportunity to try some of them as they are not that readily available on the market.

Cuisine tasting – Riesling Thursday 13th June *cost: \$20.00*

Riesling is starting to take over the demand for NZ white wines in the market where Chardonnay was a few years ago. Rieslings range from dry to medium to very sweet and this tasting will cover pretty much the full spectrum of NZ Rieslings at their best. Check out the recent Cuisine for wines to be tasted.

Agnes Seifried – Seifried Estate Thursday 20th June *cost: \$10.00*

This Nelson winery has an amazing range of wines covering from their very good value for money Old Coach Road, through their Estate range to the Reserve wines. Their varietals cover pretty much everything available in NZ.

Wines Recently Tasted:

Albert Belle Croze Herm 'Les Pierrelles' '99 \$29.65

This Northern Rhone syrah made the Top 100 in the US Wine Spectator Magazine. I don't think we can improve on their review! "Ultrathick and concentrated Croze, the liquid hangs on the inside of the glass as you swirl it. The wine has mineral, iron, wet earth, and ripe clean fruit characters that seduces, thanks to the sweetness of the whole package. 92/100"

Browns of Padthaway 'Ernest' Shiraz '98 \$25.15

The big brother to the very successful T Trellis Shiraz, and definitely a 'big' brother in every way. The nose offers chocolate, spice and brambly notes, while the palate is concentrated and complex. Like its kid brother, the oak is there, but not overdone, and while it can comfortably be called a massive wine, it shares the trademark of balance which has been the feature of all the Browns wines we have tried this far. Like its kid brother, it will comfortably cellar for another 5 years or more, but is stunning now...the choice is yours.

Browns of Padthaway Myra Cab Sav. 2000 \$16.15

We mentioned in the last newsletter that we were about to try a sample of this wine, and it looked so good that we shared this wine and its T Trellis Shiraz stablemate in the winter reds, where they both has a tremendous response. Like the Shiraz, it is just as damnably moreish. Lovely ripe blackcurrant fruit, seamless ripe tannins on the palate, a chocolatey richness and a silky finish. Nicely balanced and a wine that we feel offers excellent value for money. The Australian winepress suggests that Browns of Padthaway are a winery on the way up. On the strength of these two wines, we would have to agree.

Cape Mentelle Trinders Cab Merlot '99 \$22.45

Originally begun by Mentelle many, many years ago as a slightly more forward approachable style from a separate vineyard than their standard Cabernet, the Trinders has evolved into a stand alone wine yet with that typical Mentelle feel to it. Finely tuned oak means that the fruit plays the leading role and the lovely briary and brambly notes on the complex palate lead to a wine which is very much in the W.A. mould, and the complete antithesis to the style of some of the brash South Australians. Drinking beautifully now, and I suspect a lovely food wine.

Daniel Le Brun NV \$28.75

Big yeasty, crisp full style dominated by Pinot Noir. Rich, biscuity flavours abound with good complexity and length. Classy stuff

Drylands Pinot Gris 2001 \$17.05

Pinot Gris has really come of age this summer and autumn and virtually everything has flown off the shelves. It seems that it has moved from cinderella variety and into the mainstream. Perhaps it's bright pear and stonefruit aromas and flavours, juicy, almost like biting into fresh fruit, and all of it unencumbered by oak. This wine is a classic example, perhaps it will cellar, but what the hell it's gorgeous now.

Esk Valley Res. Merlot/Cab/Malbec '00 \$51.25

The Auckland Master of Wine Stephen Bennett rates Esk Valley's 'The Terraces' and the Reserve Merlot blend as two of the select few NZ wines that can be classed as "Icon" status. Whether you agree with all his choices or not, there is no doubt that this wine has earned its pedigree over very many years. A varying blend, but always Merlot dominant, this wine has regularly been a gold medal and trophy winner at wine shows, and is invariably one of the stars of the vintage. Powerful and full-bodied in its youth, this classic will amply reward time tucked away in the cellar.

Evans and Tate 'Gnangara' Shiraz 2000\$ 14.35

4 stars in Cuisine Magazine. Lovely soft flavours, bright and fresh. A bargain from West Australia. Try it with your favourite pasta dish.

Falesco Vitiano 2000\$ 22.45

Some of you will remember us carrying an earlier vintage of this wine. Hailing from Umbria in Italy, this is an equal parts blend of Merlot, Cabernet and Sangiovese, and quite gorgeous. It marries together a lovely combination of a sweetly fruited nose, with touches of blackberries and licorice, a full-bodied concentrated palate and a seamless finish with that touch of dryness from the Sangiovese. Drinking very well now but has the stuffing to mellow in the cellar for another 3–5 years.

Framingham Dry Riesling 2001 \$24.25

Framingham has become a benchmark in Marlborough Riesling over the years, and this latest release is right on track. Uncompromisingly dry, but with flavour intensity to match, and with a creamier palate texture than some earlier releases, this is a wine to cellar. Now bottled with stelvin (screw cap) closures, this will live long in the cellar.

Greenhough Pinot Noir 2001 \$25.15

This is a little gem from Nelson, warm cherry flavours with lots of fruit and flavours of plums, and nuts and vanilla oak. Good value.

Martinborough Vineyards Chard. 2000\$ 32.35

We had a real mix of wines at the recent Cuisine Top 10 Chardonnay tasting, which as always led to quite a divergence of opinion amongst the tasters. Our favorite was the Martinborough wine, which had marvelous complexity, with some of that Burgundian earthiness and a lovely mealy, textured mouthfeel. All in all a finely balanced wine, with real palate interest.

Morris Durif 1998 \$17.95

We had a bit of a race on last month to see which would sell first...the Morris Durif or the Browns T Trellis Shiraz. In the end the Morris won (just), but admittedly there was a little less of it to start with. Well, thankfully, we have managed to source a little more for our customers who have developed a taste for it and, we have also managed to maintain the price structure.

Rockford Moppa Springs 1998 \$31.45

Rockford is one of my favorite South Australian wineries producing wines of uncommon depth and flavour from old vine unirrigated fruit. In 1998 they had a very diminished yield in their Grenache crop: too much so to make their usual varietal grenache, so they chose to create their first southern Rhoney blend with the addition of syrah and Mataro (Mouvedre). This has all the spicy savoury flavours you'd expect from the blend, with the chocolatey richness from old vine fruit. Yum! An each way cellaring bet.

Sanctuary Riesling 2001 \$12.55

This wine has achieved something that most winemakers can only dream of... A medal in every wine show it has been entered into. It is full of ginger and intense stone fruit. It's like biting into a fresh, ripe nectarine. Just this thing to remind you of late summer.

Serafino Shiraz \$24.25

Lots of white pepper on the nose. Heaps of spicy fruit on the palate with gobs of sweet fruit that lasts and lasts on the palate.

Sevenhill Vintage Port 1987 \$23.35

It's not quite winter yet, due to this autumn weather, but some cooler nights and crisp mornings herald the time of year that fortifieds come into their own. Sevenhill will be well known to many of our regular wine buyers, as the oldest continually working winery in Australia, and like Mission vineyard in Hawkes Bay, is run by a monastic order of brothers. Big rich and distinctive.

Te Mata 'Elston' Chardonnay 2001 \$36.85

Typically elegant with a lovely creamy texture. A rich bouquet of toasty oak is followed by ripe fruit oak and mealy flavoured. Consistently one of NZ's outstanding Chardonnays.

Vieux Clocher Cotes du Rhone 2000 \$16.15

Packed with vibrant fruit with spicy strawberry fruit and a good long finish made mainly from Syrah. When you're sick of the sweet, in your face Shiraz from Australia, this will be an excellent alternative.

Waimea Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2001 \$15.25

Impressive Sauvignon Blanc from Nelson. Redcurrent and gooseberry aromas with intense passionfruit, gooseberry and lime flavours coming through on the palate. Without doubt one of the best in this price range.

William Hill Gewurztraminer 2001 \$17.95

Fresh, lively petal aromas, with tropical fruit salad and soft spicy overtones. Intense lingering flavours on the finish. One of the best Gewurz's from Central Otago.

Yalumba Oxford Landing Chardonnay \$9.85

Very good bargain Chardonnay, with juicy tropical fruit and melon and fig overtones. It tastes clean and rich with a good finish. You can't go wrong at this price. Take it to parties, it will go down well

Wines of the Month

Mark's choice:

Stonecroft Crofters Syrah 2000 \$17.95

Alan Limmer is one of the pioneers of Syrah in this country, with more than a decade of experience with this grape. This wine normally sells ex-vineyard, for more than \$40 a bottle, however with the 2000 vintage, Alan decided just prior to bottling, that the wine wasn't quite up to his demanding standards, so he declassified it to his Crofters second label. What was a tough financial call for Alan, is a marvellous opportunity to try what is still a top notch NZ syrah, but at a bargain basement price. Rich in spice and pepper, excellent fruit weight and fine tannins.

Alastair's choice:

Synergy Grenache Shiraz 2000 \$17.95

From the Hamilton stable in the McLaren Vale. The Synergy style is very approachable and fruit driven. Using the classic Rhone Valley grapes that thrives in the McLaren Vale, this is a wine which is deep ruby in colour with a pronounced ripe berry fruit nose. The palate is packed with rich, spicy fruit with hints of pepper and touch of earthiness.

Peter's choice:

Robertson's Well Shiraz 1999 \$22.45

This winery has been a favourite in our house for years. Whether it is their Shiraz or their Cabernet, Robertson's Well is one of those 'Mr or Ms Consistent' wines that has been underrated for some time. It's one that you can rely on vintage through vintage. This vintage shows the wine at its' best. It is an excellent wine. Deep purple colour, with dried spicy components and sweet berry aromas. On the palate it is elegant and savoury. Very, very stylish. Packed with flavours and good tannins. Will cellar. Try it with roast lamb.

MUTTERINGS FROM MARK

One of the things that I enjoy about our range of wines at Munslow's, is being able to expose our customers to a depth and breadth of labels from overseas; and quite frankly, as a fine wine store, I feel you, our customers expect it from us. There is a world of wine tasting adventures (forgive the pun) out there, and a wine producing world in which more and more countries are seeing a lift in quality through a desire for improvement in both viticulture and winemaking. While there are still some dreadful wines out there (and we do get offered some of them), there are many, many more exciting wines vying for our attention. Obviously, our range is constantly fluid (forgive the 2nd pun) with new wines coming and going all the time, but you may be surprised to know that at any given time we normally have wine from between 12–15 countries in store. Clearly, New Zealand and Australia provide the greatest variety and the largest stocks, and with more than 1500 wineries in these two countries, there is plenty of variety to choose from. Currently the other three countries that make up our Top Five, are France, Italy and Spain. Between these three we would have nearly 100 wines in store. With a mix of well known and little known grape varieties, centuries of tradition and increasing modernity and innovations the wines from these three countries are proving of interest to our customers.

Currently, we also are running wine from Germany, Austria, Portugal, USA, Mexico, Argentina, South Africa and Bulgaria instore, whilst in the near future we will see wines from Greece, Lebanon, Uruguay and Chile in stock. We continue to look for the wonderful, the unusual, the rare, and at times simply the weird from the wine world, to give you that spice of life, and I do believe that we have something for everyone.

Please do keep in mind too, that we simply can't stock everything, however, we have excellent contacts within the industry and have access to an amazingly diverse selection. If there is something you need for a special tasting, for an occasion or a decadent weekend, let us know as we may well be able to source it for you.

Have fun, drink well, and drink widely.

Rosemount Riedel Gift Packs

These are a fantastic combination and serve as a wonderful gift for someone, or as a way to increase your stock of Riedel glassware! There are two packs at the special price of only \$76.45. One is the Rosemount Show Reserve Chardonnay 2000 with two of the Riedel Extreme Chardonnay glasses. The Extreme range has been designed specifically for New World wine styles, and is a totally different shape to previous styles. Bought individually, the wine and glassware would retail for around \$150!

The second set is Rosemount Show Reserve Coonawarra Cabernet 1998 with two Riedel Vinum Cabernet glasses. These are the same cabernet glasses that some of you tried at the Riedel tasting last year. Sold individually, these would retail for about \$135. The wines are pretty sharp as well, making these packs stunning value.

A third is the 4 glass Multi Riedel set is also available. In this set there is a separate glass for drinking Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir. This set was presented at the Riedel tasting last year. Why not use a quality glass when trying quality wines, they really do go hand in hand. Costs only \$113.35

Lustau Emilin Moscatel and Lustau Pedro Ximinez 36.85

It's no secret that I've long been a fan of Australian liqueur Muscats and Tokays, and it's easy to think that they are a uniquely Australian style. Not so! Lustau are Spanish masters of Sherries and other fortified wine styles. The Moscatel is the equal of the more serious Australian muscats; hugely complex on both the nose and the palate and wonderfully unctious on the palate. The Pedro is another beast again; liquid treacle in a bottle, it virtually oozes into the glass, and believe it or not is divine on ice cream. These are in a class of their own, and inherently underpriced.

Cheers, Peter, Mark, Alastair and the crew at Munslow's