

# Decanter Club

## Christmas 2002

### Coming Events:

**Michael Cooper Book launch** Monday 25th November, 6 p.m. *cost: \$10.00*

Michael will launch his "Buyers Guide to New Zealand Wines 2003" at Munslow's Fine Wines. With this launch, Michael will present and discuss his top 6 wines. Come along and discuss his choices.

**Dave Glover: Glover wines** Wednesday 4th December *cost: \$5.00*

Dave Glover has been making Bordeaux style wines since 1989. From the Upper Moutere area in Nelson, this winery has made its mark particularly for their Riesling varietal.

**Steve Davies: Carrick vineyard** \$15.00 *cost: Thursday 12 December*

A rising star from the Bannockburn area of Central Otago, this vineyard has been producing some very fine wines over the last two vintages. Steve and Barbara Green were initially in the Mt Difficulty conglomerate, but have been producing under their own label for two years now. Steve Davies is the talented winemaker for Carrick. Again this will be a popular tasting so please book in early.

#### **HUBBLE, BUBBLE, TOIL AND TROUBLE**

##### **Veuve Clicquot NV 76.95**

Was 92.95, now 76.95. Our absolute favourite at a great price. Rich, complex and delicious, this is what Laurie and I will start Xmas Day with!

##### **Quart Reef Sparkling 22.45**

If I can't afford Veuve, then this is my pick from New Zealand. Ripe and rich with a lovely toasty finish.

##### **Omni Sparkling 10.75**

Best fizz under \$15.00. Lovely flavours, very refreshing for Christmas or BBQs. Would be perfect for Bucks Fizz...half fizz and half freshly squeeze orange juice. A perfect breakfast drink!

##### **Seppelt Original Sparkling Shiraz 1998 19.75**

Seppelts have been the flagbearers of sparkling red in Australia, and also take the admirable step of giving the wine some bottle age before release. Rich and seductive, age has given a touch of 'forest floor' complexity to the wine. Try pairing it with the Xmas turkey for a match made in heaven.

##### **Morris Sparkling Shiraz Durif NV 17.95**

This dark purple red; thick luscious spicy fruit; add bubbles! Yum! A totally addictive wine. More youthful; fruit than the Seppelts, and showing vanillin oak characters as well. Just as delicious, yet deliciously different. Another star turn with the duck or turkey and yet also fabulous with a chocolatey dessert.

## **AROMATICS**

### **Main Divide Riesling 2001 13.95**

Tried this at the Bigger than Texas tasting, and it is stunning. Low in alcohol (so great as a lunchtime wine) and medium in style. Just a wonderful combination of pure riesling fruit, sweetness, and a lick of acidity to balance it all. Incredibly moreish. Take it up to Central for a mid-afternoon wine with friends.

### **Pegasus Bay Riesling 2002 20.65**

The big brother to the Main Divide Riesling, produced only from Estate grown fruit. I had the opportunity to try this out of tank at the winery a couple of months ago, and it is a fine addition to the line. One of NZ's benchmark Rieslings, for all it's power and intensity, it dances lightly on the palate. Certainly approachable now, but with a strong track record it will age beautifully in the cellar for 10 years or so.

### **Quartz Reef Pinot Gris 2002 20.65**

Rudi Bauer is proving to have a deft hand with Pinot Gris, and this wine is one of the stars of the vintage. Those that attended Rudi's recent tasting found this wine beguiling and it certainly repays the excitement generated by this vintage. Brim full of fruit, with fine minerally touches, and a creamy palate. Yum!

### **Forrest Gewurztraminer 2002 18.95**

A well deserved gold at the Air New Zealand awards confirms John Forrest's ever increasing prowess with this variety. Everything about this wine oozes class; from its fragrant aromatics, through its silky palate, and long, long finish. Liquid seduction in a bottle.

### **Greiner Gewurztraminer 2000 26.05**

Another gold medal winner (in the Top 100) and justifiably so. Showing it's Alsatian origins, this is a tighter, fine-grained style, with wonderful perfume, minerally hints on the palate, and a long intense finish. Drier than the Forrest, this is a great food wine.

### **Selaks Drylands Sauvignon Blanc 2002 17.05**

Always in our top picks, classic Marlborough savvy, full of gooseberries and capsicums. This wine has a richness that many sauvignons are lacking in so many of the 2002 wines.

## **OTHER WHITES**

### **Cedar Creek Chardonnay 8.95**

Our No 1 seller. Why? Because it tastes as good as most Chardonnays that are twice this price. Buy a

case or two especially at this price.

**Collards Chenin Blanc 2000 11.65**

Winewriter Michael Cooper's chosen house white in a previous copy of his Buyers Guide to NZ Wines. Rich and vigorous with lovely apple/lemon flavours plenty of weight and fruit. A steal!

**Fromm La Strada Chardonnay 2000 33.25**

This is the closest to a French White Burgundy I've tried. Very elegant and fruity with wonderful complex flavours. One of my best NZ Chardonnays I've ever tried. A food wine. Try with oysters, whitebait or blue cod.

**Konrad and Conrad Noble Riesling 2001 34.15**

Yum yum pigs...! Mouthfilling, intense fruit, picked at 40 brix (hugely sweet). This is a true Trockenbeerenauslese style. As good a NZ dessert wine as you can get. Try with blue cheese.

**STRENGTH COBBER, IT'S THE AUSSIES**

**Maxwell Ellen Street Shiraz 1999 30.55**

With Robert Parker's rave reviews, this wine will soon be as expensive as Eileen Hardy! Still; a bit left, absolutely beautiful now, but will cellar for 5-7 years. A thermonuclear fruit bomb!

**Tatachilla Breakneck Creek Merlot 2001 13.45**

This wine has carved out a space on our shelves and just won't let go. It should come with a government warning: Dangerously drinkable and utterly moreish. Juicy, plummy fruit, and a silky supple palate means that this wine just slides down a treat.

**Leasingham Bastion Shiraz Cabernet 2000 13.45**

This Clare Valley producer has an excellent reputation for its red, and trying this, you'll understand why. It marries the spiciness of Shiraz, with the plum blackcurrant of the Cabernet. Continuing to improve in the bottle, this is drinking marvellously now, but has some cellaring potential built in.

**d'Arenburg The Stump Jump 2001 13.45**

What can we say about this wine that hasn't already been said? Quirky label, memorable wine ...it has lots of palate interest for the serious wine enthusiast, and is seriously gluggable for the wine novice. It's legion of fans won't care less what we say, just keep it in store.

**Houghton's White Burgundy 2001 11.65**

An historic West Australian the HWB has been produced since 1937. A tropical fruit salad of grape varieties but who cares. Bright perfumed nose, super ripe fruit and a nice crisp finish. Buy a case and put half away for five years. You'll be in for a real treat.

**FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS**

**Coto de Hayas Crianza 1998 12.55**

This feisty little Spanish wine has proven to be a huge hit with our customers. A mix of Garnache (Grenache) and Tempranillo has given a spicy richness with excellent weight and depth of fruit. Outstanding.

**Arbiola L'Arbiolin Barbera 1999 21.55**

Hailing from the Asti region in Piedmont (Northern Italy). This bright juicy red is a delight. Match it with your next pizza or pasta and you really have a treat in store. Like many Italian wines, this one just lives for food. Take it along to the new Italian restaurant just due to open.

**Charvin Cotes du Rhone 2000 22.45**

From a fantastic vintage in the Rhone Valley, this Grenache based red really struts its stuff. Modern in style with lashings of fruit, and a smoky oak component. Stylish and suave (can we say that about a wine), and very, very French.

**ODDS AND SODS**

**Martius Rose 13.45**

I love a good Rose and this is good, serious stuff! A blend of grenache and syrah, this Spanish wine is packed with flavour. Lovely on it's own, or great with lamb racks or pasta. Don't be confused with the name by looking for Mateus Rose

**Morris Liqueur Muscat 19.75**

Liquid Christmas Cake. Dangerously drinkable, which is why I don't keep it at home! Try it with the wonderful Christmas Cake ice-cream from Mark Scorgie NB. This is also the secret to Peter's Christmas ham. He adds this to the glazing.

**Highland Park 12 year old Malt 1 Litre 80.95**

Same price as the 750ml! One of the great Malt Whiskeys. Succulent and smokey with flavours of heather and honey. Absolutely delicious.

## Wines of the Month

**Mark's choice:**

**Pisa Range Black Polar Pinot Noir 2001 38.65**

Pisa range is a new label for us from central Otago. Owned by the Hawkers, their fruit was original going into Quartz Reef; this wine, the '01, is their second vintage under their own label, with the wine being made by Rudi Bauer. We found it to have a lovely richness and depth of fruit with touches of cherry and ribena. The palate is silky in texture with a lovely finish. All in all, a very lovely expression of Central Otago Pinot.

**Peter's choice:**

**Falesco Merlot Umbria 2001 35.95**

You will be confused when you try this wine initially. After all it is a merlot and it is from Italy, and quite frankly, the two don't normally go together. But hey, this works...well, very well in fact. Full of fabulously ripe plum flavours and clean new oak. This quite frankly, is one of the finest merlot's I have ever tried. Awesome bouquet with intense perfume of raspberries and new oak. It has extravagant richness of fruit, full body, great depth and remarkable complexity. Lovely complex spice flavours and very rich berry palate with great length, a beauty! Definitely a celebration wine.

Can't decide what you want? Why not leave it up to us to mix a case for you. Just give us a bench mark price from \$150 upwards and we will choose for you.

Congratulations to Adele Evans who won the case of wine offered at the Bigger Than Texas tasting.

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