



March 2011 Newsletter

Agent's Night and Wine Walkabout at the Faculty Club, April 12, 2011

The Australian Wine Society and Consignment Wine Agents invite you to come and sample a range of Australian wines not available on LCBO store shelves. Here's the opportunity to discover some new gems, for both long term and short term cellaring. This mini wine fair, provides an opportunity to meet the Agents in person, taste their wines, and place an order for your personal consumption.

The evening starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. and closes at 9:00 p.m. The Faculty Club will provide a fine table of finger food, so you'll not go hungry. We provide a tasting booklet, so bring your pals, your pen and your palate.

The Agent's Night price is all inclusive, with all wines, and finger foods is \$40.00 for AWS Members and \$48.00 for Guests.

Faculty Club is located at 41 Wilcocks Street on the U of T Campus, one block south of Harbord and east of Spadina. Registration Form is attached, complete and mail to Australian Wine Society of Toronto, c/o Tonia Price Halliday, 70 Queens Drive, Toronto, ON, M9N 2H6

The link to on line registration is <http://agents2011.eventbrite.com> see you at the Agent's Night on April 12th.

Past Events

While there were only 44 members and guests at the March 3rd Cabernet Sauvignon Tasting, those who attended were treated to a reception bubbly then eight fine Cabernets, and a Steak Frites dinner that followed the tasting portion of the evening. We were also happy to have Jamie Drummond, of Good Food Media lead the tasting. His knowledge of wines and personality really added to the event. We hope to have him back in the future.

Future Events

The Board have already lined up some interesting events as we move into 2011.

On May 17th 2011 A Wine Odyssey Dinner Evening, to be held at Boehmer at 93 Ossington Avenue. With Chef Paul Boehmer at the helm on the voyage. Boehmer is a themed restaurant that offers a well orchestrated experience to which *nothing* is arbitrary. It is comfortable, elegant, genuine and honest.

June 21, Summer Solstice Celebration.

August AGM and Annual Barbeque date to be announced soon.

New Members

Welcome to the following members who recently joined: Dianne Dixon, Joan Gilroy, Jean Hughes, Ken Kurkowski, Yvonne Ormston, Jon Speed.

News from Downunder

Cool Climate Cabernet Cleans Up Consistently

The Pyrenees wine region in Western Victoria, is a cool climate high elevation region turning heads in the wine world with a distinctive regional style of Cabernet Sauvignon.

At the recent Victorian Wine Show pioneer Pyrenees winery, Blue Pyrenees was a star performer in the Cabernet class. Their 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon won Trophy for Best Cabernet in Show and a gold medal in its class. This is a repeat performance of the success of the 2008 vintage which also won gold at the show. The 2009 also impressed the judges at this year's Adelaide, Ballarat and National Cool Climate wine shows winning praise for its complexity and concentration.

Bad Weather Hits the Vineyards

Besides the damage done by floods in Queensland, N.S.W and Victoria, parts of the Barossa Valley have had unwanted storms as harvest time begins. Heavy rain has been bad news for grape growers already battling problems including disease and locusts.

In the Riverland, more than 420 millimetres of rain fell over summer. Around half the expected yield of wine grapes in the Mudgee region in central western New South Wales this season has been destroyed by disease. The New South Wales Wine Industry Association says rain at the end of last year caused a mildew to form on young bunches of grapes on the vine, killing them within days. The same story comes out of Bendigo, Central Victoria.

Australia Wine Region Under Threat from Coal Mines

One of the most popular areas in the world for wine making is now thought to be under threat by coal mines. The area of Hunter Valley in Australia is said to be under threat from the expanding coal industry in the area and it is thought that over the next few years, the area could be ruined.

Over the last few years, the area of Hunter Valley in Australia has seen a huge expansion of cast mines and there are now plans in pace that will see the area being used for coal extraction too.

Lehmans steel the initiative

Barossa Valley's historic Peter Lehmann winery stole a march on the Hunter Valley's legendary band of semillon performers with an unprecedented triple-trophy triumph at the 2011 Sydney Royal Wine Show.

The 2005 Peter Lehmann Margaret Semillon (A\$30), an oak-free drop right out of the Hunter Valley semillon handbook, claimed three of the show's biggest prizes: best wine overall, best varietal wine and best white wine.