

Decanter Club

September 2002

Coming Events:

Tony Hooper: Orlando Wyndham Wednesday 18th September *cost: \$10.00*

Apologies for the late notice for this and the Ata Rangi tastings. Tony has got a great line-up of wines for the tasting. He'll be starting with Trilogy Sparkling followed by the fabulous St Helga Riesling and St Hillary Chardonnay, the wonderful Black Shiraz, Montrose Barbera, and the fabulous 25th Anniversary 1998 Cabernet. This will be complimented with a wee Morris Muscat!! Don't miss out. The only Aussi tasting for this month.

Oliver Masters: Ata Rangi Thursday 19th September at 4 – 5.30 pm *cost: NO COST*

Oliver is the winemaker for Ata Rangi and is on a flying visit to Dunedin, and will be showing the new releases. This is not a formal tasting, but please let us know if you are able to come. We will be finishing this tasting at 5.30 sharp as the tasting room is to be used for a private function starting at 6pm

Brian Bricknell: Seresin Wednesday 25th September *cost: \$10.00*

Seresin has been on the market for a few years now, and has had some very good reviews. We at Munslow's have been supporting their wines because of their high quality and stylish wines. Winemaker Brian Bricknell will be showing his new releases and a fascinating Pinot component tasting.

Belinda Gould: Muddy Waters Thursday 10th October *cost: \$5.00*

A newish Canterbury winery which James Halliday has rated as 4 stars. Muddy Waters is best known for their lovely rieslings, chardonnays and pinot noirs. Like many wineries, Muddy Waters is now only bottling with screw caps to ensure quality of produce. Check out their website on www.muddywater.co.nz

Please note, that unless otherwise stated, our tastings start at 6pm and finish between 7.30– 8pm. It is helpful for us to know if you are intending to come, and appreciate it if you phone us and cancel your place if you are unable to come. Some tastings are very popular and early bookings are the only way to secure your place.

Wines Recently Tasted:

Brown's Sparkling Shiraz 25.15

I love this style of wine. Rich and spicy with hints of chocolate. A lovely wine on its own, or try it with chocolate pudding. If you haven't tried a sparkling red, try this for an occasion, I'm sure you'll be sold!

Castano Domino Espinal Selection 1999 13.45

The new release of another of our Spanish favorites and a label that has featured in Joelle Thompson's 'Under \$15' and 'Under \$20' guides. Primarily Monastrell (Mouvedre) and with a slightly wild gamey edge to it.

With its good tannic backbone, it's a good food choice and how they continue to put it out at this price, I don't know. Just enjoy.

Collards Chenin Blanc 2000 12.55

Back in stock and as good as ever. This is a rich, vibrantly fruity wine. we can't not include it because it is such good value and will be perfect for the bbq.

Dennis Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 25.15

We were thrilled to see the new Dennis wines when they arrived recently. We recently showed these at a Wineclub and Charmian Smith writes "for my taste-buds the best value, with its delicious red fruit, savoury, almost meaty flavours, fine structure, velvety tannins and long finish".

Dennis Shiraz 2000 25.15

From the 2000 vintage onwards, winemaker Peter Dennis has basket-pressed his fruit to give extra depth, colour and flavour. Charmian thought this wine has "huge boysenberry flavours and toasty, spicy oak".

Domaine Charvin Cotes du Rhone 2000 22.45

Made from 35-year-old vines, this is a gorgeous soft, supple wine with heaps of berry and spice that lasts well on the palate. Parker rates this well £ 89- 92, which is great, for a not heavily priced Cotes du Rhone. Like most wines from this area, the predominant grape varieties are Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre, although the appellation control allows for a further 21 varieties able to be blended.

Hardy's Crest Cabernet Shiraz Merlot '99 13.45

A new label for us, though an old established company. A classic example of what Australia does so well, a ripe, richly flavoured red at excellent cost. Moreover, this is not just sweet and simple we were impressed by its complexity, and the structure of the wine. All in all, a wine that performs well above its price point.

Jacob Creek Ltd. Release 25th Anniversary Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 33.25

This special bottling is to mark 25 years of Jacobs Creek. From the exceptional 1998 vintage this Cabernet displays all the hallmarks of the classic Barossa style. Plum, dark berries and chocolate aromas are followed up by concentrated blackberry fruit flavours with a touch of cedary oak and well-structured tannins. Could be one to put away for a rainy day.

Ingoldby Shiraz 2000 20.65

A McLaren Vale label that has been a regular feature on our shelves. Like many of the McLaren Vale wines, this has that lushness and suppleness on the palate, but without being over heavy or over jammy. Nicely complex and spicy with lifted currant and berryfruit notes, and great breadth of flavour on the palate. The balance means that you look forward to a second glass. Yum.

Lindeman's Prem. Selection Riesling 8.05

This wine is only available for functions and unfortunately can not be sold direct from the shelves, but if you have a party/function and want a really good wine to impress then this will fit the bill. It is fantastic quality for this price. Or buy it by the case for the summer.

Leeuwin Riesling 2001 26.05

One of Western Australia's best Rieslings, this vineyard has a huge following for its Chardonnay and Riesling. Superb, one of our favs and one for the cellar. Packed with citrus fruit, oily, already with a hint of Australian kero. Like most Aussie Rieslings, this will develop beautifully and promises to cellar for 15 years. Old Aussie rieslings are a true treat.

Rimu Grove Chardonnay 2000 26.95

Some of you may have noticed this wine tucked in amongst our Chardonnays. Patrick and Barbera Stowe moved here from the Napa Valley and planted their three hectare vineyard near Mapua in Nelson area, producing both Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. James Halliday rated it 93/100 with the following review; "Light to medium green yellow, melon, cashew and spice, together with some creamy malolactic nuances on the bouquet are followed by a truly stylish and elegant wine, showing skilled winemaking and handling in reaction to the fruit; melon, cashew and spice flavours run through a well balanced, long palate. A night on perfect debut"

Sacred Hill Whitecliff Chardonnay '01 14.35

One of the best of the inexpensive NZ Chardonnay's. I like this because its full of ripe peach flavours and the oak is not too dominant. A great summer quaffer with enough complexity to make it interesting.

Stepping Stones Shiraz 2001 14.35

A new release and a style the Australians do so well. Rich and well balanced with nice spicy overtones and a rip full palate. Value +

Wines of the Month

Mark's choice:

Chapoutier Cotes du Rhone `Belleruche' 2000 17.05

The trio of vintages 98-00 has been extremely kind to the Rhone, and we have enjoyed some fabulous wines from the area. Debate goes on as to which vintage is the finest in the south, '98 or '00, and on the showing of this wine we would be inclined to lean towards '00. Bright ruby purple in colour, a nose redolent of spice and berryfruit, fresh, but with touches of savoury earthy characteristics so common to the Rhone. Nicely structured and just a pleasure to drink. An interesting winery with a sense of integrity and community spirit with their labels printed in Braille, and has the bio-grow label for organically grown wine.

Alastair's choice:

Drylands Dry Riesling 2000 17.05

Another fine offering from the impressive Drylands range. Lovely floral aromas are followed by rich citrus and honeyed flavours. Reasonably dry in style with a good sugar and acid balance.

Peter's choice:

Clos du Pape Chateauneuf du Pape 2000 61.15

Yeh hah, Clos du Papes back. If you want to impress someone who's really into their wines, then this will do just fine. Chateau Neufs are one of the most approachable styles from the Rhone area, making complex wines that are made to cellar. Very feminine luscious stylistic wines compared to the Hermitage styles. Spectacular wine with aromas of Asian spices, black cherries, raspberries and cedar. The palate has lots of muscle, richness and moderate tannins, very powerful and long. Will cellar well, good value for a GREAT wine.

NEW VINTAGE NZ WINES

Astrolabe Sauvignon Blanc 2002 17.95

Made by the talented Simon Waghorn, this is a classic Marlborough savy, lots of gooseberries and fresh mown grass on the nose, the palate is full and concentrated. Very rich and pungent. Some of the 2002 Sauvignons have tasted quite dilute with weak fruit quality...not this one though.

Ata Rangi Pinot Noir 2001 59.35

I'm reminded of a line from a relatively famous song..."if you want it, here it is, come and get it, but you'd better hurry because it's going fast"! The new release of one of NZ's top labels has just arrived instore and goes from strength to strength each year. A study in restrained opulence; this is a wine that does need some time in the cellar to show its true finesse and breeding, and which has become an international benchmark for fine Pinot. Ata Rangi have more than a 15 year track record with Pinot and I've had the pleasure of enjoying about a dozen different vintages over the years. A label that justifies the overseas hype for our Pinots. Try this on this week at Oliver's tasting.

Carrick Pinot Noir 2001 32.25

I was really chuffed recently when they cleaned up in London at a Wine Magazine tasting, scoring top equal with the La Strada Fromm Vineyard in a review of 175 New World Pinot Noir. Noticeably bigger than their debut 2000 vintage, this release is deeply coloured, boldly flavoured with lovely cherry notes and with excellent tannin structure. A very fine example of Central Otago Pinot Noir.

Forrest Gewurztraminer 2002 18.95

John Forrest's wines are going from strength to strength. I thought last years gewurz was the best ever, well it has been surpassed by the 2002 vintage. Full of rose petal, lychee flavours and a full mouthfeel. Bound to be another gold medal winner.

Lawson's Dry Hills Sav Blanc '02 17.95

Another wee beauty from Marlborough. This wine has received all the ras since it appeared in the early 90's. Good lime tropical and grass flavours and good acid levels. A wine that will appreciate time in the bottle.

Mt. Difficulty Pinot Noir 2001 35.05

Central Otago Pinots have wonderful cherry fruit flavours that are being praised by both the home and the overseas market. This wine is no exception it has excellent cherry fruit, very good palate weight and a long finish.

Quartz Reef Pinot Noir 2001 37.75

It's back and bigger and better than ever! Very rich and unctious, chock full of cherries, spice, perfumed and concentrated. Cellar for 2–3 years.

Te Mania Sauvignon Blanc 2002 17.05

One of the best Sauvignon's I've tasted from the recent releases. Vibrant, up–front fruit driven style with heaps of concentrated citrus flavours and hints of guava, passionfruit and a certain subtle, flinty, minerally backbone.

Mutterings from Mark

And now for something completely different.... Iberian wines: Four Super Premiums.

The last couple of years have witnessed a huge growth in the depth and breadth of wines available from Spain (and to a much lesser extent Portugal). This, of course, does make excellent sense given that Spain is the third largest producer in the world. Many of these wines have elicited very positive press feedback, partly due to the stunning value for money offered, and our customers have taken to them like a duck to water. Now comes the opportunity to introduce you to a couple of fabulous wines out of the area, showcasing some of the very best that Spain and Portugal can do.

Chivite Coleccion 125 Reserva 1996 51.25

Judging by how much we've sold, very many of you have taken rather a liking to the Gran Feudo Reserva which we have in stock. Well, whereas the Gran Feudo is the cheeky young upstart of the Chivite family, the Coleccion 125 is definitely the refined elegant big brother, more than the happy to show off his superior breeding. Crafted by Bodegas Julian Chivite, who incidentally took the trophy for the best Spanish Producer at the International Wine Challenge, this wine is a blend of 70% Tempranillo, 20% Merlot and 10% Cabernet, and the equivalent of a Gran Reserva. Spanish labeling laws dictate five years ageing for a Gran Reserva: two in oak, and three in the bottle, whereas Chivite have given them 19 months in oak, and four years in bottle. Densely coloured, deep and brooding with forest floor and blackfruit notes on the palate, this is a hugely complex wine, rich and elegant on the palate with fine silky tannins. While gorgeous now, this wine will reward 5–8 more years in the cellar.

Bodegas Castano Casa Cisca 1999 73.75

The Castano range from Yecla in Spain has introduced many of you to the monastrell (mouvedre) grape with all its lovely gamey, savoury aspects. In his homeland, Ramon Castano is now seen as producing reds, which are at the vanguard of quality for the region. The Casa Cisca comes from a tiny vineyard of old vines at high altitude, and has turned heads amongst Spanish wine writers. The major Spanish daily newspaper 'El Pais' had this to say about the wine; "There is no stopping Ramon Castano on his irresistible climb towards the summit of Spanish winemaking. I became acquainted with this wine a few years ago when it was one of his projects. If at that time I was impressed by its complexity and potential, now at its completion—still a slow and sustained process—in the bottle that impression is even greater. Regarding its 15 degrees of alcohol, which impedes it from carrying the banner of the D.O. Yecla and instead being modestly dressed as a Ôtable wine' not only do not get in the way, they support the muscular structure and nerve of a wine that is full of fruit aromas, wrapped in

mineral tones, polished with spices, and is full of suggestive tastes and aromas that trap and carry to the farther side of oenology, to that place where the scant dozen of the best wines of the world camp" Carlos Delgado. 30 bottles only available in NZ.

Quinta do Crasto Donna Maria Theresa 1998 70.15

Quinta do Crasto is an exciting Portuguese producer focusing in the native grapes of Portugal, rather than the 'international' varieties, while also known for its Vintage Port. The Donna Maria Theresa is only produced in the very best years, from a small patch of old vines, with only 250 cases made. A real treat for the cellar, and a rare opportunity to experience one of the best that Portugal can produce.

Quinta do Crasto Touriga Nacional 99 55.75

The great grape of the Duoro, and as much in demand as the backbone of Vintage Port. Erratic cropping means that wines such as this are a rarity. Combines huge power and backbone with a silky mouthfeel. This is the first time that we've had this grape as a varietal. The price structure on these Portuguese wines is excellent as they sell for a similar amount of US dollars in North America. These wines are available in miniscule quantities with for example only 30 bottles of the Casa Cisca coming into the country. If you are interested in any of these wines, please do contact us quickly with your orders.

NB We have parking available behind the shop and will deliver free of charge within Dunedin, and a small charge for out of town deliveries

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