

# The Cellar Club Inc



*Established in 1980*

## *November 2025 Newsletter*

### *Summer Festive Evening*

*Presented by Tammy Edwards*

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 8pm Start**

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

For our November we are returning to Hawkes Bay and trying some wines not previously tasted by us. We've described the evening as a Summer Festive Tasting as we are looking to taste a bubbles, compare two Roses, as well as looking at two great reds that you might want to enjoy at a summer BBQ. We are finishing with a sticky that we know will appeal to many of our members.

That said, there is also plenty of quality in this tasting as it includes two wines from the Jewelstone range, Mission's premier range, as well as two of their reserve wines. And the other good news is these wines have been heavily subsidised which is why the door price is so attractive.

Here's what's on our tasting list for the evening, in no particular order at this time.

- 🍷 Mission Fete Brut Cuvee
- 🍷 Stables Rosé
- 🍷 Jewelstone Rosé [*noting the 2024 has recently been released and is now called Blanc De Noir*]
- 🍷 Jewelstone Chardonnay
- 🍷 Mission Reserve Syrah
- 🍷 Mission Reserve Malbec
- 🍷 Mission Estate Late Harvest Riesling

And finishing our last formal tasting for the year, there will be a Christmas morsel to go with the last wine. What a great way to finish!

This is going to be a fun evening, and we look forward to seeing you all there 🍷



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

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

## *Looking Back – Rockburn, Central Otago*

Although our numbers were down a little with 27 attending, the evening went with well Rockburn's Canadian Cellar Door Manager, Alex Crone being both informative and engaging.

The wines produced were a little different to what we are used to, which was exciting for a taste test, with a Fume' Blanc on the menu for the evening! This was a blend that had been in old oak barrels and was advised as best being served just chilled a little bit. It could also be cellared for up to 10 years.

Their Pinot Gris had a lovely colour, due to half of the wine content having skin contact before being barrelled with the other half of the harvest. A nice touch that added to the taste experience.

Their chardonnay was in a Chablis style, with 60% being barrelled in neutral oak, so the wine didn't have the normal oaky chardonnay taste we are more used to, none the less a taste experience.

We had the privilege of having a taste of their first vintage of Rockburn Crimson Peak Pinot Noir [2023] – a tasty drop, along with their 'star wine' the 2023 Rockburn Pinot Noir.

A reminder of the wines we tasted during the evening:

- 🍷 Welcome Wine – 2025 Stolen Kiss Rose'
- 🍷 2024 Pinot Gris
- 🍷 2024 Fume' Blanc
- 🍷 2023 Chardonnay
- 🍷 2023 Crimson Peak
- 🍷 2023 Pinot Noir
- 🍷 2022 The Art Pinot Noir



They no longer do a Reisling! But Alex advised that if you could pick up one of these from wine suppliers around Wellington, it was worth a try.



## *Committee Musings*

1. It continues to be helpful to have everyone help with the tables and chairs at meetings and taking the same down at the end, thanks. Also, taking your table's spittoons/water jugs/cracker plates back to the kitchen.
2. We have secured 5 trophy wines and 2 double gold wines for our NZIWS Awards presentation timetabled for April next year.
3. Thanks everyone for going online to respond to our survey. Unfortunately, you busted it, but not before we had gathered some great intel. We will try and report back on the survey in a future newsletter.

## Looking Ahead:

🍷 **December** – Christmas Dinner, Le Cloche –*there will be the normal welcoming glass of bubbly on arrival to start off the festivities. An order form for the meal, plus payment will be sent out separately.*

🍷 **January 2026** – **Reminder:** Currently there is no function planned for this January, but your committee is currently considering a specific idea for 2027. That said, if you have an idea that we also might consider, please talk to a committee member.

🍷 **February 2026** – Askerne Wines

## Wine News – New Zealand Winegrowers reports bumper 2025 harvest with exports up 5% by volume but value down

*Nona Pelletier RNZ, October 2025*

The value of wine exports has dropped slightly over the past year, though volumes remain strong with an exceptionally large 2025 harvest to drive growth.

New Zealand Winegrowers' annual report indicates exports rose 5% by volume in the year ended June, though the value of exports was down slightly at \$2.10 billion.

Association chair Fabian Yukich said there had been strong export growth to Asian markets over the past year.

However, the value of exports to the major United States market fell 4% to \$762 million.

About 90% of the wine produced in New Zealand was exported to more than 100 countries.

Shipments to China grew 47% to \$56m, while exports to South Korea lifted 92% to \$44m.

Overall exports to second-tier markets, excluding the UK, USA and Australia, which together accounted for 70% of exports, rose 17% in the past 12 months to just under \$600m.

"According to market researcher IWSR, lighter refreshing styles are outpacing overall wine category performance," Yukich said.

This shift is driven by varietals' with more refreshing palate profiles, which New Zealand excels in delivering."

However, he said, the industry was facing a number of challenges, with uncertainty around the long-term impact of tariffs on demand for New Zealand wine in the United States.

"While the increased tariffs have been in place since April, with a further increase in August, it is not yet possible to discern the effect of these in the export data."

The 2025 vintage was unusually large, with positive weather conditions bringing warm, dry days and cool nights, producing a high-quality harvest, though a lot of grapes were left on the vine.

New Zealand Winegrowers chief executive Phillip Gregan said the grape yield was exceptional, with the volume far exceeding the industry's ability to process it.

"The weather was so fantastic for grape-growing that [the] crop was really once-in-a-generation," Gregan said.

"There was no way we were ever going to be able to harvest all those grapes.

"We wouldn't have had the capacity in our wineries.

"So there's still plenty of our wine available to grow sales over the last [year]."

## Retirement village bans alcohol at happy hour in common areas after Christmas Day barbecue fallout

*Anne Gibson, Property Editor, NZ Herald*

A complaint brought by residents of a retirement village has been rejected after alcohol was banned at happy hour in common areas.

Events date back nearly two years to the village's barbecue area on Christmas Day and the subsequent emails that resulted in five residents taking a complaint, now published on the Retirement Commission's website.

The five residents of Condell Retirement Village in Bryndwr, Christchurch, are the only ones so far this year to take a dispute all the way to the commission and have a decision published there.

Most other disputes are settled without reaching that forum. The Condell ruling is the only one published in 2025.

Rowland and Patricia Dunbar, Anne McDonnell and John and Jean Sparrow brought the case against Condell Retirement Village (2011).

The Christchurch village owner/operator and the complaining residents agreed there was a gathering in the barbecue area on December 25, 2023, the decision said after an independent disputes panel heard the arguments.

Following the gathering, an email was sent to all residents by village relationship manager Alison McCormick.

"A few individuals breached the alcohol-free policy in the BBQ common area. As a result of this incident, the directors can confirm the village common areas are now permanently alcohol-free. From now on, all happy hours in the community centre will be alcohol free.

"The actions of those involved in this breach do not reflect the values we strive to maintain in our village," McCormick wrote.

A director of the company, Paul McCormack, sent a further email to everyone that said a group of residents had "displayed a boastful attitude while violating the village's zero-alcohol policy".

"We urge those involved to cease any form of bullying directed at residents who have complied with the village policy and are accepting of our decision."

The decision summary from disputes panellist David Carden said the issues were whether the village operator/respondent had breached the occupation rights agreement of the residents.

That was to do with obligations under the code of residents' rights by:

- Banning alcohol from all communal areas in the village;
- Changing access to services for the applicants in the village;
- Communications to all residents in the village concerning an alcohol-free policy;
- Exposing the applicants to subsequent ill-treatment and distrust;
- Failing adequately to apologise to the applicants.

One resident referred to the owner/operator making a threat to residents that had financial implications as "a form of elder abuse tantamount to bullying innocent people".

But the disputes panel found in favour of the village operator/respondent and dismissed the complaints.

There was no evidence in the documents provided that identified them and therefore no basis to find they were implicated in what was said in those letters, the panel said.

There was nothing objectionable in the wording of the letters and nothing that did not treat them with courtesy or disrespect their rights.

If they considered they had been harmed by the letters, they could correct that by clarifying matters to other residents, the decision said.

McCormack told the Herald he was delighted with the decision, which upheld the actions of the owners.

“We are very happy with our conduct.”

It was a breach of alcohol laws for liquor to be served without a licence, he said. Yet that had been the case for many years, which the owners realised was illegal.

Asked why the village did not get a licence to allow alcohol to continue to be served in common areas, McCormack said the directors had decided against that.

But the dispute had cost \$20,000, of which the residents had only been ordered to pay \$2100 in costs, he said.

Alcohol remains banned in common areas of the village, McCormack 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.

## *Club Information*

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