

The Cellar Club Inc



Established in 1980

August 2021 Newsletter

THIS MONTH:

8pm Wednesday 11th August

An Aussie evening with Keith Tibble from Eurovintage

Western Australian Wines

Sandalford, Xanadu and Moss Wood Vineyards

Door Price \$15 members, \$19.Guests

Keith will let us know that Western Australian wine is more than just the Margaret River wine we are aware of. He is featuring three vineyards in the wider area tonight:

- ✦ Sandalford - establishing estate at Caversham, Swan Valley had its genesis in 1840 and coincided with both European settlement in the burgeoning colony of Perth and the birth of Western Australia's world-famous wine industry. In one of Australia's most sustainable wineries at Caversham, Swan Valley, Sandalford creates today's collection of Prendiville, Estate Reserve, Margaret River Range and Element award-winning wines from its two fertile vineyards
- ✦ Xanadu - Just 4km from Margaret River's town centre and an equal distance from the magnificent coastline, Xanadu is one of the first vineyards to have been established in the region with a long history of crafting outstanding wines that embody all the region has to offer. Established by Dr John Lagan, an Irishman who arrived in Margaret River in 1968 with his wife Eithne and was inspired by the pioneering spirit of the region.
- ✦ Moss Wood – situated in Wilyabrup in the Margaret River wine region, it has the highest concentration of premium wine producers in the region. Planted in 1969 Moss Wood is an important, founding estate of the Margaret River wine region. Clare & Keith Mugford winemakers, viticulturalists and priorietors have been making wine and tending the vineyard since 1984 and 1979, respectively.

This will be an evening to taste Australian wines from entry level through to upmarket expressions, so come along and taste the variations for yourself!

Clearing Tables after our monthly tastings

When you are helping to clear the tables (and perhaps put them away) after our monthly Club evenings, could you please remember to leave all items such as the spittoons (bowls) and plates on the servery of the kitchen. Could all the rubbish on the tables please be placed in the rubbish bags provided by our Club – we are not to use the hall's large rubbish bin.

Thanks

2021 Events Coming Up:

- Y **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.

- Y **13 October** Butterworth Estate, Martinborough with either Nick Hewitt Manager or Martin Bell their winemaker

Looking Back - French Celebration dinner Bastille Day at La Marché Français

The evening was a splendid celebration of mid-winter for the Club and also of Bastille Day for the venue and their French staff. The atmosphere and service were excellent and enjoyed by all.

We had a selection of three entrees' each with the soup being served in a demitasse cup, with a small serving of quiche and a separate salad.

For the mains, people had a selection from Beef Bourguignon, Chicken Champenoise, or Whaherou Cerole – all were served with veges and were very tasty.

For the dessert we each had a trio of petite fours': lemon pie with meringue on top, a macaron and a lemon Brulee served in a spoon.

Your committee has sent a special note of thanks on behalf of everyone present to Chef Vero and her staff for staging a very enjoyable dinner indeed.

Wine News

The World Loves a Trier?!

'Champagne war' sees France halt exports of bubbly to Russia

5 Jul, 2021 10:19 AM

Russian oligarchs are facing a shortage of champagne, after French producers temporarily cut off supplies to the country over a new law that will force them to label their drinks as "sparkling wine".

Last week, President Vladimir Putin signed off on legislation stating that only wine produced in Russia could be labelled as "champagne", while foreign makers would have to rebrand their bubbly.

Neither the President nor Parliament explained why Russia needed such a law.

The "champagne" controlled designation of origin is governed by very strict rules in France, which state that the wine must originate from a small area in the Champagne

region, be made with approved grape varieties and mature for a minimum of 15 months.

Moët Hennessy, which produces drinks such as Moët & Chandon, Dom Pérignon and Veuve Clicquot, told partners in Russia that it would have to halt distribution.

In a letter to local businesses, Moët Hennessy, part of the French luxury goods group LVMH, said stocks of its champagnes would therefore be at an "extremely low level", exacerbated by a wider drop in imports over 2021.

Later, the company told Bloomberg that it would add a "sparkling wine" mention on the back label of their bottles, and resume deliveries once these changes were made.

Olga Sokolova, a sales director at Vinicom, which imports and distributes foreign wine in Russia, denounced the situation as absurd as she shared the letter from Moët Hennessy on social media.

"This seems like it's fake, but it's true," she said. "From today, black is now white, and white is black."

Others online were equally damning of the change in the law, with the exiled oligarch and Kremlin opponent Mikhail Khodorkovsky saying he thought "the whole champagne thing was a joke".

Sergei Mironov, a restaurant owner, quipped that Moscow's next step would be to ban Scots from using the word "whisky".

Other experts questioned whether Russia had the legal jurisdiction to force foreign products to rebrand.

Vadim Drobiz, director of the Centre for the Study of Federal and Regional Alcohol Markets, told the business newspaper RBK that about half of the 330 million litres of still and sparkling wine imported to Russia every year could be affected.

The new law came as Putin signed a decree stating that the "Westernisation" of Russian culture was one of the primary security threats to the country.

Moscow banned the import of Western cheeses, meats and other food products in 2014, as a response to European and US sanctions over the annexation of Crimea.

The ban motivated local producers to develop their own versions of European goods, such as "Russian parmesan".

In the 1920s the USSR created a cheaply produced "Soviet Champagne" as a way of bringing luxury goods to the masses.

In recent years, a growing number of wine-makers have launched in southern Russia.

French media has dubbed the import spat the "champagne war" or the "bubble war".

Champagne producers have long been extremely protective over their brands. Last week, French wine producers won a legal battle to prevent an ice cream from being called "champagne-flavoured", according to a German court, after a long battle against the supermarket giant Aldi.

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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