

The **GLEN GARRY** Dozen

WINELETTER 143 JUNE 2009

OUR TOP
WINEMAKERS
FOR 2009

CHRIS RINGLAND
JULES TAYLOR
ALAN McCORKINDALE
LARRY McKENNA
NICK BLAMPIED-LANE
BRENT MARRIS
SIMON McGEORGE
CHRISTOPHER KEYS
TONY BISH
DUNCAN FORSYTH
JOHN HANCOCK
ROD EASTHOPE



Services

delivery
ontime, everytime
gift packs
for all occasions
functions
we cater for it all
sale and return
by arrangement
glassware loan/hire
wine, beer, spirits, riedel glasses
advice
on everything wine related
monthly offers
hot and exclusive!
fun and education
we're known for it; it's fun!
credit accounts
join us!

Locations

auckland

victoria park
118 wellesley st west
308 8346
herne bay
54 jervois rd
378 8555
ponsonby
139 ponsonby rd
378 8252
parnell
164 parnell rd
358 1333
newmarket
22 morrow st
524 5789
mission bay
49 tamaki dr
528 5272
mt eden
250 dominion rd
623 0811
city
cnr wellesley st & mayoral dr
379 8416
elliott st
cnr victoria st & elliott st
379 5858
takapuna
cnr hurstmere rd & killarney st
486 1770
devonport
cnr clarence st & wynyard st
445 2989
remuera
400 remuera rd
523 1594
kingsland
467 new north rd
815 9207
westmere
164 garnet rd
360 4035

wellington

thorndon
232 thorndon quay
472 7051
kelburn
85 upland rd
475 7849
courtenay place
paramount cinema building
27 courtenay place
385 9600
dida's
dida's wine lounge & tapas
54 jervois rd 376 2813
dida's food store
54 jervois rd 361 6157

GLENGARRY



DON'T DRINK
AND DRIVE

glengarry.co.nz

GREAT MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF WINE No 3: THE FIRST WINE CRITIC

NOW, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, UG.
YOU LET THE GRAPES GO ROTTEN, AFTER YOU TROD ALL
OVER THEM WITH YOUR BARE FEET; YOU'VE BEEN
KEEPING IT IN THAT MAMMOTH'S STOMACH FOR THE
WHOLE WINTER, AND NOW YOU EXPECT ME TO
DRINK IT...?



G A S H

While I greatly enjoy all the different concepts that the Wineletter encompasses, finding those obscure and new wines, the crazy Christmas champagne deals and so forth, I look forward most to the event we've been running each June for a few years now, the Glengarry Dozen. Nothing comes close, when you're a wine enthusiast, to holding a glass of something that you haven't tried before, with the winemaker there on hand to explain to you the processes involved that got the fruit from the vine to your glass.

The wonderful winemakers we assemble each year to sit in our stores and share their stories add much to the glass in your hand. From finding out why they use certain clones of Pinot to how they calculate when enough lees stirring is really quite enough, the anecdotes that come with the intense process of producing wine make for great telling, whatever your preferences.

Well, OK, there's a caveat. We've all met The Wine Bore, and yep, some of them even work in the industry, the ones that over a glass of great Burgundy will deliberate for hours as to whether they picked at 24 brix this year or 24.2. Perspective anyone?

That's why we are always privileged to get to choose from the industry's most experienced, knowledgeable and entertaining wine folk. The greatest delights of The Glengarry Dozen are the stories that appear when winemaker meets wine enthusiast and a glass or two is had, when the unexpected question leads to a scintillating answer, or when something comes out that you'd never read in the press.

So get in store this month and grab a glass and a chat with those who have their hands in the dirt, their eye on a barrel and your favourite glass of wine in their hands. You never know what might come out.

See you on the floor this month!

SAIK

Jak Jakicevich

PRODUCTION: GRAEME CASH, ELIZABETH WHEADON, MICHAEL CHAPPOY, MICHAEL LARSEN, VICTORIA KENNEDY, JORDAN SELLERGREN, PRINTED BY IMAGE CENTRE

Sales enquiries: freephone 0800 733 505 freefax 0800 106 162 email sales@glengarry.co.nz



Chris Ringland

CHRIS RINGLAND R WINES

While his isn't a name that would be easily recognisable in this land, Chris Ringland's superb wines have commanded much attention around the world. Even Robert Parker, not normally a man to get too excited, was compelled to say that the Three Rivers Shiraz that Chris makes is 'arguably the greatest Shiraz made in Australia.' The greatest? Good enough that every vintage since 1993 has achieved 99 or 100 points from Parker.

The wines of Chris Ringland that we're featuring this month (and we're truly privileged to have Chris over here to talk about them), are from his R range, an operation he set up with Californian Dan Philips who, like Chris, is a Shiraz fanatic. It was a mutual obsession with the great grape and old vines that brought these two together back in 1997. What is particularly appealing about the R wines is that these excellent expressions from a range of regions and varieties are so approachably priced.

The fact that the packaging is utter craziness only adds to the wines' charm. 'Luchador' is Spanish for 'wrestler', which explains the gimp mask on the label and the warning that this robust Shiraz will 'body slam your tongue'; the '3 Rings' Barossa Shiraz has the tuxedoed Ringmaster holding his, er, pieces aloft; the Boarding Pass Shiraz has... you guessed it.

Wit with your wine, something that is a welcome attribute in times such as these. Gimmicky the wines are not; they are powerful, flavoursome and totally over-deliver, and the packaging provides an ignition of conversation that might just take you away from the dull dialogue around 'fixed' versus 'floating.'

R Wines

Roogle Red S.E. Australia Red Wine 2007

was \$22.00 now **\$14.90** 23208

Silky, succulent, sub-\$15 Shiraz

Roogle? The heavily embossed label offers us a kangaroo with an eagle's head as explanation. An exotic hybrid? Well, a Wombaroo or a Platybat just doesn't have the same edginess, does it. Forget the animal husbandry and marvel at how you get something that concentrated and inky into the glass for under fifteen dollars. Chocolatey dark fruit bounds forth from the glass, a scintillating, soaring story of succulent silkiness. The high alcohol count shows through in weight and intensity, the absurd ripeness of the fruit nailed down by firm but not overbearing tannins.



R Wines

Strong Arms South Australia Shiraz 2007

was \$22.00 now **\$15.90** 23205

91/100-Robert Parker

Even after a couple of goblets of this hefty 15 percenter I still couldn't really describe the label to you; a waif with her arm down an elephant's snout may or may not recommend the wine to you, but then again, its only one of the six different labels this comes in. A South Australian Shiraz of monumental proportion, it's a majestic deep red in the glass, intensely perfumed with jammy fruit and shortcake notes, gainfully spiced and positively toasted with oak. She's a big, chewy offering, well-served by sturdy, fine-grained tannins, dominated by rich fruit and spice, with some alcoholic weight and a meaty, savoury finish.



R Wines

Evil Cabernet Sauvignon 2007

was \$22.00 now **\$16.90** 23200

90/100-Robert Parker

Said 'Evil' is emblazoned in reverse in minimalist proportion and gothic script across the front of the bottle, while inflamed barbed wire adorns the neck. The tagline is, 'it's just wrong.' Nothing so tedious as '15 months in new and used French oak' to bother us here. Deeply dark in colour, but hardly satanic, the intense, ripe berry perfume is uplifting and profound. Medium weight, forgiving tannins and lots of juicy berries make for an easygoing style that offers you in-depth drinking at a lightweight price.



R Wines

Boarding Pass South Australia Shiraz 2006

was \$32.00 now **\$25.90** 23218

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$25.40 A BOTTLE
92/100-Robert Parker

And the entire label is a reproduction of... a boarding pass. The fine print offers some important in-flight information; it's a 15.7% alcohol monster, this, and follow the arrow so that you open the right end. They think of everything those Australians. A deep red, almost inky black in the glass, it's heavily perfumed with iodine-laden, syrupy berryfruit and spice. Fruit is the star; ripe, rich, opulent fruit on a silky, medium-weight trip. Berry meets spice meets baked shortcake in an inky, alcoholic, richly delicious triumph.





Jules Taylor

JULES TAYLOR

JULES TAYLOR WINES

If you happen to be in Blenheim and spot a chic Fiat Bambina dashing about, it's odds-on that it will be Jules Taylor, winemaker extraordinaire with a passion for all things Italian. Jules is an irrepressible character, always has been according to her contemporaries from Marlborough Girls College; so it came as no surprise to them when she embarked on a winemaking career.

Jules graduated with a postgraduate diploma in winemaking and viticulture and headed off to explore the world. She has worked eight vintages in Italy, three in the Piedmont region and five in Sicily with Master of Wine and previous chief winemaker for Villa Maria, Kym Milne. She has also worked two vintages in the Hunter Valley and another in Victoria's Yarra Valley.

Returning to Marlborough, Jules made wines for Kim Crawford, Saint Clair and Cape Campbell. When Kim Crawford Wines merged with the Nobilo group, she took on the role of Group Senior Winemaker.

In 2001 Jules and husband George Elworthy, also an experienced winemaker, launched their first wine - an outstanding Riesling - under the Jules Taylor label. With two children in tow, it's hardly surprising that Jules is kept busy on several fronts. Jules says, 'my passion is about the flavours of Marlborough and creating unique wines from selected vineyard sites. Above all, they need to be enjoyed with great food.'

The Jules Taylor winery is a true boutique operation; the production and range is small, but the quality is outstanding. The wines regularly collect awards, and in a very short time have established themselves as some of Marlborough's best.



Jules Taylor

Marlborough Pinot Noir 2008

was \$32.00 now **\$28.80** 12933

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$28.30 A BOTTLE
New release from Jules

Jules Taylor's latest release from the outstanding 2008 vintage is in the same class as the gold medal 2007 Pinot Noir. It is a blend of two very different vineyard sites in the Brancott and Waihope valleys. The two components were separately fermented on indigenous yeasts and matured in French barrels. Still looking youthful, it has a perfumed bouquet of cherry, mushroom and spicy oak. The fresh berryfruit flavours and integrated subtle oak are enhanced by a suave texture. Full-bodied and elegant, with a lingering, flavoursome finish. Great value.



Jules Taylor

Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2008

was \$21.90 now **\$18.90** 10711

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$18.40 A BOTTLE
Gold medal Sauvignon Blanc

Like its predecessor, this has won gold and may well be destined for higher honours. The fruit was sourced from three distinctive vineyard sites; the upper Wairau Valley provides ripe palate flavours, the lower Wairau Plains delivers upfront aromatic characters and the Awatere gives the wine structure and length. It is a pale green colour with a pungent bouquet displaying capsicum, lifted aromas of nettles and grapefruit juice. Wonderfully vibrant, it has intense flavours that linger endlessly.

Jules Taylor

Marlborough Pinot Gris 2008

was \$21.90 now **\$18.90** 12931

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$18.40 A BOTTLE
Intense and elegant Pinot Gris

A concentrated and complex Pinot Gris that's full of verve. The wine was fermented with selected yeast strains, followed by a partial malolactic conversion to soften the palate. To add greater complexity, it was lees-stirred during its several months of barrel maturation. It is an impressive, glossy wine with an aromatic bouquet of crushed pear juice supported by spicy nuances. The palate is intense yet elegant, and has a swelling of ripe fruit flavours balanced by a fresh finish.



Jules Taylor

Marlborough Chardonnay 2008

was \$29.00 now **\$24.90** 12932

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$24.40 A BOTTLE
An excellent food wine

Jules sourced the fruit for the 2008 Chardonnay from Awatere and Wairau vineyards, with each providing distinctive characteristics. About 15% of the wine was barrique fermented and lees stirred over a five-month period. The balance was cool fermented in stainless tanks to accentuate fresh fruit characters, and then the two portions were blended. The result is a complex wine with an excellent textural mouthfeel, good palate weight and stonefruit aromas and flavours with a hint of minerality. Neatly balanced by fresh citrus notes, it is an excellent food wine.





ALAN McCORKINDALE

ALAN McCORKINDALE WINES

Alan McCorkindale

New Zealand seems to have a remarkable knack for producing quiet achievers, individuals with enormous talent, flair and foresight who seem to go quietly about their business, making a name for themselves almost as a by-product of their success.

Alan McCorkindale is exactly that type, an unassuming man who has made some astounding wines for some of the country's best-known labels. No flash in the pan either, Alan has been doing this for over 20 years, proving once again that nothing replaces experience when it comes to winemaking.

His specialty is méthode champenoise, one of the most difficult wine styles to make, and Alan has achieved international acclaim for his sparkling wines. It is with the aromatic varieties also where he has shown consistent brilliance, winning the Air New Zealand Wine Awards trophy for Riesling four years out of five during his time as head winemaker at Corbans.

Since then, working for a number of different labels Alan has fashioned some of New Zealand's most exciting and most lauded aromatic expressions. His ever-increasing knowledge of the terroir of Waipara and Marlborough has seen him produce some remarkable wines, showing time and again that Pinot Gris in particular can produce wines of depth, character and class.

It is the Alsatian style that Alan's aromatics most closely recall; in fact all of his wines show that restraint and finesse need not be sacrificed in the search for flavour and complexity.

Alan McCorkindale Waipara Valley Pinot Noir 2007

was \$51.00 now **\$39.00** 10122

CASE OF 6 ONLY \$38.50 A BOTTLE

It would be ridiculous to suggest the wine drinking public have forgotten about Waipara; that would be akin to suggesting some people venture out of doors of a morning without ironing their shoelaces. But with the all the fuss and bluster over Central Otago... Well, this Waipara expression is beautiful and bright, deep crimson shades and an absolutely magnificent aromatic attack. Richly cherry-laden, with significant earth and spice called in for backup, you could pen a Pulitzer about the perfume alone. The palate is fruit-driven, with gentle waves of earth and oak, and a long, fruit-full finish.



Alan McCorkindale Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2009

was \$23.90 now **\$18.90** 10102

CASE OF 6 ONLY \$18.40 A BOTTLE

Quintessentially New Zealand

Similar to the 2008, 'but way more intense' according to the winemaker, and we won't argue with him, that's for sure. Considering the 2008 was one of the more intense ones, that's quite a claim; but this does absolutely burst with an energy and power that makes it very clear 'dilute' is not in the McCorkindale lexicon. Perfectly varietal, cut grass and elevated herbaceousness, it's so undeniably, quintessentially 'Kiwi' that you feel obliged to raise a flag and put on Dave Dobbyn whilst you're drinking it. Call me loyal, boy...



Alan McCorkindale Waipara Valley Pinot Gris 2008

was \$30.00 now **\$22.90** 10086

CASE OF 6 ONLY \$22.40 A BOTTLE

Clean and elegant Pinot Gris

A variety and style that has almost defined Mr Al; leave your prejudices at the (cellar) door, and take a look here. Dignified in their restraint, the aromas are an exhalation of class and, to the point, pineapples, pears and apples. This little tiger is just so juicy, it tangs and teases while still providing a broad moat of richness down the middle of the palate. Without the oiliness and overweight issues of some, a cleaner, more elegant style is to be had, begad.



Alan McCorkindale Central Otago Pinot Noir 2008

was \$51.00 now **\$39.00** 10120

CASE OF 6 ONLY \$38.50 A BOTTLE

The complete Pinot Noir

Very Burgundian, slightly dewy and dank on the nose with haunting fruit notes appearing through the mist unannounced, cherries and blackberries that become more pronounced the more patient you are. Which is the way with a lot of things, when you think about it. Succulent and juicy on the palate, it's a complete wine, covering all the major food groups and all the flavour profiles you'd want; sweet, savoury, some richness and some firmness of hand and sleight of foot. Elegant, but not without its own sonorous tones.



LARRY MCKENNA ESCARPMENT WINES



Larry McKenna

This introduction to Larry McKenna is largely for the benefit of our mushrooming readership in Estonia, for the simple fact that in New Zealand and Australia, it's very unlikely that you haven't heard of him. Secondly, if you're a wine enthusiast (which one would hope you'd be reading this) you would almost certainly have tasted one of Larry's wines. If you're a Pinot Noir fan, you would most likely have drunk lots of them.

For Larry McKenna is the man who went to Martinborough in the 1980s and took what was, back then, an unimaginable punt and planted Pinot Noir. There were already a few reds trickling out of the district, even back in 1986, and they greatly impressed Larry. Being a man of action, he set off to Pioneersville, where, in a short space of time he started to make some of the most stunning Pinots New Zealand, and the world, has ever seen.

In 1999 Larry set up Escarpment on the Te Muna River terraces, the fruits of that venture being the ones we feature below. A multi-tiered label, one that shows Larry's skills extend to varieties well beyond Pinot Noir, the range offers the approachable, early-drinking Edge label as well as the exceptional wines produced under the Escarpment brand. Larry McKenna continues to prove that he is one of New Zealand's boldest, most brilliant winemakers, a man that helped put Martinborough on the local map and the world stage.

If only, oh, if only he wasn't originally Australian.



Escarpment Martinborough Pinot Noir 2008

was \$53.00 now **\$45.00** 10287

CASE OF 6 ONLY \$44.50 A BOTTLE
Rich opulence from New Zealand's pioneering Pinot Noir maker

The intensity on the nose is immediately evident, and while it might be considered a tad more restrained than some, this wine has depths to plumb where some wines don't even have plums. Exquisite cherry fruit drifts with purpose and determination out of the glass to your awaiting senses and, if you need context, Burgundy calls, with that slightly damp earth/dewy garden component reasonably prevalent. Intoxicating and beguiling, rich and opulent, there are layers of flavour in what is, unquestionably, a profound wine.



Escarpment Martinborough Pinot Gris 2007

was \$32.00 now **\$26.00** 10285

★★★★★ **Michael Cooper**

You'd expect some fireworks for a wine that normally retails for over \$30.00 and you won't be disappointed. The restraint on the nose reminds you that, as Elvis Costello once said, you have to go diving for pearls; and so, this unveils its aromatic charms slowly. There is subtle stonefruit and measured oak in an almost Chardonnay-like style, and a very French restraint to the proceedings, which isn't the oxymoron it may first seem. Showing a similar creaminess and richness to The Edge version, this just has a few more layers of complexity.

Escarpment New Zealand Chardonnay 2007

was \$37.00 now **\$31.00** 10289

CASE OF 6 ONLY \$30.50 A BOTTLE

He even gets this wine looking great, a glittering gold in the glass, clear, bright and bewitching. The aromas and flavours settle into the succulent stonefruit-balanced-by-grapefruit section of the spectrum, with an unashamed but judicious seasoning of French oak. That biscuity mealiness becomes more pronounced as you go on, yet in the scheme of things this is still an elegant style of Chardonnay, refined and showing great finesse. Just watch for that surge of power, a warning that also goes out to all those middle-aged execs who've just bought their first Harley.



The Edge Martinborough Pinot Noir 2008

was \$26.00 now **\$22.00** 12544

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$21.50 A BOTTLE
Beautifully aromatic & ready to drink

Darkly coloured like its bigger brother and as glitteringly bright in the glass, this ebullient youth drives off with beautiful red fruit aromatics and a floral hint of violet, as inviting and attractive as the open door of a Maserati. Punchy, joyous, celebratory cherries flood you front to back, while acid kicks in halfway through, ensuring you don't lose control and slip off the freeway to a horribly grisly death at the bottom of a canyon where a CSI will count your fingers and toes.



Nick Blampied-Lane

NICK BLAMPIED-LANE

CLOUDY BAY

You'd think that being a key part of the winemaking team of our most famous brand would come with an inordinate amount of pressure, that making wine for The Cloudies would involve working weighed down by the heaviness of expectation, and thus ending up each vintage rocking quietly in the corner talking to the Pinot barrels.

The unassuming and affable Nick Blampied-Lane quickly dispels such nonsense as soon as you meet him. A quivering wreck he is not, and it's very apparent that winemaking pressures and stresses are the same whatever label you're working for, especially if you live by the simple philosophy of always aiming to make the best wine you possibly can from the fruit and the terroir with which you work.

Nick is a huge Pinot Noir fan, so the chance to work with a company that has a string of vintages going back over a decade, telling a story of the clones, terroir and the vagary of Marlborough vintages, was a priceless opportunity, one he embraced with both hands when he joined Cloudy Bay in 2003.

Nick has worked all over the world, and extensively in Burgundy, so come along and share some thoughts with him this month about making big wines off those little Burgundy plots, about what he thinks is benchmark Pinot Noir, and find out more about the Cloudy Bay philosophy in general. It is indeed a great opportunity to have a tippie and get a knowledge top-up from a top winemaking player.

Cloudy Bay Pelorus Sparkling Wine NV

was \$39.90 now **\$29.90** 12122

CASE OF 6 ONLY \$29.40 A BOTTLE

One of NZ's finest sparkling wines

A consistently great New Zealand sparkling wine that somehow manages to combine those difficult bed-mates, critical acclaim and mass popularity. People love Pelorus, even the ones that write about it, because while it is what you might call a winemaker's wine - fine acid fruit, much lees ageing, traditional winemaking practices - it's also richly flavoursome and generously proportioned, so it's easy to drink, pairs well with petit party pastries and shows again that Marlborough is on an international footing when it comes to quality méthode. Exquisite.



Cloudy Bay Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2008

was \$37.00 now **\$29.90** 12108

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$29.40 A BOTTLE

91/100-Wine Spectator ★★★★★ 94/100-Gourmet Traveller

Our most famous wine shows that it is once again comfortably ahead of the pack, as it has been for over twenty years. The fruit flavours are undeniably intense; somehow it doesn't come across as uncouth and aggressive, and where so many Sauvignons fall apart on the mid-palate, this surges and fattens as the weightier matters are taken into hand and the panoply of flavours spreads its delight. Zesty, limey tropical flavours and racy acid add to the zing and charm. This is still one of the greatest. Magnificent.

Cloudy Bay Marlborough Chardonnay 2007

was \$43.00 now **\$34.90** 12126

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$34.40 A BOTTLE

Just in case you thought Cloudy Bay were one-grape geniuses, this, too, has been one of New Zealand's best varietal expressions for many years. A precise cut-through of flavours, an intriguing minerality and grapefruit, rather than stonefruit, combine with wine-making excellence (barrel fermentation, extended aging in older oak and full malolactic) to add weight and complexity to the finely-tuned fruit. A picture of finesse and substance, elegance and power.



Cloudy Bay Marlborough Pinot Noir 2007

was \$54.00 now **\$44.90** 12116

CASE OF 6 ONLY \$44.40 A BOTTLE

91/100-Gary Walsh, Wine Front

Nick's profile on the company site says he has a passion for great Pinot Noir; well, he won't be leaving any troubling carbon footprints should he be going on the hunt for some, because it's right on his doorstep. A consistently excellent wine, Cloudy Bay Pinot Noir is also appealingly reductive in style. Charming, complex and harmonious, it is savoury, earthy and concentrated without ever being obvious or gauche. Ripe, rich and redolent of red cherries and dank earth, it's a treat, especially at these dollars.



12119	Cloudy Bay Marlborough Riesling 2004	was \$34.00 now \$29.90
12125	Cloudy Bay Marlborough Gewürztraminer 2006	was \$33.00 now \$29.90
12128	Cloudy Bay Late Harvest Riesling 2004 375mL ★★★★★	was \$32.00 now \$29.90
12101	Cloudy Bay Pelorus Sparkling Wine 2005	was \$51.00 now \$43.90
12142	Cloudy Bay Te Koko Sauvignon Blanc 2006	was \$55.00 now \$46.00

MEET THE WINEMAKERS INSTORE: your local tasting schedule

WIN: A CASE OF WINE EVERY MONTH FOR A YEAR*

Use your Glengarry Card during June to purchase any of the wines in this wineletter & go in the draw to win a free case of wine from each of our 12 featured winemakers

For the whole of June all our Glengarry stores will have a selection of the wines featured in this wineletter available for you to taste every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 4:00pm-6:30pm. You can also meet the winemakers themselves at the following



Tuesday 2nd June: Rod Easthope
Tasting the wines of **Craggy Range** with winemaker Rod Easthope
AT GLENGARRY THORNDALE
232 Thorndon Quay, Ph 472 7051
6:00pm start \$35.00 per person Bookings Required



Wednesday 3rd June: Rod Easthope
Tasting the wines of **Craggy Range** with winemaker Rod Easthope
AT GLENGARRY VICTORIA PARK
118 Wellesley Street West, Ph 308 8346
7:00pm start \$35.00 per person Bookings Required

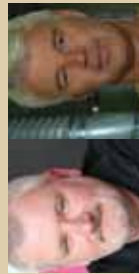


Tuesday 9th June: Tony Bish
Tasting the wines of **Sacred Hill** with winemaker Tony Bish
AT GLENGARRY DEVONPORT
Cnr Clarence Street and Wynyard Street, Ph 445 2989
7:00pm start \$15 per person Bookings Required



Tuesday 9th June: Chris Ringland
Tasting the wines of **R Wines** with winemaker Chris Ringland
AT GLENGARRY HERNE BAY
In Glengarry's Jervois Road Cellar, 54 Jervois Road, Ph 378 8555
7:00pm start \$35 per person Bookings Required

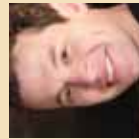
Wednesday 10th June: Winemakers Dinner



On June 10 we have two of the twelve superstar winemakers from our June Wineletter joining forces. Vinnie's chef and owner, Geoff Scott, has prepared a six-course degustation dinner to match the wines of Chris Ringland and Tony Bish. Join these two talented winemakers at one of Auckland's top restaurants for a memorable evening of fine food, fine wine and great company.

Chris Ringland & Tony Bish

WINEMAKERS DINNER AT VINNIE'S RESTAURANT
Wednesday 10th June 166 Jervois Road Herne Bay
7:00pm start \$145 per person (\$285 for two) Bookings Required



Thursday 11th June: Christopher Keys
Tasting the wines of **Gibbston Valley** with winemaker Christopher Keys
AT GLENGARRY WESTMERE
164 Garnet Road, Ph 360 4035



Thursday 11th June: Chris Ringland
Tasting the wines of **R Wines** with winemaker Chris Ringland
AT GLENGARRY THORNDALE
232 Thorndon Quay, Ph 472 7051
6:00pm start \$35.00 per person Bookings Required



Thursday 11th June: Duncan Forsyth
Tasting the wines of **Mount Edward** with winemaker Duncan Forsyth
AT GLENGARRY ELLIOTT STREET
Cnr Victoria Street and Elliott Street, Ph 379 5858
5:00pm-6:00pm FREE OF CHARGE



Thursday 11th June: Duncan Forsyth
Tasting the wines of **Mount Edward** with winemaker Duncan Forsyth
AT GLENGARRY NEWMARKET
22 Morrow Street, Ph 524 5789
7:00pm start \$35 per person Bookings Required



Friday 12th June: Christopher Keys
Tasting the wines of **Gibbston Valley** with winemaker Christopher Keys
AT GLENGARRY REMUERA
400 Remuera Road, Ph 523 1594
4:00pm-7:00pm FREE OF CHARGE



Wednesday 17th June: Tony Bish
Tasting the wines of **Sacred Hill** with winemaker Tony Bish
AT GLENGARRY KELBURN
Tasting held at Caffé Mode, Ph 475 7849
6:00pm start \$15 per person Bookings Required



Thursday 18th June: Jules Taylor
Tasting the wines of **Jules Taylor** with winemaker Jules Taylor
AT GLENGARRY PONSONBY
139 Ponsonby Road, Ph 378 8252
5:00pm-7:00pm FREE OF CHARGE



Friday 19th June: Jules Taylor
Tasting the wines of **Jules Taylor** with winemaker Jules Taylor
AT GLENGARRY MISSION BAY
49 Tamaki Drive, Ph 528 5272
4:00pm-6:30pm FREE OF CHARGE



Friday 19th June: Jules Taylor
Tasting the wines of **Jules Taylor** with winemaker Jules Taylor
AT DIDA'S FOOD STORE - FOOD MATCHING BY DIDA'S
54 Jervois Road, Ph 361 6157
7:30pm start \$65 per person Bookings Required



Tuesday 23rd June: Brent Marris
Tasting the wines of **The Ned** with winemaker Brent Marris
AT GLENGARRY PARNELL
164 Parnell Road, Ph 358 1333



Thursday 25th June: John Hancock
Tasting the wines of **Trinity Hill** with winemaker John Hancock
AT GLENGARRY TAKAPUNA
Cnr Hurstmere Road and Killarney Street, Ph 486 1770
7:00pm start \$15 per person Bookings Required



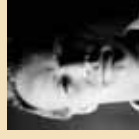
Thursday 25th June: Alan McCorkindale
The wines of **Alan McCorkindale** with winemaker Alan McCorkindale
AT GLENGARRY VICTORIA PARK
118 Wellesley Street West, Ph 308 8346
7:00pm start \$15.00 per person Bookings Required



Friday 26th June: John Hancock
Tasting the wines of **Trinity Hill** with winemaker John Hancock
AT GLENGARRY CITY
Cnr Wellesley Street and Mayoral Drive, Ph 379 8416
5:00pm-7:00pm FREE OF CHARGE



Friday 26th June: Alan McCorkindale
The wines of **Alan McCorkindale** with winemaker Alan McCorkindale
AT GLENGARRY MT EDEN
250 Dominion Road, Ph 623 0811
4:00pm-7:00pm FREE OF CHARGE



Monday 29th June: Nick Blampied-Lane
Tasting the wines of **Cloudy Bay** with winemaker Nick Blampied-Lane
AT GLENGARRY KINGSLAND
467 New North Road, Ph 815 9207
7:00pm start \$25 per person Bookings Required



Tuesday 30th June: Larry McKenna
Tasting the wines of **Escarpment** with winemaker Larry McKenna
AT GLENGARRY HERNE BAY
In Glengarry's Jervois Road Cellar, 54 Jervois Road, Ph 378 8555
7:00pm start \$35 per person Bookings Required



Tuesday 30th June: Duncan Forsyth
Tasting the wines of **Mount Edward** with winemaker Duncan Forsyth
AT GLENGARRY THORNDALE
232 Thorndon Quay, Ph 472 7051
6:00pm start \$35.00 per person Bookings Required



Thursday 2nd July: Simon McGeorge
Tasting the wines of **Waipara Hills** with winemaker Simon McGeorge
AT GLENGARRY KELBURN
Tasting held at Caffé Mode, Ph 475 7849
6:00pm start \$15 per person Bookings Required



Friday 3rd July: Simon McGeorge
Tasting the wines of **Waipara Hills** with winemaker Simon McGeorge
AT GLENGARRY COURTENAY PLACE
Paramount Cinema Building, 27 Courtenay Place, Ph 385 9600
4:00pm-7:00pm FREE OF CHARGE



Brent Marris

BRENT MARRIS

THE NED

Brent Marris is one of New Zealand's most successful winemakers. His credentials are impeccable; he is a senior wine judge and his wines have won scores of gold medals and trophies.

Raised on one of the first contract grape growing estates in Marlborough, it seemed inevitable that Brent would in time make his way into the wine industry. After graduating from Roseworthy, he joined Delegat's, and as a young winemaker helped launch Oyster Bay, one of New Zealand's most successful export wine brands.

During his thirteen years at Delegat's, Brent established his own brand, Wither Hills, releasing the first wines in 1994. In 1999 he merged his company with that of his father John, adding a wealth of viticultural and winemaking knowhow to the enterprise. It was a brilliant move, and although Wither Hills produced only three varietals, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, it enjoyed remarkable success. That success attracted interest, and in 2002 the company was sold to Lion Nathan.

Brent stayed on for a while as winemaker, but in 2003 established The Ned winery, named after the 909-metre peak south of Blenheim. The winery is located in the heart of the 250-hectare vineyard in the Waihope Valley. The soils and conditions there are different to those in the Wairau Valley, the nights often cooler and the days warmer.

'The vineyard is planted over three distinct terraces of clays and ancient river shingles, providing fruit variation and complexity that a winemaker can only dream of from a single vineyard,' says Brent. Like his previous expressions, The Ned wines are bound for glory.

The Ned

Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2008

was \$19.50 now **\$15.90** 12248

Captures the essence of Marlborough

With this Sauvignon Blanc, Brent Marris has captured the essence that made Marlborough famous. It is a regional blend sourced from vineyards that he has worked with for a number of years. Cool fermented in stainless steel tanks on selected yeasts, the nose is packed with upfront gooseberry and nettle aromas underpinned by hints of herb and citrus. The vibrantly fresh palate is dominated by generous gooseberry flavours, supported by a sprinkling of herbs and balanced by a dash of citrus.



The Ned

Noble Sauvignon Blanc 2008 375mL

was \$25.00 now **\$21.90** 12234

Superb dessert wine

This gem is quite a different take on Marlborough Sauvignon. Bordeaux' famous Sauternes are made from grapes that have been affected by botrytis cinerea, a fungus that dehydrates and shrivels the fruit and concentrates the natural grape sugars. This New Zealand expression of the process is a soft, lemon-coloured wine with a richly honeyed bouquet of tropical fruit. The palate boasts lush, sweet fruit flavours wrapped around a viscous coat and balanced by a crisp finish. Fantastic.



The Ned

Marlborough Pinot Gris 2008

was \$18.90 now **\$15.90** 12242

Top Pinot Gris of 2008 -John Hawkesby, Canvas

The 2007/2008 Marlborough season proved almost flawless; it started well with excellent flowering in spring, followed by a hot summer and a warm autumn that delivered top quality fruit. To add complexity, 10% of the wine was barrel fermented and the balance cool fermented in tank to provide freshness. A copper-toned wine with a fragrant bouquet of stonefruit, pear and rose petal, the fresh palate is focused and weighty, with the ripe, spicy peach flavours embellished by a textural mouthfeel.



The Ned

Marlborough Pinot Noir 2007

was \$25.00 now **\$21.90** 12256

Beautifully crafted Pinot Noir

Produced from hand harvested fruit, the wine was barrel fermented and matured in French oak barriques for twelve months, with minimal handling to retain varietal characters. An attractive deep garnet colour with youthful purple highlights still lingering around the rim, the alluringly fragrant bouquet evokes cherry, berry and violets supported by spicy oak. It is a well proportioned wine; not big, but beautifully layered with sensuous fruit, the lingering flavours enhanced by a delicious velvety feel.





Simon McGeorge

SIMON McGEORGE WAIPARA HILLS

Waipara Hills was established as a small public wine company in 2001, and in a very short space of time has enjoyed spectacular success, picking up more than 300 awards in wine competitions locally and overseas. Those successes are due in no small measure to the strength and dedication of the viticultural and winemaking team headed by Simon McGeorge.

Canterbury born and bred, Simon graduated from Lincoln University with a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in marketing. A career in marketing, however, never eventuated ('I decided that I didn't want to wear a suit all my life'). His decision to enter the wine industry has taken him to some of the world's great wine regions; the Napa Valley, the Barossa, the Loire Valley, Marlborough and Hawke's Bay, where he worked at Esk Valley before joining Waipara Hills in 2006 as chief winemaker.

'I was fortunate to see some outstanding fruit while working in Hawke's Bay, but I am finding that the fruit here in Waipara is incredibly pristine, and we're getting riper flavours at lower brix levels,' says Simon.

Simon is responsible for all three Waipara Hills ranges; the flagship, single vineyard Equinox wines, the reserve Southern Cross Selection and the regional Soul of the South range. 'We source grapes from a number of selected vineyards in the South Island, premium winegrowing regions in Marlborough, Waipara and Central Otago. The South Island is a unique place, known for its rugged beauty and wild unpredictable weather; our passion is to capture the dramatic, special nature of this environment and to produce world-class wines that are unique and reflect the place of their birth.'

Waipara Hills Southern Cross Selection Waipara Chardonnay 2008

was \$28.90 now **\$24.90** 10315

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$24.40 A BOTTLE

Wonderfully pristine Waipara Chard

The 2008 Waipara conditions during the harvesting period were cool, but good vineyard management and a spell of warm, fine weather meant that the fruit was harvested in excellent condition. The wine was fermented and matured in a combination of new and seasoned French barrels. The nose shows spicy peach aromas and a touch of mineral. It's an elegant wine, with all the components coming together nicely. Well weighted, it has a lovely textural mouthfeel and a fine, clean finish.



- 10921 Waipara Hills Waipara Riesling 2007 ★★★★★
- 10323 Waipara Hills Waipara Chardonnay 2008
- 10327 Waipara Hills Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2008 GOLD
- 10320 Waipara Hills Waipara Pinot Gris 2008
- 10321 Waipara Hills Waipara Pinot Noir 2008

- was \$20.50 now \$14.90
- was \$20.50 now \$14.90
- was \$20.50 now \$14.90
- was \$20.50 now \$14.90
- was \$24.00 now \$15.90



Waipara Hills Southern Cross Selection Waipara Sauvignon Blanc 2008

was \$28.90 now **\$24.90** 10319

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$24.40 A BOTTLE

Gold medal Sauvignon

Simon McGeorge points to this as a prime example of the Waipara region's ability to produce an exciting diversity of wine styles. Waipara enjoys a warmer climate than its northern neighbour, Marlborough, and the soils are different. The fruit was harvested in prime condition. It is a pale greenish-gold wine with the typical varietal aromatic characters showing lifted gooseberry, melon and hints of mineral. It displays ripe tropical flavours that develop through the mid-palate to be balanced by a clean finish.

Waipara Hills Southern Cross Selection Waipara Pinot Gris 2008

was \$28.90 now **\$24.90** 10318

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$24.40 A BOTTLE

★★★★★ Cuisine

Harvested from the Glasvine vineyard, the wine was matured in stainless steel tanks to accentuate the varietal characters and retain freshness. With a classic varietal nose of pear and exotic aromatic nuances, it is a medium weighted, off-dry style centred on ripe fruit flavours. The pear and melon on the palate is enhanced by a fine textural mouthfeel and a lingering, flavoursome finish.



Waipara Hills Southern Cross Selection Central Otago Pinot Noir 2007

was \$28.90 now **\$24.90** 10917

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$24.40 A BOTTLE

★★★★★ Cuisine

Waipara Hills sourced the fruit for this from their own Bendigo vineyard. The wine was matured in a blend of seasoned French oak, to add complexity, and stainless steel tanks to retain the fresh fruit flavours. It is a vivacious, plum-coloured wine with a scented bouquet alive with fresh strawberry and spice aromas against a background of earthy nuances. The palate of cherry and plum flavours is embellished by spicy oak and complemented by a silky mouthfeel. Easy to enjoy and great value.





Christopher Keys

CHRISTOPHER KEYS

GIBBSTON VALLEY

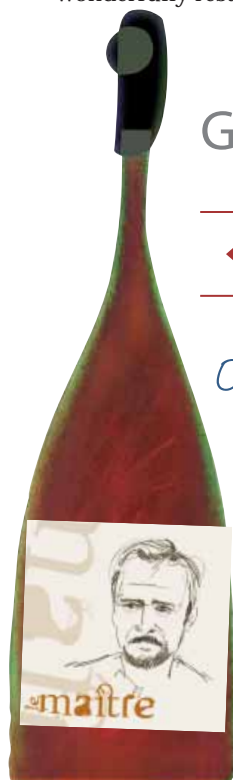
Christopher Keys grew up in Hawke's Bay and went to Otago University, where he graduated with a degree in English Literature and Russian. His interest in wine led him to Lincoln University and a diploma in viticulture and oenology. Back home in Hawke's Bay, he worked as assistant winemaker at Brookfields and then at Sileni Estate.

As assistant winemaker, Christopher was responsible for the Pinot Noir programme, and instrumental in producing Hawke's Bay's first international gold medal Pinot. At the tail end of the 2006 vintage, Christopher joined Gibbston Valley as chief winemaker to pursue his passion for Pinot Noir. To gain further experience with the variety, he worked three vintages in Oregon and at Domaine Dujac in Burgundy.

'During the 1990s Gibbston Valley relied on contract growers from several sub-regions for fruit, and consequently blends changed from vintage to vintage. A decade ago, the company purchased land and established five vineyards in the Bendigo sub-region. This has ensured a consistent supply of fruit and, importantly, it has allowed me to usher in a more terroir-based approach with our top-end winemaking,' states Christopher.

Since then, the company has had spectacular success in wine competitions worldwide. It is a tradition that Christopher has maintained; the 2008 Pinot Gris won gold at Australia's Cool Climate Award, the 2007 Pinot Noir gold at the San Francisco International Wine Competition and a blue/gold at Sydney's Top 100 International Wine Competition.

Christopher's winemaking philosophy is to minimise intervention, allowing the wines to express the true character of the area. His approach is certainly working; across the whole range, Gibbston Valley wines show a wonderfully restrained, elegant character.



Gibbston Valley Expressionist Series

Le Maitre Central Otago Pinot Noir 2007

was \$77.00 now **\$59.90** 12947

CASE OF 6 ONLY \$59.40 A BOTTLE
Outstanding mix of vineyard & terroir

A very classy Pinot Noir, produced off the low-yield, 25-year-old vines in Gibbston Valley's home vineyard. The minimalist winemaking approach has delivered a wine that is particularly expressive of its terroir and the old-vine fruit. To allow the fruit to express itself, the maturation time in oak was just nine months. The wine has a fragrant bouquet, with the cherry aromas supported by a swirl of spicy notes. It is a beautifully structured Pinot Noir, the concentrated layers of fruit nuances leaving a lasting impression of finesse.



Gibbston Valley

Central Otago Pinot Blanc 2008

was \$30.00 now **\$24.00** 12913

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$23.50 A BOTTLE
A great substitute for Chardonnay

The Pinot Blanc variety has a complicated family background; it is believed to be descended from Pinot Gris, itself a mutation of Pinot Noir. This expression from Gibbston Valley was hand harvested from one of the company's Bendigo vineyards and whole bunch pressed, with 50% barrel fermented. A light golden colour, it has marmalade and toast nuances on the nose. A nicely weighted wine with a buttery texture and wonderfully fresh finish, it's very good with food. An excellent substitute for Chardonnay.

Gibbston Valley Gold River

Central Otago Pinot Noir 2008

was \$34.50 now **\$27.90** 12950

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$27.40 A BOTTLE
Ready to drink now

Pinot grapes were sourced from selected vineyards in the Alexandra, Gibbston and Bendigo sub-regions. The vineyards enjoy different soils and meso climates, providing fruit with distinct characteristics. Boasting cherry aromas supported by herb nuances and understated oak, it is produced to be enjoyed upon release. The abundant fruit is underpinned by a silky texture and balanced by a fine, vibrant finish.



Gibbston Valley

Reserve Central Otago Chardonnay 2007

was \$36.00 now **\$29.90** 12949

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$29.40 A BOTTLE
Smart single vineyard Chardonnay

A single vineyard Chardonnay hand harvested from the Chinaman's Terrace Vineyard in Bendigo, with ripe, intensely flavoured fruit delivered courtesy of the 2007 vintage. The free run juice from the whole bunch-pressed grapes was barrel fermented and put through 50% malolactic. It is bright, straw-coloured wine with an intriguing bouquet combining stonefruit with nutty, mealy nuances. The palate has a wave of fresh, succulent fruit flavours balanced by a squeeze of citrus. Poised, creamy, suave and supple.



12908 Gibbston Valley Central Otago Riesling 2006

12919 Gibbston Valley Central Otago Pinot Gris 2008 GOLD

12905 Gibbston Valley Expressionist Series Le Fou Riesling 2007

12958 Gibbston Valley La Dulcinée Pinot Gris 2007 GOLD

12955 Gibbston Valley Central Otago Pinot Noir 2007 GOLD

was \$29.90 now \$25.90

was \$34.00 now \$25.90

was \$36.00 now \$29.90

was \$50.00 now \$39.90

was \$57.00 now \$39.90



Tony Bish



TONY BISH SACRED HILL

Tony Bish's winemaking career and influence have soared since he first became involved with the Mason family-owned winery, Sacred Hill. A friend of the Masons for years, Tony was involved with the company's first wine release, a 1986 Fumé Blanc made in an implement shed on the family farm in Hawke's Bay's Dartmoor Valley.

The company's fortunes have changed dramatically since then, and today Sacred Hill is one of this country's most dynamic wineries, with production exceeding 200,000 cases sold and exported throughout the world. Central to the company's rise has been Tony Bish, who initially aimed to become a lawyer, but was seduced into the wine business.

After vintages in Australia and time with several renowned New Zealand wineries, Tony returned to Sacred Hill in 1994 as senior winemaker. It is not the number of awards in the company's trophy room that is impressive, but the fact that they have been earned across the whole spectrum of wine styles and price points.

'We now have excellent vineyard sites in Hawkes Bay, in Marlborough and in Central Otago. They provide us with a diverse source of fruit that enables us to produce single vineyard wines and reserve ranges, as well as regional blends,' says Tony.

An approachable and humble man, Tony Bish insists that Sacred Hill's successes are a team effort. 'Our aim has always been to produce decent quantities of top quality wines that over-deliver, represent good value across all price points and, importantly, are true to their origins.'



Sacred Hill The Wine Thief Series Hawke's Bay Chardonnay 2008

was \$29.90 now **\$24.90** 18488

CASE OF 6 ONLY \$24.40 A BOTTLE
New release from Sacred Hill

A classy Hawke's Bay Chardonnay, beautifully crafted from hand-harvested fruit. The grapes were whole bunch pressed, fermented in French oak, put through a partial malolactic and matured for twelve months in barrel. It is a healthy, straw-coloured wine with a bouquet of stonefruit mingling with notes of almond. The palate is powerful yet elegant, the ripe peach and citrus blossom characters harmonising with subtle, nutty oak nuances. Superb.



Sacred Hill Basket Press Hawke's Bay Merlot Cabernet 2008

was \$20.90 now **\$13.90** 18074

A consistently fine Bordeaux blend

This is one of the Bay's most consistent Bordeaux varietal blends, and a winner of hordes of medals. The 2008 summer delivered up superb red varieties. Selectively harvested, the varieties were separately fermented in traditional Bordeaux closed vats, and following blending, the wine was matured in French oak for twelve months. It has a complex, aromatic nose displaying floral and spicy aromas with licorice and savoury notes. Long and generously flavoured, the wine is dominated by rich fruit flavours supported by fine tannins.

Sacred Hill The Wine Thief Series Central Otago Pinot Noir 2008

was \$29.90 now **\$24.90** 18487

CASE OF 6 ONLY \$24.40 A BOTTLE

The 2008 Central Otago vintage delivered an excellent crop of Pinot grapes. The wine was hand plunged in small open vats to extract flavour and fine tannins. Following maturation in French oak barriques, it was minimally handled to retain varietal characters. An immediately attractive wine, with an alluring nose of black cherry, floral notes and spice. Well integrated and elegant, it is dominated by summer fruit flavours with hints of vanilla wrapped around a svelte texture. Ready to enjoy.



Sacred Hill The Wine Thief Series Hawke's Bay Syrah 2006

was \$29.90 now **\$24.90** 18068

CASE OF 6 ONLY \$24.40 A BOTTLE
Gold medal Hawke's Bay Syrah

Hawke's Bay has shown that it can produce first-rate Syrah, and this expression from Tony Bish is among the best we've tasted. Harvested primarily from the company's Gimblett Gravels vineyard, the fruit was hand plunged and fermented in small fermentors. Matured in French oak for twelve months, it is a dark ruby wine with a complex bouquet expressing classic peppery notes accompanied by berry, plum and spicy oak nuances. The concentrated palate is silky, richly layered, seamlessly integrated and satisfyingly long in flavour. Excellent value.



- 18485 Sacred Hill Marlborough Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc 2008 was \$20.90 now \$13.90
- 18486 Sacred Hill Marlborough Vineyards Pinot Noir 2008 was \$20.90 now \$13.90
- 18085 Sacred Hill Barrel Fermented Hawke's Bay Chardonnay 2008 was \$20.90 now \$13.90
- 18480 Sacred Hill BROKENSTONE Hawke's Bay Merlot 2006 was \$64.90 now \$59.90
- 18441 Sacred Hill DEERSTALKERS Hawke's Bay Syrah 2006 was \$64.90 now \$59.90



Duncan Forsyth

DUNCAN FORSYTH MOUNT EDWARD

Hard not to bang on about Riesling when talking about Duncan Forsyth, because he makes probably the finest Riesling to come out of Central Otago, being his Drumlin vineyard offering that we feature here.

Duncan is a purist, a winemaker fiercely dedicated to his task, driven by the conviction that the critical work is done in the vineyard; and as a man who has worked in Central for nearly fifteen years, he knows the terroir better than most. The wines are made to reflect site and season, a noble and worthwhile intention, and Duncan is a man who walks the walk.

The Mount Edward terroir is certainly challenging; district pioneer Alan Brady secured and planted some of the steepest hillsides known to man when he set the winery up back at the end of the 1990s. The Drumlin vineyard is a 30 degree slope, and if you think you can cascade the Kubota down a slope that steep, you'd be wrong. Alan was the first to plant grapes in the Gibbston Valley, way back in 1981, so he, too, knows good terroir when he sees it.

Putting the Riesling aside for a moment, let's not forget that Mount Edward produce stunning Pinot Noir as well, their expressions showing character, depth and complexity that is reassuring in the face of the homogeneity creeping into some Central producers' product.

While you're talking to Duncan (and do ask about his boarding school days at Nelson College) check out the Pinot Blanc. Fragrant, invigorating and appealingly different, it's a great way to open up the dialogue before you settle in for the rest of this winery's profound offerings.



Mount Edward Central Otago Pinot Blanc 2008

was \$25.00 now **\$20.90** 12522

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$20.40 A BOTTLE
Superb varietal offshoot of Pinot Gris

Pinot Blanc is highly regarded in Italy and California, which may be a recommendation to some, and is grown here mainly in Canterbury and Central Otago. Ipso facto, Mount Edward's offering, which is a treat. Brandishing a fruit-forward aromatic attack, pears, spice and a slip of banana, there's a latent floral note that daisy-chains you through to the palate. Superbly textured, there's more going on here than you might think, as the Police often say. Warm, broad and mouth-filling, it's very well balanced, the acid finish tingling and mingling with the lush Chardonnay-like richness.



Mount Edward Central Otago Riesling 2007

was \$25.00 now **\$19.90** 12521

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$19.40 A BOTTLE

Great cellaring prospect

This has a complex, intriguing bouquet, mainly floral and citrus, though there's a slight touch of mineral there too, a bonus element of complexity. The palate is a revelation; unctuous, oily and lush, it coats you front to back and all around, lingers with lime and hints of orange blossom, spreading a stonefruit pool before it departs. Full of exotic flavours and blessed with a celestial texture, it also possesses great acid, so there's plenty of time yet, you impatient little monkey. Spank it, and sentence it to 5-7 years down the cellar.

Mount Edward The Drumlin Central Otago Riesling 2008

was \$28.00 now **\$22.90** 12539

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$22.40 A BOTTLE

Ahh, but the weight of expectation hangs heavily... Appealingly golden for a 2008, the rich, intense nose is all lemons and flowers and citrus and musk and blossom, petal, and my golly what an array of flavours. The sweetness sits like a background ambient Eno album, doing gentle, cyclical things without interfering with the main event, which is all the flavours the aromatics suggest and more. The finish is extravagant, the medium-ness an achievement of balance and harmony. This brims with life and wakes you up, an enticing, exciting, exceptional wine.



Mount Edward Central Otago Pinot Noir 2008

was \$47.00 now **\$39.90** 12520

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$39.40 A BOTTLE

Mount Edward produce a Pinot Noir in what you might call a slow-burner style, in that, while there's plenty of upfront appeal upon release and oodles of fruit to placate those with instant gratification issues, there is, like an iceberg, a lot more going on underneath than you might initially suspect. Tasty, soft and full, this is extremely elegant, the tannins there or thereabouts, as they say in cricket, overt but not overwhelming. It's very well-integrated, moving through your mouth with myriad flavours, textures and impressions, and leaving a seamless overall picture.





John Hancock

JOHN HANCOCK

TRINITY HILL

Australian-born John Hancock arrived at west Auckland winery Deleat's in the 1970s, staying for four years before becoming the founding winemaker for Morton Estate, where he spent the next fourteen years. John produced a string of award winners for those wineries, including Best Chardonnay in the World at the 1997 Wine Magazine's International Wine Competition.

Those eighteen years producing wines out of various New Zealand regions convinced John that Hawke's Bay had the potential to produce world-class wines, and in 1993 the newly-formed Trinity Hill purchased 20 hectares in the Gimblett Gravels area, which John believed to be one of the most promising vineyard sites in the region.

His instincts proved to be prophetic; Trinity Hill has received more than 800 awards in the last decade; the exceptional Homage Syrah is surely New Zealand's answer to Penfolds' legendary Grange and in a league of its own. In 2005, Winestate magazine named Trinity Hill its winery of the year

John is a respected wine judge and has worked with leading wine houses in the Rhône and Burgundy. He has a profound respect for traditional winemaking, but is ever keen to push the boundaries. He has introduced a diverse range of grape varieties into the Trinity Hill portfolio, which includes Tempranillo and Montepulciano.

Trinity Hill's driving force and public face, John says, 'my name is on the label, but Trinity's wines are a team effort. We have some great sites and a very talented team, and our aim is to deliver some of the world's great wines.'



Trinity Hill

Hawke's Bay Rosé 2008

was \$20.50 now **\$16.90** 19239

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$16.40 A BOTTLE
Deliciously fresh rosé

John Hancock tells us that this wine was originally created for the London restaurant belonging to Trinity Hill's partner. The wine is a blend of 56% Merlot and 44% Cabernet Franc harvested from the Gimblett Gravels vineyard. Traditionally processed, it was cool fermented in stainless steel tanks to retain freshness. Boasting a bouquet of soft summer fruits, the palate is deliciously fresh and tasty, with an elegant swathe of ripe strawberry and blueberry flavours. Beautifully balanced, with a touch of sweetness that adds greater mouthfeel.



Trinity Hill

Hawke's Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2008

was \$20.50 now **\$16.90** 19237

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$16.40 A BOTTLE
Champion Sauvignon Blanc

Trinity's 2008 release won a gold medal and was declared Champion Sauvignon Blanc at the Hawke's Bay 2008 A&P Mercedes Benz Wine Awards. The fruit was harvested over an extended period from seven different vineyard sites. The combination of sites offers distinctive flavour characteristics and the timing of harvesting increases complexity. Well balanced and lively, the bouquet and palate display mineral-edged gooseberry, tropical fruit and hints of citrus that provide freshness and verve.

Trinity Hill

Hawke's Bay Chardonnay 2007

was \$20.50 now **\$16.90** 19221

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$16.40 A BOTTLE
From the excellent 2007 vintage

2007 in Hawke's Bay was yet another stellar vintage, with the excellent conditions persisting throughout harvesting. The fruit was selected from several sub-regions, including vineyards in the Gimblett, Clive and Maraekakaho districts. A small portion of the wine was fermented and aged in French barrels, with the balance in stainless tanks. To add weight and complexity, 30% of the wine was put through malolactic. The peach and citrus aromas are embellished by mealy notes. Boldly styled, it has a soft texture and a fine, elegant finish.



Trinity Hill

Hawke's Bay Montepulciano 2008

was \$20.50 now **\$19.90** 19230

CASE OF 12 ONLY \$19.40 A BOTTLE
Gold Medal Italian varietal

Allan Clark of MAF brought Italy's Montepulciano grape into New Zealand in 1980, but plantings are still relatively small. This is Trinity Hill's sixth vintage of the variety, and as with previous releases it is a wine that can be enjoyed immediately, particularly with pasta. The wine is a blend of 90% Montepulciano and 10% Merlot from the Gimblett Gravels vineyard. It is a magenta-streaked red with blackcurrant and violet aromas on the nose. The palate has spicy, plummy flavours held in focus by a supple tannin structure.



19243	Trinity Hill Hawke's Bay TRINITY Red Blend 2004	was \$20.50 now \$16.90
19286	Trinity Hill Hawke's Bay Syrah 2007	was \$22.00 now \$16.90
19268	Trinity Hill Gimblett Gravels Bay Pinot Gris 2008	was \$33.00 now \$28.90
19226	Trinity Hill Gimblett Gravels Chardonnay 2007	was \$33.00 now \$28.90
19260	Trinity Hill Gimblett Gravels Viognier 2006 GOLD/TROPHY	was \$33.00 now \$28.90
19283	Trinity Hill Gimblett Gravels Syrah 2007	was \$33.00 now \$28.90
19274	Trinity Hill Gimblett Gravels Tempranillo 2007 GOLD/TROPHY	was \$32.00 now \$28.90
19264	Trinity Hill THE GIMBLETT Red Blend 2006 GOLD/TROPHY	was \$32.00 now \$28.90
19271	Trinity Hill Noble Viognier 2007 375mL GOLD/TROPHY	was \$33.00 now \$29.90
19263	Trinity Hill HOMAGE Gimblett Gravels Syrah 2006 TROPHY	was \$124.00 now \$110.00



Craggy Range Rod Easthope

Rod Easthope

I read a profile of Rod Easthope recently that said that he was responsible for Craggy Range's winemaking, cellars and winemaking facilities. I mean, what's left? Perhaps he delegates to someone to diesel up the tractors now and again. Like any winemaker you care to mention, this is a man with a more than fulltime job, especially when you consider the reach of the expansive operation that is Craggy Range.

Some of you may be more familiar with Steve Smith MW, the man who started all things Craggy, and certainly Steve is the face of the brand. He and Rod worked together at Rustenberg in South Africa; Steve extended the hand and Rod came on board for the 2006 Craggy vintage, while playing a major part in finishing the wines of 2004 and 2005.

As a winemaking team clock up the vintages, so their knowledge of their special and unique terroir grows accordingly, and the 2007/2008 wines from Craggy Range are loudly and roundly praised as the winery's best, not least by the team themselves.

So much has been written about Craggy Range it would be pointless to attempt to capture the company's impact on both the local and domestic wine landscape in so few words, and if you've enjoyed anything from them, you'll know what we mean. If you haven't, delight awaits you.

Come in and try a few in Rod's company over the coming month, get talking and take advantage of his knowledge and experience. Like I said, he's a busy man.



Craggy Range Prestige Collection Sophia 2007

was \$62.00 now **\$49.90** 11208

CASE OF 6 ONLY \$49.40 A BOTTLE
'The Latour of Hawke's Bay'

In Decanter Michael Broadbent called this wine 'The Latour of Hawke's Bay.' Big call, but Sophia is a big wine, and more than up to the task of silencing or endorsing critics. Primarily Merlot and Cabernet Franc sourced from the company's own Gimblett Gravels vineyard, this is an immense wine, intensely perfumed, richly berry-dominant but florally-tinged as well, dark roses and violets haunting the fruit. The multi-layered palate is opulent but invigorating, the extended oak aging showing as superb structure, and the driver for a couple of decades' worth of cellaring potential.



Craggy Range Gimblett Gravels Single Vineyard Chardonnay 2008

was \$32.00 now **\$24.90** 11210

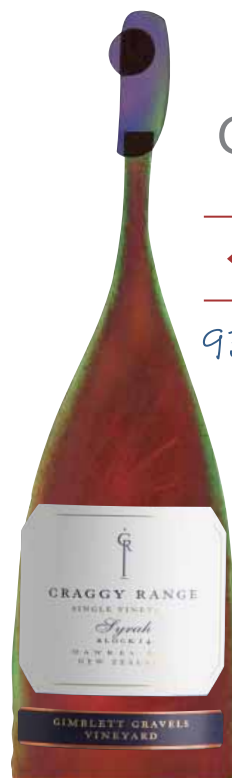
Brilliant Hawke's Bay Chardonnay

Only in the bottle a couple of months, this is already showing excellent integration. That knitting together of all the components into a harmonious whole is a real achievement when there are so many layers and components to pull together. Rich apricot and white peach stonefruit flavours meld majestically with biscuity, but not overpowering, oak characters, and there's a slight floral note that adds delicacy to the weight and presence. It will age half a decade, but is delivering deliciously now.

Craggy Range Gimblett Gravels Single Vineyard Merlot 2006

was \$32.00 now **\$24.90** 11214

How many \$30 local reds have you seen lately that have the intensity of flavour, the structure and complexity to age for a decade? Exactly. Craggy Range put the class of fruit into this tier of wines that many would be glad to use for their top labels. An extraordinary 18 months in oak shows just how high in quality the fruit was, for in the final showing, fruit and oak complement each other comfortably. Much dark berry character, licorice and spice work with mocha richness to provide a deeply rewarding, flavoursome, mouthfilling experience.



Craggy Range Gimblett Gravels Block 14 Single Vineyard Syrah 2006

was \$32.00 now **\$24.90** 11219

93/100 - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate

Early adopters, they'd call them, and certainly Steve Smith et al saw the potential of the Gimblett Gravels very early on in the piece, particularly for reds which, neatly, this wine is. The Block 14 shows that power and finesse don't always mean top dollar, while the depth and warmth are reflective of a very good growing season, one suspects. Intense and aristocratic in its opulent flavours, this is open and ready now, particularly if you have a brace of Daffy ready for the oven.