

Decanter Club

October 2000

Coming Events:

Darryl Woolley: Selaks Wines Thursday 19th October 6.00 pm *cost: \$15.00*

Darryl, Nobilo Group Senior Winemaker, will be showcasing some of Selaks award winning wines

Lyn Wright: Lyn's Summer Selection Thursday 26th October 6.00 pm *cost: \$15.00*

My own mixed case selection for you to try before you buy. 12 wines so leave your car at home!

Eurowine: European Wine Tasting Thursday 9th November 6.00 pm *cost: \$20.00*

Chapoutier are leading the Rhone resurgence. Biodynamic growing (organic with knobs on) including working with phases of the moon, makes Chapoutier a forward thinking French winery. A tasting not to be missed.

Tim Fogarty: BRL Hardy Wednesday 15th November 6.00 pm *cost: \$15.00*

Tempting Tim Fogarty, with an absolutely superb selection of wines from the BRL Hardy portfolio.

Dave Glover: Glovers Wines Wednesday 22nd November 6.00 pm *cost: \$15.00*

A winemaker with strong opinions on the style of wines he produces.

Alistair Picton-Warlow: Burleigh Trading Company Thursday 30th November 6.00 pm *cost: \$15.00*

Alistair will present wines from the impressive portfolio of Burleigh Trading Company including, South Island vineyards, Giesen and Wairau River and Australian wineries McWilliam's, Hamilton Estate and Primo Estate.

Wines Recently Tasted:

Nobilo Poverty Bay Chardonnay 99 \$14.95

Silver Medal at the Top 100 Competition. Concentrated citrus and tropical fruit flavours, with moderate use of oak, makes this a delicious partner for fish, white meats or pasta.

Rothbury Chardonnay 98 \$10.95

Gold Medal Adelaide Wine Show. Fresh melon and peach varietal flavours and aromas matured in oak. A perfect accompaniment for fresh pasta or chicken dishes. Saltram Mamre Brook Shiraz 98 Saltram Mambre

Brook Cabernet 98 both \$20.95

When these wines first arrived I was impressed with their generosity of flavour – I still am. They are rich and mouthfilling, yet not overdone and remain very competitively priced for that quality level. Over the weekend I discovered that they have both just won gold at the Liquorland Top 100 show, so it's nice to know that others agree with me.

Domaine Schlumberger Gewurzt Cuvee Fleur \$35.95

The nose on this Alsatian wine is just amazing. Full throttle rose petals, jasmine and lychee lead on to a fat oily palate, which is almost tropical fruit. Big enough to take on a fiery Thai curry and still come out on top.

Pertaringa Cabernet Sauvignon 98 \$34.95

I first came upon this label in Adelaide in 96, and had not seen it again until the 98 vintage wines arrived in store. Like so many good McLaren Vale reds, it had the most marvelously silky palate, the fruit has gobbled up the oak, and while it will undoubtedly age well it seems a crime not to drink it now. I just recently picked up the latest James Halliday Wine Companion and found that he had rated this as one of his top cabernet picks.

Obsidian Island Red \$27.95

If you're a fan of big gutsy Aussie reds, then you needn't read on. Island Red is more in a Bordeaux style, subtly flavoured, and with fine grained tannins leading on to a dry finish. From a vintage that Stonyridge believes is the best since 1994, this wine certainly avoids the NZ "herbals", and positively cries out to be drunk with food.

Torres Santa Digna Cabernet Sav 98 \$18.95

With the name Torres you immediately think Spain, however this wine is from Chile. Torres were the first European company in Chile planting grapes in 1979. This wine seems to have something both of the Old World and New World about it. The flashes of tawny in the colour show a more oxidative style of winemaking, yet the sweet fruit is New World then the finish is more savoury and dry. Priced competitively with many of the Australians, it offers a fascinating alternative.

Ashwood Grove Shiraz Mourvedre 99 \$13.95

With Australian red prices almost constantly on the increase, we're always searching for well priced alternatives. This wine is chock full of spice and berryfruit and silky smooth. Dangerously drinkable as our (empty) sample would attest, and great value!

Framingham Classic Riesling 2000 \$18.95

One of our favorite restaurateurs was recently telling me that she's into a spring mode at the moment, and the Chardonnays have given way to Rieslings and Sav Blancs. Fittingly, the first of the 2000 wines are filtering on to the shelves now. Framingham has made a name for itself over the last few vintages, and this new wine is just bursting with apple, citrus and honey and a crisp tangy finish. Perfect as the days lengthen and warm up again.

Montrose Poets Corner 98 Shrz/Cab/Cab Franc \$10.95

A soft super smooth quaffer to open and enjoy.

Carchelo Mouvedre Merlot 99 \$14.95

Velvety smooth texture with intense berry aromas and flavours.

Tatachilla Keystone Grenache Shz 99 \$17.95

Low yielding vines producing vibrant fruit. In a full flavoured style of plum blackberry and spice.

Pirramima Stocks Hill Shiraz 98 \$23.95

Lifted spice and pepper varietal shiraz flavours enhanced with sweet vanillan oak

Kawarau Sauvignon Blanc 2000 \$17.95

This will blow you away with a blast of pure passionfruit on the nose and conjure up a treat for your palate with tropical fruits, gooseberry and nettle flavours. Silver Medal Top 100.

Kawarau Chardonnay 2000 \$18.95

Crisp and refreshing wine lightly oaked just enough to give it those delectable creamy stonefruit flavours.

Kawarau Reserve Pinot Noir 99 \$30.95

A complex tightly structured wine aged for 11 months in fine French Burgundy oak. It has good balance between tannin and fruit weight. You'll find hints of chocolate and spice and great sweetness of fruit. 4 stars Winestate Magazine.

Kawarau Reserve Chardonnay 99 \$25.95

Finely structured wine with rich toasty oak. 10 months in fine French oak has added a creamy complexity to the delicate citrus notes and warm toasty nose.

Allan Scott Riesling 2000 \$15.95

Powerful citrus aromas with a hint of honey sweetness on the palate, finishing with a crisp acidity.

Allan Scott Sauvignon Blanc 2000 \$19.95

Strong varietal aromas and full herbaceous fruit flavours.

Allan Scott Chardonnay 99 \$20.95

Fermented in French Oak Barriques with partial malolactic fermentation. The fruit flavours are full melon and citrus with subtle oak enhancement.

ONE OFF CHANCE TO PURCHASE LAST OF 97 VINTAGE COLLARDS

Collards Rothesay Chardonnay 97 Special Deal: Normal price \$27.95 **NOW \$16.95**

Pale gold in colour, a forward early maturing wine for enjoying now. The toasty oak compliments the tropical fruit and leads on to a rich, buttery palate.

Collards Queen Charlotte Pinot 97 Special Deal: Normal price \$24.95 **NOW \$15.95**

A more Burgundian style pinot with savoury strawberry flavours and hints of mushroom and forest floor. Lovely drinking now.

Wines of the Month

Lyn's Choices:

Matua Nineteen Ninety Six Brut \$19.95

A creamy elegant yet complex structure with 70% Pinot and 30% chardonnay. A fine beaded mousse amplifies a toasty complex aroma. An absolute bargain at \$19.95, less discount \$17.95 – normal price would

Wines Recently Tasted:

be \$26.95

Sanctuary Riesling 2000 \$13.95

Vibrant citrus aromas with luscious tropical flavours in an off dry style. Crisp and refreshing perfect aperitif wine.

Taylor's Shiraz Cabernet 98 \$14.95

Full on powerful ripe spicy berryfruit with lovely sweet charry oak. Great value.

Mark's Choice:

Mount Horrocks Shiraz 97 \$45.95

Mount Horrocks is a Clare Valley producer owned by a Kiwi (Stephanie O'Toole: ex of Ashburton), with a growing reputation, and rave reviews by Robert Parker. The wine itself is light years away from the styles found in the Barossa and McLaren Vale wines further south, being more in the mould of the Northern Rhone. With a fragrant bouquet, a savoury palate with layers of complexity, and a wonderful finish that just goes on and on after you've swallowed it, this is one of those wines that combines intensity with elegance.

New Releases from Antinori

Chianti Classico Riserva 97 \$33.95

Peppoli Chianti Classico 97 \$35.95

Tenute Marchese Chianti Classico Riserva 97 \$53.95

Solaia 97 \$128.95

Tignanello 97 \$89.95

Sassicaia 97 \$156.95

The 1997 vintage in Tuscany has been rated EXCEPTIONAL, and certainly one of their finest ever. We are pleased to be able to offer you this range of wines, which we have eagerly awaited. Antinori have a long and proud winemaking history and are recognised both for their consistency as well as for their innovation. Their release in 1974 of both Sassicaia (a Cabernet Sauvignon) and Tignanello (a Sangiovese/Cabernet blend) marked a turning point in Italian winemaking and led to the creation of a new name in Italian wine, that of the Super Tuscan. At that time, and in fact for a further 20 odd years, the laws governing wine making in Tuscany did not permit the use of any, so called international grape varieties (such as cabernet, merlot or syrah) in Tuscan wines, so that Tignanello, Sassicaia and the more recently released Solaia (a Cabernet/Sangiovese blend) could only use the designation Vino da Tavola or Table Wines. "Table Wine" seemed a totally inappropriate term for wines of such stature and the term Super Tuscan came into use. Sassicaia also marked a further divergence as the grapes came from an Antinori estate in Bolgheri on the Tuscan coast, an area that continues to grow in stature as distinct from the inland Chianti, and Montalcino regions. These Antinori wines have become benchmarks, both in an Italian and a world sense, and are highly sought after by wine lovers. All these wines will amply reward cellaring but can be enjoyed now if partnered with food. Quantities of these wines are limited.

What's Happening in Central Otago – Mark Henderson

(continued from last month)

KENLEY : Another tiny producer from Alexandra. We currently have a little of their Gewurztraminer/Riesling blend in store.

LEANING ROCK : Also based near Alexandra, owned and run by Mark Hesson and Dhana Pillai (who also makes the wine, as well as doing some contract winemaking for other local producers). Riesling, Pinot and Chardonnay are currently in store, with the Pinot worth looking out for.

MOUNT DIFFICULTY : Another label to watch which will prove to be a major player in the area in the future. Winemaking (and contract winemaking for several other labels) is by Matt Dicey at Longburn Wines in Cromwell, though they are building a new winery in Felton Road for the 2001 vintage. We have the deep brooding Pinot Noir, crisp Chardonnay and newly released Sauvignon Blanc and Gewurztraminer in store.

MOUNT EDWARD : The label set up by industry pioneer Alan Brady, who is now back to being rather more hands on at his small winery a little along the road from Gibbston Valley Wines. Fruit is sourced from his own small home vineyard and a couple of growers. A very stylish Pinot Noir and one of the best Rieslings to come out of Central – now sadly sold out until next year.

MOUNT MICHAEL : Martin and Sue Anderson own this vineyard overlooking the Wanaka–Queenstown turnoff at Cromwell. Previously selling all their fruit to Chard Farm; they kept a little aside in 1999 from their first release Chardonnay and Pinot Noir made by Matt Dicey due out in October.

MOUNT MAUDE : Situated in the Maungawera Valley between Lakes Wanaka and Hawea with fruit being sold to Gibbston Valley. A first release 1999 Riesling which we have in store.

NEVIS BLUFF : The first of the vineyards on your left as you drive into the Gibbston Valley. Very tidy Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris made by Dean Shaw.

OLSSSENS : John Olssen and Heather McPherson run this vineyard at the end of Felton Road in Bannockburn, with a strong emphasis on vineyard hospitality and cellar door. They sell fruit to Chard Farm and have wine made for them by Duncan Forsyth.

PACKSPUR : Laurie and Anne McCauley run this tiny vineyard up in the Lowburn Valley near Cromwell. First release 1999 Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc in stock now, with other releases planned.

PEREGRINE : A tasting facility in the Gibbston Valley though wines made elsewhere. Immediate success with their Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir and with a Pinot Gris, Gewurztraminer and Chardonnay also on sale now.

PERELLE LAKE HAYES : A Company half owned by Chard Farm and dedicated to the production of sparkling wines.

QUARTZ REEF : Another label to watch. The Chauvet sparkling has quickly become a favourite at Munslovs, while the upcoming Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris will be worth keeping an eye out for. Wines are made by Rudi Bauer and Clotilde Chauvet.

Lyn's Summer Selection – Mixed Case only \$150.00

So many great value wines around at the moment – try this for a mixed case of goodies:

1. Taylors Shiraz Cabernet 98
2. Saltram Classic Shiraz 98
3. Peter Lehmann Grenache 99
4. Barossa Mocolta Cabernet Merlot 97
5. Barossa Mocolta Shiraz 98
6. Carchelo Mouvedre 99
7. Nobilo Poverty Bay Chardonnay 99
8. Selaks Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 99
9. Sanctuary Riesling 2000
10. Rothbury Chardonnay 98
11. Cooks Gisborne Chardonnay 98
12. Sandihurst Riesling 97

Wonderful wines to enjoy with the summer and BBQ season – hopefully just around the corner! Come and try before you buy : Thursday October 26th at 6.00 pm.

Cheers, Peter, Lyn, Mark and the crew.