

The Cellar Club Inc



Established in 1980

December 2024 Newsletter

Christmas Dinner



Being held at Le Marche Francois

262 Thorndon Quay, Wellington

Wednesday 11th December

Please arrive at 6.30pm for seating at 7.00pm

We have dined at Le Marche Francois before as a Club and people enjoy the food, the company and the atmosphere.

Veronique Sauzeau [Vero] is the chef and owner and the menu she has prepared for the night is:

- ↳ A selection of petite entrees
- ↳ Mains: your choice of either beef, chicken or fish
- ↳ Petite fours for dessert

And to repeat Wayne's original instructions on getting there: Le Marche is upstairs in the furnishing shop quarter of Wellington's Thorndon Quay. If using public transport, simply get off the bus at the old Woolstore stop.



Please Note:



You are asked to arrive **before 7pm**, as the roadside main doors are locked at this time.



Please come up the stairs to the first floor where you will be greeted with a complementary glass of bubbles.



The meal is BYO wine, and your prepaid cost includes corkage and a discount on the meal. During the evening, it is customary to share the bottle of wine you have brought with your neighbours.



We are expecting to finish sometime between 9.00pm and 9.30pm, but this is a guideline only, in case you are arranging transport home. Please try and stay as flexible as possible.

Please contact Wayne if you wish to attend this event and have not already contacted him. **Cost is \$85 per person and must be paid on or before the 1st December**, which is the close-off date for this event.



Looking Back - to our Bubbles Evening

This was a superb evening featuring world-wide bubbles with Keith Tibble. What a line up we had!

The special food supplied by your committee members Tim and Terry, was a nice touch for the evening, providing variety with the various wines.

This has left everyone with some thoughtfully selected wines to source for Christmas celebrations. As a reminder of what to put on your shopping list, the wines we tasted were:

Quaffer

🍷 Hunters Offshoot Pet-Nat *from Waihopai Valley, Marlborough*

Tasting – Part 1

🍷 Louis Perdier Brut Excellence *from Languedoc, France*

🍷 Tempus Two Prosecco *from King Valley, NSW*

🍷 Gancia Prosecco *Trentino, Italy*

🍷 Maude Methode Traditionale NV *from Central Otago*

Tasting Part 2:

🍷 Champagne Lanvin *from Epernay, France*

🍷 Veuve du Vernay Brut Rose *from France*

🍷 ??

It was an interesting and fun evening for everyone, thanks Terry for organising and Keith Tibble for presenting.

And further news from <https://eurovintage.co.nz>:

[EuroVintage named Champion Wine Company of the Year 2024!](#)

Posted on 30th Oct 2024

EuroVintage was named Champion Wine Company of the Year at the 2024 New Zealand International Wine Show at the Crowne Plaza in Auckland on Friday 18 October.

Winning the Trophy for the fourth time in ten years, the night proved a record year for EuroVintage, scooping its greatest ever haul including five Trophies, nine Double Gold medals and over 30 Gold medals.

Accepting the Trophy, CEO Nick Hern acknowledged EuroVintage's stellar performance, congratulating his team and thanking the companies that make up EuroVintage's brand portfolio. He went on to congratulate Convenor, Kingsley Wood, on the Show's 20th anniversary year.

EuroVintage accepted trophies on behalf of its brand owners for Champion Champagne (Champagne Deutz Classic NV), Champion Gewurztraminer (Domaines Schlumberger Kessler

Grand Cru 2021), Champion International Red Wine (Bodegas Castano Hecula 2021) & Champion Fortified Wine (Lustau Pedro Ximenez San Emilio).

2024 Events Coming Up:

🍷 **Please remember** there is no BBQ in January 2024

🍷 **February – TBC**

Committee Musings



Your committee would like to acknowledge how the Club works for and on behalf of everyone in the wine industry. We are a sought-after Club for the wineries, especially the ones that have presented in the past, and are wanting to present to us again. This is down to everyone who attends and orders at our monthly events. Lets continue this into 2025.



Wine News - Elephant Hill for sale: Another Hawke's Bay winery on the market

*From Jack Riddell is a multimedia journalist
with Hawke's Bay Today*

Elephant Hill, a Hawke's Bay winery started by a German businessman in 2001, is up for sale, including its lodge, vineyards, winery and restaurant.

Another Te Awanga winery is up for sale – with [two of the area's three vineyards now on the market](#) – as Elephant Hill's owner says it's time to move on.

All of Elephant Hill Holdings Limited Group is on the market, which includes the owner's lodge overlooking Cape Kidnappers, vineyards in Te Awanga and Gimblett Gravels, the winery, the cellar door, the restaurant, all physical assets and stock, the brand and an established distribution network both nationally and abroad.

But what chief executive Andreas Weiss says is the most important aspect of the sale is the team. "We are a small, high-performance team. I think we have the best people in their respective places. You can't find anyone better in Hawke's Bay, and I'm very proud of that."

Elephant Hill was founded by businessman Roger Weiss and his wife Reyden in 2001 after they "fell in love with New Zealand and a piece of land on the beautiful coast of Te Awanga", which was at the time an abandoned venison farm. The winery was then opened in 2008.

"I think we were quite successful in building a brand with a very high reputation," Andreas said.

"Everybody knows Elephant Hill because of the passion and of the investments that we did here."

[Roger died suddenly in 2016](#). Andreas, his son, had taken up the role of chief executive at the company a year earlier.

According to Andreas, the company is on the market because it is time for the family to move on.

"[My parents] created the dream; they created the vision of Elephant Hill. Since my father died, my mother, she comes over here more to cry than anything else because they built it together."

Andreas said he hopes to find someone who shares the same vision and passion for wine and the land as his parents did. "It is, I think, breathtaking and mind-blowing sometimes. I mean, I am just looking out from my office looking at the Bay, and it's just a beauty."

Since then, [the winery has closed and reopened its restaurant](#), and hosted marathons, [mass dog walks](#), and countless wedding receptions and long lunches.

Elephant Hill is on the market at the same time as Te Awanga Estate's coastal vineyard and cellar door/restaurant. Executive officer at Hawke's Bay Winegrowers, Brent Limm, said the sales multiple of vineyards in the area is more of a coincidence than anything else.

"The Te Awanga area is an important subregion of Hawke's Bay producing a wide range of high-quality wines with a distinctive sense of place."

Elephant Hill and Te Awanga Estate's neighbour Tim Turvey from Clearview Wines agrees, saying the subregion is still the most enviable area in Hawke's Bay in which to grow wine, "especially chardonnay", and the vineyards have the accolades to prove it.

At this year's New Zealand International Wine Challenge, Clearview won a double gold for its Reserve Chardonnay 2021, while Te Awanga Estate's won the trophy at London's International Wine Competition for Best Red Wine of Show in 2015, and Elephant Hill's 2019 Salome was awarded the highest score by respected UK-based Master of Wine Rebecca Gibb in her 2022 New Zealand white wine report.



Okurukuru Winery, Taranaki

On a recent trip around Taranaki to take in a few of the Fringe Garden Festivals gardens [well worth the visit], we came across [Okurukuru | Okurukuru Winery | Taranaki](#) out on the Surf Highway in Taranaki.

Okurukuru is a West Coast vineyard with associated Luxury accommodation, Cellar Door, The Vineyard Bistro restaurant and extensive Function Centre.

They are a small operation and only make four wines, but they're certainly different and worth a visit. The grape variety that survived on their, at first, exposed

plot of land was Plantet and were obtained from a retired Kiwifruit grower, Mr Vern Evans. This is a red berry. Mr Evans had himself been gifted this grape variety from a friend who ran a nursery.

They also have accommodation on location, either Studio Apartments or Chalet Suites and are only 10km from New Plymouth CBD.

Our tasting was of all four of their wines and cost us \$20 p/p. Their wines, all included in the tasting are:

- Y Okurukuru Rose - *grown in Taranaki* – presents inviting floral aromas and a mealy of vibrant red berries on the nose. The palate reveals a harmony of ripe strawberries, luscious cherries and a refreshing hint of watermelon. This rose delivers a balanced and delightful sip that lingers elegantly.
- Y Christine Sparkling Rose - *grown in Taranaki* – produced in the *methode traditionnelle* style this rose, made from grapes picked from the Taranaki Vineyard, has a fresh, clean finish. This wine is gently expressed on the nose showing raspberry, lemon zest, apple and spice aromas, followed by a lively palate that is juicy and mouth-watering.
- Y Sauvignon Blanc – *grown in Marlborough for them* – produced from our sister vineyards in Marlborough, this Sauvignon Blanc boasts inviting aromas of ripe tropical fruits, where juicy passionfruit and sun-ripened mango take centre stage. The palate is greeted by a



harmonious blend of zesty citrus, succulent stone fruits and a subtle herbaceous undertone that adds complexity.



Y Plantet [French Style Red] – The Plantet is produced from selected grapes in the Taranaki vineyard, maturing for nine months in seasoned French barrels prior to bottling. Bright and fragrant, the bouquet shows dark cherry, plum, floral and subtle spice aromas, leading to a juicy palate that is nicely rounded and smooth. This wine offers youthful charm and vibrant fruit flavours, finishing long and silky.

They also have a restaurant on-site and we had polenta chips flavoured with Rosemary and Chilli with our tasting. All in all a lovely vista, different wines and great food for an afternoon experience.

As they are a small and unique vineyard their prices are way above what we expect to pay at the supermarket, but if you want something different and are up in Taranaki, it's worth a tasting experience!



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.

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MY KIND OF TREE

