



The Cellar Club Inc

Established in 1980

Newsletter - April 2019

Next Event: "Top Drops under \$25"

**Wednesday 10 April 2019, 7.45pm for 8.00pm start.
Johnsonville Community Centre Hall,
3 Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville**

Members \$14; Guests \$18

Presenters: Joelle Thomson - Writer, author, etc



Joelle Thomson was bitten by the big buttery chardonnay bug at Aro Street Café in the late 1980s and has never looked back. Her first wine column was in Capital Times in 1994 and she has since written weekly columns for all of New Zealand's largest daily newspapers as well as 15 books about wine, including 10 annual buyer's guides. She has the Wine & Spirit Education Trust Level 4 Diploma. She comments on wine for RNZ National and loves walking in Wellington's town belt. Joelle is the wine programme director for Regional Wines & Spirits and writes about wine at www.joellethomson.com

The wines to be tasted will include:

- 2009 Forrest The Valleys Riesling
- 2015 Main Divide Riesling
- Valformosa Cava Classic Brut NV
- 2016 Ulisse Montepulciano D'Abrusso
- 2015 Crater Rim Waipara Pinot Noir
- 2017 San Marzano Il Pumo Primitivo
- 2016 Domaine Alary Cotes du Rhone La Gerbaude

Joelle is a well-recognised personality in the New Zealand wine world. Having her to present is a highlight. This will be an excellent evening and not to be missed.

From the Editor

As I mentioned last month it is with some regret that (having said it is not to be missed) I will miss it and the AGM next month. Never mind, I will have 30 days at sea to help me get over it.

Naturally I will not be able to put together the May Newsletter. Wayne will take care of this and will ensure that all the necessary documentation is forwarded to members as appropriate for the AGM. We would suggest you print off copies of the documentation and bring it with you as it can be difficult for committee members to provide sufficient copies on the night.

The programme for the year to come might appear to lack substance but your committee is working on a number of initiatives and you can be assured that an enjoyable year of tastings and events is being planned and confirmed. Watch this space.

Cheers *Robin Semmens*, Editor

Looking Back – March 2019 – Villa Maria



VILLA MARIA
NEW ZEALAND

Yet another excellent tasting with Marc Udy from Villa Maria, ably assisted by Kirsty Warbrick, presenting a range of great wines including some from their Platinum Range. Marc is one of the winemakers from Marlborough. He was a good speaker and the consensus is that the winery has been really easy to deal with.

To reiterate the tasting included the Cellar Selection Rose 2018; Reserve Wairua Sauvignon 2018; Single Vineyard Seddon Pinot Gris 2018; Reserve Marlborough Chardonnay 2016; Platinum Selection Pinot Noir 2018; Cellar Selection Grenache 2017, rounded off with the Cellar Selection Late Harvest Riesling 2015. An enjoyable night.

Looking Forward – Cellar Club Inc - Annual General Meeting

The Cellar Club Inc Annual General Meeting will be held as follows:



When: 8pm Wednesday 8 May 2019
Where: Johnsonville Community Centre
Moorefield Road, Wellington

Please give some thought to any proposals you might want to introduce for the meeting, we are happy to take ideas from members about future activities for the Club.

As always members will be provided with a light supper and the opportunity to sample some wines from our cellar after the formal part of the evening. We will send out a formal notice and documents closer to the meeting in accordance with our Club rules.

Screwcaps

A reminder that Anne collects screwcaps at meetings. As mentioned she gives them to the Lions organised Kidney Kids Support Group. No food lids or beer tops please.

“Have you Heard”

I had an interesting conversation with one of our members (who shall remain nameless) after last month's newsletter. I was advised that the lexophiles were 'Dad jokes' and we should get back to wine cartoons in this section. So I have a choice more Dad Jokes or look for wine cartoons. I must have a wee obstinate streak in me somewhere.

I didn't like my beard at first, but then it grew on me. *(Had to include this didn't I – Ed)*
This woman today said she recognizes me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.

When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she would dye.

If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.

I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.

If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving definitely isn't for you.

My wife left me and ran away with my next door neighbour!!! I'm actually starting to miss him.

I am terrified of elevators. I have to take steps to avoid them.

Do you know why cows have hooves instead of feet? Because they Lactose.

And to introduce a wine (or is that whine) element

I've trained my dog to bring me a glass of red wine – it's a Bordeaux Collie.

I'm a wine enthusiast – the more wine I drink, the more enthusiastic I get'.

The first thing on my bucket list is to fill the bucket with wine.

(Not all my own work- part of this list was ably contributed by Mr Kennedy – Ed)

In the News – Port from 1863 sets new world auction record

Chris Mercer - Decanter – 26 March 2019



A newly released bottle of 156-year-old Niepoort in a Lalique crystal decanter has become the most expensive Port sold at auction after fetching more than HK\$1m, according to those involved in the sale.

Hong Kong's Grand Hyatt hotel was the venue for the new **Port** auction record, in a sale organised by Sotheby's. A buyer paid HK\$1.054m (US\$134,000; £102,000) for the Niepoort in Lalique 1863. All proceeds will go to The Nature Conservancy charity.

The previous world record was set in November last year for a bottle of the same Port, also in Lalique, after a buyer paid HK\$992,000 at an Acker, Merrall & Condit auction. There are five Lalique demijohn decanters of the rare Niepoort 1863, each engraved with the name of one of the five generations of the van der Niepoort family, said Lalique following last weekend's Sotheby's auction. Two decanters have now been sold at auction, with the second a tribute to Eduard Karel Jacob van der Niepoort.

Dirk van der Niepoort, of the fifth generation and who runs the company today, said, 'We are thrilled to achieve another landmark price for what is the oldest Port we have ever bottled.'
Silvio Denz, chairman and CEO of Lalique, said: 'This new world record highlights the exceptional nature of the decanters and the remarkable quality of the Niepoort 1863.'

We are delighted that all net proceeds from the sale will benefit a charity that carries out hugely important work to preserve nature.'

There have been several auction records in recent months.

[A bottle of DRC Romanée-Conti 1945 set a new record](#) for wine in general after selling for \$558,000 at a Sotheby's sale in October 2018.

In November, [Christie's sold a bottle of The Macallan 1926 60 Year Old for £1.2m](#), breaking new ground for single malt Scotch whisky.

(But you can only own it, you can't drink it can you??? - Ed)

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Coming Events

Wednesday 8 May 2019
AGM

Wednesday 12 June 2019
TBA

Wednesday 10 July 2019
Mid-Year Dinner



For those of you who haven't been there - this is Cloudy Bay
