

# The Cellar Club Inc



*Established in 1980*

## *August 2024 Newsletter*

*Wairiki Estate, & Petane, Esk Valley, Hawkes Bay*

*presented by Brent Linn*

**Sustainably Crafted New Zealand Wine**

**NOT TO BE MISSED:** These are two vineyards that you normally don't get to see and taste

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August, 8pm Start**

**Door Price: Members \$15 / Guests \$19**

**Wairiki** Estate was founded by Brent Linn in 2008, but his passion for wine began long before that. Brent's interest was sparked when working in banking, helping winemakers find the funding to plant their vines into the soil and establish their labels. From there his curiosity about the industry grew.

In 2008 a special property was found on the terraces high above the Ngaruroro River in the Maraekakaho area of Hawkes Bay. 'The winery was named 'Wairiki' because of the importance of this land. Wairiki means 'little water' in te reo, and our land is blessed with a small stream that runs through it in Winter. Our soil, our climate and our passion for viticulture has brought us here: we're proud of the results. Our small batch Pinot Noir and Chardonnay wines are select, special and full of flavour.'

In 2010 family and friends worked together to plant out just under 2 hectares of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vines. 'After supplying commercial wineries with our grapes for a number of years we grew restless, wanting to see the true potential of our land realised in our own wine label. The first Wairiki vintage under our own label was released in 2018.'

Feast in the flavour of our handcrafted, small batch wines. Wines for the evening will be:

**Petane** is in the Esk valley and was severely impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle, with their vineyard suffering extensive damage. Thanks to the support of their family and friends, community and customers, they continue to create beautiful wines made with love and dedicated to the production of boutique single-vineyard wine. Their wines are unique from vintage to vintage.

To give us an understanding of the quality that these two wineries can produce, we will be tasting the following wines:

 Grace White Pinot 2023

- 🍷 Petane Viognier
- 🍷 Wairiki The Matriarch Chardonnay 2023
- 🍷 Wairiki La Briar Rose' 2021
- 🍷 Wairiki The Optimist Pinot Noir 2020
- 🍷 Wairiki The Redeemer Reserve Pinot Noir 2020
- 🍷 Petane Merlot Cabernet Franc

If you want to read about these wines in more detail, you can go to the following websites:

[Wairiki Wines Hawkes Bay, NZ - Boutique Wine](#)

[Petane Wines, Esk Valley - Boutique aromatic wines \(petanestation.co.nz\)](http://petanestation.co.nz)

## *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 - Mid-Winter Club Dinner at Featherston Tavern*

The location in the CBD was easy to get to and easy to get home from. The evening was a success, as usual with 29 happy diners, and as usual upon arrival everyone was handed a glass of bubbly, from your Club Cellar.

Below is a reminder of the menu for the evening:

<b>Entrée</b>	Prawn fritters Woodys' smoked chicken breast Pumpkin & haloumi fritters
<b>Mains</b>	Honey roasted ham off the bone Prosciutto wrap chicken breast Pan fried fish
<b>Dessert</b>	Deep south vanilla ice cream Sticky toffee pudding White chocolate cheesecake

Whilst the evening was very enjoyable for those in attendance, in view of the low attendance Wayne is surveying all members who chose not to attend, to see if there are any learnings that the committee needs to consider when planning future dinners. Wayne will provide a summary of the findings in a future newsletter.

## *Committee Musings*

1. Membership is still at the top of mind for your committee members. Can all members please endeavour to seek out new members. Bring along fellow wine enthusiasts, neighbours or friends that want to join in our monthly evenings, emphasizing that this is a very good value proposition and a great exposure to wines you may never have known about, or tasted!

Please remember to promote that as a bonus for potential members, our meetings are held in close proximity to both the Johnsonville Train Line and the bus station.

**The committee is formulating a short pamphlet for anyone who wants one to hand out to explain our Club a little bit.**

- Thanks again to everyone who helps with the tables and chairs at the start of our evenings and taking the same down after the meeting. Also taking the tables contents: spittoons/water jugs/cracker plates back to the kitchen.

## *Looking Ahead:*

- 🍷 **September** – Misty Cove, Blenheim *with presenter Carlos Rojas Stiven*
- 🍷 **October** – Peregrine, Gibbston Highway Queenstown
- 🍷 **November** – Bubbles Evening, **tbc**

## *Wine News – ‘Archeologists find ‘oldest wine ever discovered’*

By S.Dev CBS news



*The wine pictured in the glass urn. / Credit: Juan Manuel Román© Provided by CBS News*

Archaeologists have found an urn of wine that is more than 2,000 years old, making it the "oldest wine ever discovered," researchers said in a new study. The glass funerary urn was found in a Roman tomb in Carmona, Spain, that archaeologists first uncovered in 2019.

A team of chemists at the University of Cordoba recently identified the wine as having been preserved since the first century, researchers said in a study [published June 16](#) in the Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports. The discovery bested the previous record held by a Speyer wine bottle discovered in 1867 that dated back to the fourth century.

The urn was used in a funerary ritual that involved two men and two women. As part of the ritual, the skeletal remains of one of the men was immersed in the wine. While the liquid had acquired a reddish hue, a series of chemical tests determined that, due to the absence of a certain acid, the wine was, in fact, white.

"At first we were very surprised that liquid was preserved in one of the funerary urns," Juan Manuel Román, the city of Carmona's municipal archaeologist, said in a news release.

Despite millennia having passed, the tomb had been well-sealed, and its conditions were therefore extraordinarily intact, protected from floods and leaks, which allowed the wine to maintain its natural state, researchers said.

"Most difficult to determine was the origin of the wine, as there are no samples from the same period with which to compare it," the news release said. Still, it was no coincidence that the man's remains were found in the wine. According to the study, women in ancient Rome were prohibited from drinking wine.

"It was a man's drink," the release said. "And the two glass urns in the Carmona tomb are elements illustrating Roman society's gender divisions in its funerary rituals."

**101 Year-old Ohio Woman Says the Secret to Longevity is Drinking: ‘I Have a Whole Bar’** by Mark Moore CBS News

'Every other night I do vodka, but the other nights I do brandy, bourbon, Irish whiskey, and honey whiskey,' Elinor Campbell Feihel says

For 101-year-old Elinor Campbell Feihel, the secret to a long life is belief in God and the occasional veneration of the spirits - the alcoholic kind. "I drink a little," Feihel told [WSYX](#) in Columbus, Ohio. "I have a whole bar."

"Every other night I do vodka, but the other nights I do brandy, bourbon, Irish whiskey, and honey whiskey," the great-grandmother told the station in an interview that aired Wednesday.

Feihel's birthday is Oct. 14, but she's not making any big plans to celebrate this year, noting that the party for her centennial was the "last hurrah."

Often compared to Sophia from the TV show "The Golden Girls," for her zinger comebacks, Feihel was born in 1921 at the beginning of the Roaring Twenties but grew up during the Great Depression.

"I learned from the Depression," she said. "It did not victimize me. It was good for me. I was about to be a princess, and princesses don't have a good life."

With three children, nine grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren, Feihel said she continues to expand her network of acquaintances.

"I'm in touch with a lot of people, a lot of people," she said. "I send out 130 to 150 Christmas cards. I'm good for something. Not just taking up space."

And while she says part of the key to staying positive is not planning ahead, she does keep Saturdays open for actor Tom Selleck - the "Blue Bloods" version, not the "Magnum, P.I." one.

"Tom Selleck and I have lunch every Saturday because he's on Friday night," Feihel said, adding that she tapes the show.



**Central Otago: The New Zealand wine region with vineyards to rival Burgundy** *Daily Telegraph UK by Susy Atkins*

The world's most southerly commercial wine region, Central Otago produces pinot noir considered among the finest on earth.

There are plenty of reasons people from all over the world make the long journey to the southern part of New Zealand's South

Island.

The majestic, jaw-dropping scenery for one – Mount Cook, Milford Sound, the Southern Alps, glaciers and turquoise lakes – and the many opportunities for hiking, kayaking, climbing and (eek) bungy jumping.

I travelled there recently with another main aim – to visit the wineries of the world's most southerly commercial vine-growing region, Central Otago.

To the east of the Southern Alps, close to popular Queenstown on Lake Wakatipu, the Central Otago vines cling to a rugged, rocky terrain. Winemaking only took off here in the 1990s.

Sheltered by the mountains, it's very arid with hardly any top soil on the foothills, and the weather can be harsh, wind whistling through the vineyards and frosts striking at almost any time of year.

But vines that have to work hard can make the very best of wines, and the nuanced, beautifully balanced pinot noir eked out in this region is considered among the finest in the world.

Sam Neill, the New Zealand actor, owns and is based at his winery Two Paddocks in Alexandra, Central Otago. The most hands-on of "[celebrity winemakers](#)", he tells me half-jokingly that "rational people shouldn't make wine here".

'But,' he continues, 'I've learned that to produce great pinot, you have to teeter on the edge of viability.'

There's certainly huge complexity in the region's hard-won pinots: savoury, spicy notes, a whiff of violets and smoke and something woody-herbal, redolent of the scrubby wild thyme bushes that cling to the hillsides all around.

It's not just pinot that makes an impact here. Chardonnay and pinot gris can impress but my favourite whites from the region are its Rieslings, usually dry and intensely flavoured with super-fresh citrus and orchard fruit. If you love German, Austrian and Australian Riesling, you really need to try these most southerly ones.

Although very few Central Otago wines make it into the major retailers (the region only produces 3% of New Zealand's wines), plenty of independent merchants stock a few.

They're not cheap, as you might expect from a small region with very low-yielding vineyards, but I think the best rank comfortably alongside those from the traditional, long-established vineyard areas of the world.

- 🍷 Peregrine Riesling 2022, Central Otago
- 🍷 Two Paddocks Picnic Riesling 2022, Central Otago
- 🍷 Mount Difficulty Pinot Noir 2022, Central Otago
- 🍷 Rockburn Pinot Noir 2022, Central Otago
- 🍷 Felton Road Bannockburn Pinot Noir 2022, Central Otago

## *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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### **Club Website**

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