



September 2015 Newsletter

Awesome Cabernet Sauvignon Tasting & Steak Frites Dinner

At the Faculty Club, Tuesday October 6, 2015



This evening we will experience a range of eight outstanding Australian Cabernets, carefully cellared and now coming out into the world to be tasted. As an added bonus, Mr. John Tait our Cab expert Emeritus will be leading the tasting, followed by the ever popular Steak Frites Dinner.

Cabernet Sauvignon came to Australia with James Busby, (1801 -1871) who had written *A Treatise on the Culture of the Vine and the Art of Making Wine*. In 1830 he had published *A Manual of Plain Directions for Planting and Cultivating Vineyards and for Making Wine in New South Wales* (Sydney). It soon became apparent that this red grape was ideally suited to Australian conditions. Cabernet Sauvignon is considered one of Australia's great red wines and is widely grown all over the country, from the cool climate of Tasmania to Western Australia. This results in a wide range of Australian Cabernet Sauvignon styles and regional characters, from elegant, medium-bodied examples through to full-bodied reds full of intense black fruit flavours, with oak to match and firm tannins. So join us on October 6th to explore eight outstanding Cabernets.

The evening will start at 6:30 with a white reception wine, then the tasting starts at 7:00 p.m.

Here is the line-up:

2002 Leconfield Cabernet Sauvignon, Coonawarra, SA

2003 Pirramimma Cabernet Sauvignon, McLaren Vale, SA

2003 Kilikanoon Cabernet Sauvignon, Clare Valley, SA

2003 Vasse Felix Cabernet Sauvignon, Margaret River, WA

2003 Penfold's Bin 389 Cabernet Sauvignon, Multi-district blend.

2004 Chain of Ponds Amadeus Cabernet Sauvignon, Adelaide Hills, South Australia

2004 Sandleford Cabernet Sauvignon, Western Australia.

2003 Heath 100 Year Old Vines Cabernet Sauvignon, Barossa Valley, SA

The Faculty Club is at 41 Willcocks Street, Toronto, 416-978-6325, one block south of Harbord, and east of Spadina Avenue. Metered parking on the surrounding streets, and TTC stops at Willcocks on Spadina.

Price for this special event, all inclusive, with the Steak Frites dinner, Members \$75.00
Guests \$80.00. Seating is limited to 60, so be sure to book early.

You can register on-line at <https://awesomecabs.eventbrite.ca> or mail the attached Registration Form to Bernard Nottage to the address as noted on the Form.

Past Event

The 29th Annual General Meeting was successfully held on a very sunny and hot Sunday August 15th at the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club upper deck. The Board welcomed three new Directors, Dr. Mary-Louise Greer, Meg Smith and Miles Faulkner, with Barbara Barde stepping down. Following the AGM we tucked in to a tasty barbeque, delightful desserts and many bottles of fine wines, including a number of Penfolds especially pulled from the cellar.

Future Events

We had tried to work with the Turf Lounge on Bay Street, to set up a Melbourne Cup dinner event, but were foiled by the lounge as they have a larger group coming in who will take the whole space. So that is that. There are no other potential locations, with the betting shops closures and its' too far to trek to Woodbine. So we are working on a wine dinner event at a fine downtown location. Stay tuned.

The Annual Holliday Dinner and Dance is booked for the Faculty Club on Saturday December 6th and we have booked Mr. Ernie West as our DJ for the evening. Many of you will have talked to him in the past when he was Doorman at the Faculty Club.

Australia Day celebration will be in January at the Albany Club.

Australian Wine Industry News

The tourism sector is continuing to pick up speed after the collapse of the mining boom, with an influx of visitors from China and India and more splurging on food and wine contributing to the strongest annual growth rate in spending since the Sydney Olympics were held in 2000. The Australian Financial Review reports total spending rose by 10 per cent to a record \$33.4 billion in the 12 months to June 30, outpacing a 7 per cent rise in visitors to 6.6 million, the latest international visitor survey from Tourism Research Australia showed.

Australian wine drinkers are subtly changing their drinking habits, with research indicating that although consumers are drinking on a more regular basis, they are consuming less overall, according to a new report published today. The Australia Landscapes 2015 report from Wine Intelligence found a slight decrease in volume of wine consumed, as well as a slight overall decrease in the wine-drinking population, with an estimated 11.2 million adults drinking wine at least once every month, down from 11.5 million in 2014

LiraH, Australia's leading premium vinegar producer, started with some oak barrels on a farm at Ballandean only 10 years ago. In 2003, Ian Henderson and his wife Robyn launched Australia's first dedicated vinegar-making facility in Queensland's premier wine-growing region, the Granite Belt.

"Stock up on the '14 vintage, customers, it's a cracker ... the hype of the 2014 shiraz from the Hunter is not a myth. Top wines had beautiful fruit with good oak balance and will be treasures for years to come." No, this is not a salesman's spiel, it's the 2015 Hunter Valley Wine Show judges giving enthusiastic praise to 2014 shiraz.

The De Bortoli winery in the Yarra Valley holds two things in the highest regard: family and taste. "We don't want our wines to taste like they come from the Barossa," Stephen Webber says. "We want our wines to taste like the Yarra Valley. It's a pretty important thing called terroir, which means the flavour of the place, and we try pretty hard to make sure our wines taste like they come from here."



Australian TV

Some interesting Australian TV series have been shown in Canada recently.

A Place To Call Home, sometimes referred to as the Downton Abbey of Australia (but set on a sheep station!), the whole of Series 1 is being repeated on September 7 on BBC Canada. Series 2 is coming shortly.

Doctor Blake Mysteries Series 1 has just finished on PBS (2 more series to come) but **Miss Fisher** series reappears on September 24 on PBS.

Love Child is in mid series 1 on CBC at 10 p.m. on Saturday nights.

East West 101 recently concluded on TVO.