

FIRST GLASS

WINES & SPIRITS

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Monday to Friday 9am to 6.30pm | Saturday 9am to 6pm | Sunday Closed

Newsletter 25 July 2014

Greetings Everyone

The new vintage wines are starting to appear on the market – new season Sauvignon Blancs and a host of new vintages for some of our most popular wines from Spain and Italy.

Marques de Riscal Proximo is now from 2011 and it's drinking very well. Good value at **\$17.99 special**.

Last year one of the best Italian wines we have ever stocked was a wine called 70 Oversettanta Primitivo di Manduria 2010. This year the wine has the same stunning label, it's still in the big heavy bottle but it's called **Vigne Vecchie Primitivo di Manduria 2011**. It is a sensational wine – divine **\$52.99**.

The very popular Farnese **Fantini Sangiovese** is back, vintage **2013** and it's a cracker. The Italians probably never intended or expected they would produce a budget priced Sangiovese with this much colour and flavour but New World influence has definitely had a say in the style we now see in many of these wines. The presentation is spectacular, the wine is delicious and the price makes this a fantastic buy. Call in and taste it **\$15.99 special** and relive your Tuscan holiday.



Another new arrival is the **Mesta Tempranillo** from Spain. This is what Sue Courtney wrote, "Fruity to the fore with red fruit, chocolate, strawberry and spices, succulent tannins that snuggle and flow. Made from 100% Tempranillo grapes that were organically farmed, if you like Beaujolais or Te Mata Gamay Noir, this wine is for you. **\$15.99 special**."

Last Saturday we opened six 2013 New Zealand Chardonnays to see how they were developing and which ones were the best to open now. The favourite was **Charles Wiffen Marlborough Chardonnay 2013**. It has a lot of the characters we look for in a Chardonnay and the toasty oak and caramel flavours are developing nicely and it will prove a very popular wine for us over the next year. **\$19.99 special**.

We also had a bottle open of the **Ashwell Martinborough Chardonnay 2011**. We wrote this up

Wednesday Tastings

7pm start.
\$15 per person.

30th July: 6 Whites, 6 Australian Shiraz

6th August: 2010 vs 2012

last week and it didn't let us down – we have sold over half of the stock we received. **\$19.99 special.**

Superstar Chardonnay

We have several cases available of the brilliant **Villa Maria Reserve Barrique Fermented Gisborne Chardonnay 2010**. This wine has amassed an amazing total of 6 gold medals and is now drinking at its very best. Gorgeous wine, be quick as it won't last long. **\$29.99 special.**



Winners

Malcolm Meads was our winner of last week's Saturday Challenge. The wines were N.Z. Pinot Gris, Marlborough Riesling, N.Z. Syrah. The Saturday Challenge continues this week and it's free.

In the Pick the Score, **Elizabeth Mobley** and **Graeme Hadfield** were closest. Our Pick the Score match this week is the mighty Crusaders V. The Sharks in Christchurch Saturday night. Call in and put down a score, entry is free.

We had a full response from our 3 email winners last week and they all go into the end of month draw. We had a few issues with our email dispatch a couple of weeks back and there was a group of people that did not receive it. So this week we have 4 names, one of these is a repeat so we have not disadvantaged anyone.

Philippa & Tony Martin
Margaret Livingston
Sarah Familoe
John & Glenda Williams

These lucky people now have 7 days to email us with their choice of variety for a bottle of fine wine. Remember – we require an email.

Penfolds Wine Cabinet Promotion

Treasury Wine Estates has launched a retail promotion which will allow purchasers of Penfolds wines to purchase a **Vintec Cabinet** for **\$299.00**, delivered anywhere in New Zealand. The recommended retail price on this Vintec cabinet is \$1099.00.

How it works.

- You need to purchase 6 bottles of any Penfolds Bin wine. This includes wines such as

Penfolds Bin 9 Cabernet \$24.99 sp

Penfolds Bin 138 SGM \$32.99 sp

Penfolds Bin 28 Shiraz \$32.99 sp

Penfolds Bin 128 Shiraz \$32.99 sp

Penfolds Bin 389 Cab Shiraz

\$69.99 sp

Penfolds Bin 707 Cabernet

\$328.99 sp

Note: the purchase requirement is just 6 bottles – total of any wine. A 6 pack of Bin 9 Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 is just \$150.



First Glass does not sell you the Cabinet, you purchase the wine and then go onto a website (www.perfectlycellaredwine.com) to make the purchase from Monday 7th July. Although the site is not fully operational yet, but you can register and receive a \$50 Penfolds gift voucher. Proof of purchase is required and the offer is limited to two Cabinets per household.

Note:

- The Vintec Cabinet holds 30-36 standard Bordeaux bottles but it has racks that will easily accommodate larger, or bigger bottles, e.g. Champagne.
- It is a free standing Cabinet –not designed to be enclosed under a bench.
- You can set this for secure temperature storage, or for white wine use.
- A total of 1300 units are available to New Zealand so interested persons may need to decide quickly.

We have a Vintec Cabinet instore at First Glass. Call in and check it out.

First Glass 'Virtual Super Rugby' Challenge 2014

Only 2 weeks left and not many points are available.

- 1st: Bill Hird on 568 points
- 2nd: Sharon Wright on 553 points
- 3rd: Karen Lawton on 548 points
- 4th: Michael Tangney on 523 points
- 5th: Julie Macfarlane 516 points
- 6th: Claudette Wilschefski on 515 points
- 7th: Mike Franklin on 510 points
- 8th: Paul Grant on 505 points
- 9th: Bernard Wright on 504 points
- 10th: Phil Devlin on 502 points

Interesting to note

The slow developing nature of the 2013 Chardonnay was well demonstrated in the recent Spiegelau International Wine Competition where only seven Chardonnays achieved gold medals. We suspect many more 2013s will perform better after an extra few months in the bottle.

Gold Medal Winners at the 2014 Spiegelau International Wine Competition

Toi Toi Reserve Chardonnay 2012
Mount Riley Chardonnay 2013
Mystery Creek Reserve Chardonnay 2013
Saint Clair Marlborough Premium Chardonnay 2013
Saint Clair Pioneer Block 11 'Cell Block' Chardonnay 2013
Villa Maria Reserve Hawke's Bay Chardonnay 2013
Crossroads Winemakers Collection Chardonnay 2012

Tasting Notes

10 Varieties from 10 Countries

First Glass 23rd July 2014

Notes by Sue Courtney
Wines were tasted blind

Penny's Hill The Handshake Adelaide Hills Chardonnay 2010

Bright citrine gold. Lifted aromatics of dried hay and citrus with mealy nuances and nutty oak. Rich and warm in the mouth with yellow fruit – sun-ripened golden grapes, pineapple and melon come to mind – and a very dry, nutty oak finish. Seems quite mellow to start but becomes toastier and toastier as it opens up in the glass.

13.5% alc. Screwcap. **\$19.99 special.**

Charles Wiffen Marlborough Chardonnay 2013

Moderate citrine gold. The overtly fruity bouquet emanates aromas of melon, dried banana chips and honeyed oak and there is an abundance of toasty oak and caramel flavours in the palate – an excellent foil to the juicy fruit – as is the bright touch of zest to the rich, rounded, creamy and persistent finish. A definite 'First Glass' style.

13.1% alc. Screwcap. **\$19.99 special.**

Mr. Riggs Watervale Riesling 2012 – Clare Valley, Australia

Light lemon gold. There's a dry talcy note to the floral aroma with citrus blossoms and lemonade-like citrus. Crisp, dry and flinty with lime juice and zest, toasty kero and a mouthfeel that you get from sucking on smooth river pebbles, then after you swallow it the racy citrus flavours linger and expand with a suggestion of honeysuckle coming to mind. Salivating and more-ish. Dry Riesling fans will love this.

11.5% alc. Screwcap. **\$19.99 special.**

Roaring Meg Central Otago Pinot Noir 2012

Ruby garnet in hue with a candied cherry aroma that has a savoury aura and an enticing anise-like spiciness wafting through. Quite dry in the palate, it has sautéed mushroom and bacon notes and distinctive woody herb savouriness with bittersweet cherry fruit, rosehips and aromatic spices. There is just a touch of grip to the fine textured tannins and an underlying brightness that carries the finish but it is to be noted it needs a bit of cuddly warmth before serving at this time of year. Gold Medal Decanter 2014.

14% alc. Screwcap. **\$25.99 special.**

Marques de Riscal Proximo 2011 – Rioja, Spain

Dark red in hue with a chocolate coated red berry scent, then quite savoury on first tasting with fruit now a background feature. Made from 100% Tempranillo, the accompanying flavours of dried red berries, citrus, spice and pepper with good acidity in behind and moderately firm leathery tannins make this a terrific food wine.

14% alc. Screwcap. **\$17.99 special.**

Domaine d'Andezon Signargues Cotes du Rhone Villages 2012 – Rhone Valley, France

Inky black red. A deep rich wine with tar, leather and a dusting of cocoa to the scent. Spicy and vibrant in the palate with a slightly tarry, bretty undercurrent that adds to the complexity. It's a big, rich, chewy wine with firm tannins, fleshy dark red and blue fruits, a creamy oak richness and a succulent finish where chocolate re-emerges. A terrific winter warmer from the fiery label to the fiery heat that surges thru the blood vessels.

14.5% alc. Cork. **\$25.99 special.**

Fontana Mesta Tempranillo 2013 – Ucles, Spain

Vibrant crimson purple. Fruity to the fore with the aroma radiating red fruit and rose hips then chocolate, strawberry, blueberry jubes and spices in the palate with an exciting fine savoury undercurrent and succulent tannins that snuggle and flow. A very pretty wine that seduces with its sylph-like elegance, it seems very light but it has understated power. Made from 100% Tempranillo grapes that were organically farmed, if you like Beaujolais or Te Mata's fabulous Gamay Noir, this wine is for you.

14% alc. Screwcap. **\$15.99 special.**

Kaapzicht Stellenbosch Pinotage 2008 – South Africa

Inky black red. Chocolate raisins and spicy creamy oak scents. Rich, ripe and creamy in the palate – a bit of a blockbuster compared to the previous wine – and there is a zing of chilli pepper heat in here too. Full of sweet berry fruit flavours with a gamey savoury undercurrent and a touch of mocha infusing the creamy oak on the rounded full-bodied finish, it's a fleshy wine with velvety tannins and underlying acidity adding brightness. An excellent example of the variety with bottle age adding layers and complexity.

14.5% alc. Cork. **\$26.99 special.**

Altermura Negroamaro 2011 – Salento, Italy

Inky black red. Spiced plums on the nose with hints of anise and chicory and a dusting of chocolate. A deep, dark, nuggety wine to the taste with a red fruit brightness, prunes, brambles, anise-like spices, a touch of red pepper and graphite. Quite fleshy with slightly muddled tannins and a sweet oak finish with an underlying savouriness balancing the sweetness beautifully and a finish that is long and profound ... but it does need food to make it complete.

13% alc. Cork. **\$25.99 special.**

Albertina Mendoza Malbec 2011 – Argentina

The purple red colour is concentrated and deep. There's a subtle woodsmoke nuance to the scent that carries on throughout the palate where it is joined by flavours of plums and redcurrants, yet it is quite a savoury wine with a sprinkle of pepper. Tannins are fine textured yet firm and ever so slightly grippy and a delicate floral note comes through on the assertive finish where the true power of this wine is revealed. Enjoy with meat or cheeses.

13.9% alc. Cork. **\$22.99 special.**

Vigne Vecchie Primitivo di Manduria 2011 – Salento, Italy

Inky purple red. Woodsmoke enchants the nose, while the curvaceous body structure simply seduces the palate. Rich, ripe, succulent and concentrated, opulent and creamy with spiced currants, cloves, plums, red fruits and a touch of orange with those subtle woodsmoke nuances a delightful feature throughout. Delivering the high standard we expect from this region, this magnificent mouthful is simply as good as it gets.

14% alc. Cork. **\$52.99.**

George Wyndham Langhorne Creek Shiraz 2012 – South Australia

Inky red black. Sweet red berry scents with a sexy smoky overlay then in the palate there is concentrated cassis and blueberry with lashings of mint/eucalypt flavours, smoky cedary oak and spices with cinnamon sprinkled on cappuccino coming to mind. A succulent blockbuster with furry tannins and an underlying whip of leather.

14.9% alc. Screwcap. **\$19.99 special.**

Humour

And you think you had a bad day?





Cheers,
Kingsley and Andrew,
www.firstglass.co.nz