

# The Cellar Club Inc



*Established in 1980*

## September 2023 Newsletter

### Clearview Wines

*presented by Tim Turvey*

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 8pm Start**

**Door Price: Members \$10 / Guests \$14**



**Clearview – Estate grown and Owner operated since 1986: Tim Turvey & Helma van den Berg.** Purchased in 1986, the neglected but historic Vidal's No.2 Vineyard at Te Awanga, Hawke's Bay was set to become Clearview Estate. Tim Turvey with business partner Helma van den Berg took on the challenge of bringing it back to life. Together they hand grafted and planted the first vines in the winter of 1988. Clearview Estate Winery Ltd was established for the first red wine vintage in 1989, following some experimentation in prior years. Chardonnay began in 1991 with the release of the first Reserve Chardonnay.

Over the next several years, Tim and Helma went on to plant thousands of trees including avocado, olive, bay, citrus, gums, and melia. And they didn't stop there. Together they expanded the vineyard by three acres each year, grafting and planting vines, ramming posts, running wires, training young vines, and for many years completing all of the pruning themselves.

Today the business proudly remains owner operated. Tim oversees the vineyards and works with chief winemaker Matt Kirby and assistant winemaker Rob Bregmen to create legendary much-awarded wines. Helma manages the finance, restaurant, gardens and her extraordinary team. Steeped in history, Clearview Estate Winery Cellar Door and Clearview Estate Restaurant have become an iconic and awarded destination for both locals and visitors from afar. 194 Clifton Road, Te Awanga, Hastings, Hawke's Bay.

Wines for our evening:

-  2021 Clearview Sparkling Blush *arrival wine*
-  2023 Clearview Coastal Pinot Gris
-  2022 Clearview White Caps Chardonnay
-  2020 Clearview Reserve Semillon
-  2021 Clearview Martinborough Pinot Noir
-  2021 Clearview Cape Kidnappers Syrah
-  Clearview Sea Red Dessert Wine [500ml]



## *Let's Look Out for Each Other*

As always, please if you are feeling unwell, do not attend the evening's presentation. Thanks

## *Looking Back – Babich Tasting*

Antonia presented us with some of the Babich wines, mainly from Marlborough, where their new winery is situated. Their base is still in the Henerson Valley where the Babich family first settled.

Antonia regaled us with the Babich family members comings to New Zealand at an unsettled time for the world, and why they turned to making wine, with their increasing presence here and their increasing knowledge base too. An interesting evening for everyone.

The different labels certainly made for an interesting evening.

A reminder of the wines we tasted during the evening:

- 🍷 Family Estates Marlborough Organic Rose
- 🍷 Family Estates Organic Albarino 2022
- 🍷 Family Estates Organic Chardonnay 2022
- 🍷 Irongate Gimblett Gravels Chardonnay 2022
- 🍷 Black Label Pinot Noir 2021
- 🍷 Classics Hawkes Bay Syrah 2021
- 🍷 Irongate 2017 Cabernet Merlot Franc

## *Committee Musings*

1. **The SGM Resolutions** were tabled at the committee meeting and will now be included in an updated rules document that will be forwarded to the Incorporated Societies for registration. Many thanks to Richard for his expert knowledge to facilitate these much-needed changes to the Club's Constitution.
2. It was great to have everyone help with the tables and chairs at previous meetings and taking the same down at the end. Also taking the spittoons/water jugs/cracker plates back to the kitchen. Could we please continue this new routine.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *We can't arrive to do the setting up activities any earlier than 7:30pm as we interrupt the cleaner(s) schedule, the cleaners are in the hall until 7:30pm.*

## *Looking Ahead:*

- 🍷 **October** - Maison Vauron, Auckland
- 🍷 **November** – Bubbles Evening, tbc
- 🍷 **December** – Christmas Dinner, tbc

## *Wine News*

**Sauvignon Blanc land in Marlborough sells for over \$400,000 per hectare, a 60% increase on previous highs**

*Gerhard Uys 09:38, Jul 31 2023*

Prices for sauvignon blanc vineyards in Marlborough have topped \$400,000 per hectare this year, up by almost 60% on past record, the Real Estate Institute says.

Andy Poswillo, director for Colliers in Marlborough said it was a big jump from the \$270,000 per hectare that the best vineyards fetched for a long time.

A number of factors influenced the price, he said.

The best vineyards delivered consistent high-quality yields, Poswillo said.

The land that attracted the most interest was not under any contractual obligations and buyers could "do what they wanted with the fruit," he said.

Investors looked at the rate of return and the value of a vineyard came down to yield and location, he said.

Water availability and security was a major contributor to the value of land.

The price per tonnes of grapes made land attractive, he said.

Sauvignon Blanc grapes harvested recently sold for up to \$2200 per tonne, Poswillo said.

Real Estate Institute rural spokesperson Shane O'Brien said these sales were the only "bright spot" in the rural property market as sales continued to decline compared to last year.

The institute's data showed there were 166 fewer farm sales for the three months ended May than for the same three months ended May 2022.

"The reduced number of sales is impacted by buyers continuing to take a wait-and-see approach to buying amidst the backdrop of higher interest rates, farm expenses increasing and lower farm incomes off the back of adverse weather and challenging economic conditions," O'Brien said.

O'Brien said the sale of two established vineyards was at a price per hectare never seen before.

"In Marlborough sales are now being reported at record levels for good quality sauvignon blanc land and more land is being acquired for further development in grapes," he said.

The recent uptick in wine exports and free-trade agreement with the UK gave the industry "renewed confidence," O'Brien said.

Chief executive of New Zealand Winegrowers Philip Gregan said earlier this month wine exports for the year to May were [worth \\$2.4 billion, up 25% on last year](#).

Sarah Wilson, general manager for advocacy at New Zealand Winegrowers, said under the UK free-trade agreement [technical barriers to trade would be removed](#), and certification and labelling requirements minimised.

Marcus Pickens, general manager for Wine Marlborough, said the phenomenon of good sales for sauvignon blanc vineyards was not new, with ongoing growth in the industry for the last 30 years.

"It's a continuation of the growth trajectory.

"There could have been an uptick and land conversion into viticulture. The world discovered sauvignon blanc in the 1980s and there's been growing demand ever since. Other varieties grow very well, but sauvignon blanc gets all the attention," Pickens said.

Marlborough had "nice warm days" in the growing season and "quite cold nights which was good for flavour development," he said.

Of Marlborough's about 30,000 hectares of vineyards, about 24,000ha was planted to Sauvignon Blanc, Pickens said.

The vineyard area grew by 29% in the last 10 years, but it was hard to say if this trend would continue, he said.

Marlborough had a record harvest last year, after a small harvest in 2021 brought about by poor fruit set, he said.

This year's harvest was marginally less than last year because of an abnormal summer, Pickens said.

“As a wine industry we have been careful to map planting planning with consumption demand as we do not want to oversupply the market, just grow our premium offering at the same pace as demand grows,” Pickens said.

The median price per hectare for dairy farms for the three months ended June this year was up 3.1% compared to last year, for finishing farms it was down 4.8%, up 5.3% for grazing farms and down by 25% for horticulture, Real Estate Institute data showed.

## **I HAD TO FIT THIS ONE IN!! IMAGINE!!**

**France has too much wine, so it's paying millions to get rid of it** *Caroline Anders – [Stuff.co.nz](http://Stuff.co.nz)*

**France is about to destroy enough wine to fill more than 100 Olympic-size swimming pools.** And it's going to cost the nation about US\$216 million (NZ\$365m).

Ruining so much wine may sound ludicrous, but there's a straightforward economic reason this is happening: Making wine is getting more expensive due in part to recent world events, and people are drinking less of it. That's left some producers with a surplus that they can't price low enough to make a profit. Now, some of France's most famous wine-producing regions, like Bordeaux, are struggling.

**In June, the European Union initially gave France about US\$172m to destroy nearly 80 million gallons of wine,** and the French government announced additional funds this week. Producers will use the funds to distil their wine into pure alcohol to be used for other products, like cleaning supplies or perfume.

Agriculture Minister Marc Fesneau told reporters that the money was "aimed at stopping prices collapsing and so that winemakers can find sources of revenue again", according to Agence France-Presse.

The decline in wine consumption is not new, according to Olivier Gergaud, a professor of economics at France's Kedge Business School who researches food and wine. Wine consumption in France has been plummeting since its peak in 1926, when the average French citizen drank about 136 litres per year. Today, that number is closer to 40 litres. The Washington Post previously reported. Consumers are also inundated with beverage choices now, and they're choosing wine less and less.

"We have an underlying issue of, 'How do we better engage with the consumer and make wine more relevant, make wine a relevant choice for consumers that have a lot of options?'" said Stephen Rannekleiv, the global sector strategist for beverages at Rabobank, a Dutch financial firm specialising in agribusiness.

As consumption has taken a nosedive, production costs have increased, and inflation has tightened budgets around the world. That's especially true since the Covid-19 pandemic, which shuttered bars, restaurants and wineries, driving up prices. The war in Ukraine also influenced the industry by disrupting shipments of products essential to winemaking, like fertiliser and bottles. And on top of the pandemic and war, climate change is forcing growers to adapt to new harvest schedules and reckon with more extreme weather. Costs are so high, and demand is so low that some producers can't turn a profit.

While this year's subsidy is getting a lot of attention, the French government intervention is not a new phenomenon, according to Elizabeth Carter, a professor of political science at the University of New Hampshire who has studied the French wine market. "I am not vaguely at all surprised that France is looking to destroy surplus and prop up prices by limiting quantity, because this is something that they've actually been struggling with since the 19th century, wine overproduction," Carter said.

She said there's been an internal push-and-pull in France for decades as producers grapple with what quantity of grapes to grow and how much wine is too much. The nation has long regulated the wine market intensely, in some cases telling producers how many vines they can grow and how far apart they have to be, in an effort to prevent the market from being flooded.

So, while this buyback program isn't totally new, Gergaud said, he hopes the industry takes this moment to consider longer-term solutions. "We need to think in terms of, you know, long-run adaptation to these changing conditions," he said. "We need to help this market to transition to a better future, maybe with more wines that would respect the environment. Adaptation to climate change is a real challenge."

And regardless of its current woes, wine is too strong a part of France's identity for the market to go anywhere. It's certainly in the government's best interest to keep the industry happy: French President Emmanuel Macron has even said that a meal without wine "is a bit sad".

## *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.

## *Club Information*

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*Time to get your garden planted*

