

The Cellar Club Inc



Established in 1980

June 2021 Newsletter

THIS MONTH:

8pm Wednesday 9th June

Mahi Wines, Marlborough

Presented by Brian Bicknell

Door Price \$14, Guests \$18

Mahi, meaning 'our work, our craft', began in 2001, fulfilling a dream for Brian and Nicola Bicknell



Brian is an engaging presenter, the winemaker and owner of Mahi with wide international experience. They create a series of wines from their different vineyard sites across Marlborough to show the region has true depth and complexity. Their very first harvest was from a vineyard located in the Conder's Bend part of Marlborough – Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir from the Byrne vineyard. This is now an organic site.

'The primary emphasis for all of Mahi's wines is texture, aiming for wines that give real palate satisfaction rather than fruit-bomb styles.'

For your further reading pleasure: <https://mahiwine.co.nz>

Wines we will be tasting during the evening are from the different vineyards under the Mahi banner, so we get to experience how the different plots produce different wines:

- Y Rosé to start
- Y 2 x Sauvignons – vertical tasting
- Y 3 x Chardonnays – vertical tasting
- Y 2 x Pinot Noir – vertical tasting

The observant ones reading this will notice that this is an opportunity to taste 8 wines and not our normal 7. So, please make sure you have plenty to eat before coming. It should be a very interesting tasting and one not to be missed.

2021 Events Coming Up:

- 🍷 **14 July:** A French inspired dinner at Le Marche Francais, celebrating Bastille Day
- 🍷 **11 August:** Aussie wine evening with Keith Tibble – this will be an evening with both established vineyards and some new labels.
- 🍷 **8 September** Esk Valley with Gordon Russell – this will include an update on new developments for Villa Maria and keeping the Esk Valley flag flying high.

Looking Back - May Club AGM

There was a good turnout for the Club's AGM with 33 Club members attending.

Agenda items were quickly dealt with and once the AGM ended, members enjoyed wines from the club's cellar. These were augmented by a donated 2019 Confidential Rose from Victor Kattenbelt at Confidant Ltd and a vertical tasting of 3 Felton Road Rieslings donated by a club member. All 4 wines were very much enjoyed by everyone present.

A big thanks to all Committee members for the food supplied, as well as to the 2 donors of those wines.

There are AGM details on our website if anyone is interested in full details, including the President's report and the full Financial Report.

July Dinner in more detail

Wednesday 14th of July is Bastille Day and in keeping with this day, a French inspired menu has been arranged with Chef Veronique at Le Marche Francais on Thorndon Quay.

This July is the 10th Anniversary of the opening of Le Marche Francais in Thorndon, so this is a triple celebration! *A ta Sante! Je leve mon verre a la liberte.*

The menu etc will be sent out shortly. However here is some additional information:

- 🍷 Le Marche Francais is situated on the first floor of the Woolstore Building on Thorndon Quay. Nearby is the motorway overpass and just south of that is bus stop 5492 which is used by bus routes 1, 19e, 24, 25, 26, 52, 56, 57, 58, 60e and 83.
- 🍷 When it comes to go home, you can use bus stop 5024 just north of the motorway overpass. So again, just a short distance away.
- 🍷 Chef Veronique is French, and her café provides authentic French food during the day. However, she has agreed to make her café available for our club dinner and she and her restaurant will certainly be celebrating France's National Day with style.
- 🍷 This could be the perfect opportunity to bring out a French wine or two from your cellar that you've been saving for just such an occasion. And in keeping with the French theme, feel free to dress with a little *je ne sais quoi* red, white and blue anyone - or perhaps just some French flair!
- 🍷 So, watch your Inbox and be prepared to act quickly.

Not enough wine to go around: Wine companies to prioritise customers

Morgane Solignac, Stuff Apr 29 2021



A dearth of grapes this vintage has forced a family-owned winery in Marlborough to turn down a new customer in Europe.

But it's not just the smaller operations struggling. One of the biggest players in the global drinks industry, Pernod Ricard, is also reporting it is unable to meet the global demand for

Marlborough wine this year, in particular sauvignon blanc, due to the region's low yield.

One estimate puts the take of sauvignon blanc grapes down 30 per cent against long-term averages, due to early frosts and cool weather during flowering season.

A Pernod Ricard Winemakers spokesperson said the company was in talks with its partners to determine how it should prioritise supply for customers "in the context of the strong ongoing global demand for the sauvignon blanc category".

The volume shortage meant the family-owned Marisco Vineyards had to walk away from a deal in Germany to make sure it could supply its long-time customer base.

Marisco Vineyards general manager sales and marketing Siobhan Wilson said the winery, which employs about 80 people, didn't want to sacrifice one market for another.

"The key focus for us this year is to look after the partnerships we've developed over the years ... We have long-term contract with annual supply conversations starting around January-February, which is tricky as vintage happens [March-April].

"So I have to take what our customers would like versus what we have got coming in."

Marisco started blending this week, so it would have a full picture of what was available, and when, in the next couple of weeks, Wilson said.

New Zealand Winegrowers chief executive Philip Gregan said Aotearoa hit a record-breaking \$2 billion in New Zealand wine exports at the end of last year.

"Exports to our key international markets have increased beyond expectations over the past 18 months, and we saw an increase of 19 per cent for the first four months of the new export year (July to October 2020), on the same time in 2019.

"We are already seeing supply and demand tension as a result, and we expect that many wineries will face tough decisions on who they can supply in their key markets over the next year," Gregan said.

And while increased demand and reduced supply might push up prices, Wilson said they had to be careful.

"We are not just going to put the price up because it is in short supply, because next year what happens if we have a bumper vintage, and we've got plenty of wine, do you then discount it?"

“What is important when you are selling wine, and when you are building a brand, is consistency of quality and price.

“So, we all have a responsibility to ensure that we sell at a good price and the right price,” Wilson said.

Ongoing labour shortages, due to the closure of New Zealand’s borders and the restricted number of RSE workers, had also piled pressure onto wine companies.

Wilson said they had challenges coming at them every day and a short vintage was just one of them.

“We have got massive challenges in Marlborough getting wine shipped offshore because of the shortages of boats coming in, the restriction of space ... and it is all the result of the pandemic.

“At Marisco Vineyards we are really resilient, my team have been working for me for a long time, and they have experienced many challenges over the year, so we just deal with it.

“The key thing is the communication with our customers and being really honest with them about the situation,” she said.

Screwcaps

Screwcaps are still very welcome, please bring these along to any Club meeting and leave them with Anne, remembering that the cause that benefits from this collection is Kidney Kids NZ and their families.

PLEASE NOTE: We Only collect wine bottle caps – NOT beer caps, tear tabs, corks, plastic or bubbles wire. Thanks for your support.

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