

A View from 'The Ridge'

Liquid Lounge Newsletter # 6 June - December 2008

Vineyard Update

Winter is upon us again so Levi (Vineyard Manager) and Darren are madly pruning in readiness for budburst in Spring. Constant Summer rains have meant plenty of vigour in the vines so the canes to be pruned are more plentiful and thicker. Once again, like last year, we have received substantial rain during the early days of June which has made life in the vineyard difficult under foot. Thankfully the cover crop between the rows has kept the soil together so very few days have been lost so far.

The early part of the year saw a "challenging" and "eventful" vintage with constant disease pressure, subsequent sleepless nights and eventually record cropping levels (read more in the vintage report).

Wine Festivals

We have attended many successful wine festivals throughout Sydney & the Central Coast over the past few months it has been great to catch up with members that have come to see us & show their support. Our biggest & best weekend has only just passed. We experienced major exposure whilst participating in the 'Good Food and Wine Show' at Darling Harbour on 20th - 22nd June. Tracey has been kept very busy preparing for these events whilst the kids have been enthusiastically helping on the day. Michelle & Kelly were very excited to meet Gordon Ramsay.

Retail Operations

We would like to announce that with the need for further exposure we now have a Business Development Manager. He is known as 'The Wineman' throughout Newcastle & the Central Coast and is 'Humming' all along the coast spreading the word about our wines. We are looking forward to RidgeView being included on many wine lists north of Sydney. We are also looking at inclusion within Sydney so if any member has a favourite restaurant that one of our wines may compliment, please contact Tracey.

We are pleased to advise that our December '07 mission to Japan with Austrade was successful. The Japanese found our wines OISHII (tasty) and we have since sent a few small shipments over. Belinda & I had a great time seeing the sights and look forward to another visit soon.

The year ahead...

Wine Show season is again starting in June/July with the Hunter Valley Wine Show in August (keep an eye on the 'wine show' section of www.ridgeview.com.au for results).

Due to the popularity of 'Warrina', our king bedroom cottage, we have commenced construction of 'Jingella'. This cottage is due for completion in October (so we'll be expecting it to be closer to Christmas). Our new Cellar Door is hopefully not far from commencing also (so keep drinking RidgeView to support our desire to improve facilities for our Liquid Lounge Members with a focus on "The Liquid Lounge" in the new building.)

2008 whites and 2007 reds are being bottled throughout July and August. These are stunning wines and we look forward to showcasing some in the December 2008 member's pack.

2008 Vintage report

2008 will be remembered as a 'drought breaker'! As reported in the December newsletter, growing conditions were ideal for a bumper season. However, a cooler than expected January followed by numerous rain events meant that disease pressure was extreme. Whilst many grape growers were losing their crop to mould and fungus our grapes (under the watchful eye of Levi), were looking fantastic. Semillon, Verdelho, Chardonnay, Pinot Gris and Viognier were picked by 1st February, followed by 'Frizzante Rosé' the second week of February. It was at this time we thought there would be no reds in 2008 as word in the Hunter was dire with many vineyards abandoned, but by divine intervention we were one of the few in the Valley to pick all our reds (all with elegant flavours and finesse). These have now been put to bed in barrel and we look forward to bottling them in 12 months. The pick of the crop will be the new 'Shiraz Viognier'; brilliantly perfumed and elegant in barrels and hopefully bottled in time for the next pack. Other new inclusions will be the much anticipated 'Sparkling Pinot Noir/Chardonnay' and 'Helping Hands White'.



RidgeView

ridgeview.com.au
mobile 0419 475 221
fax 02 9534 5468

cottages
sleep@ridgeview.com.au
273 Sweetwater Road Rothbury NSW 2335

wines
drink@ridgeview.com.au
1 Ilinga Place Lugarno NSW 2210

RidgeView Cottages
Darren J Scott Pty Ltd
ABN 27 065 426 459

RidgeView Vineyards
DJ & TL Scott
ABN 14 649 931 684

RidgeView Wines
Tracdar Pty Ltd
ABN 98 115 034 369

Tasting Notes for Wine Pack # 6 (a taste of 2006)

2006 Semillon \$15 6 Bronze medals

This stunning wine is almost sold out. Still brilliantly youthful with elegant lemon/lime characters and wonderfully balanced acid structure. Snap some up before stocks dry up and cellar carefully to experience the evolution of aged Hunter Semillon.

2006 Verdelho \$15 2 SILVER & 7 Bronze medals

(Limited Stock for members - only 10 cases remaining) This highly awarded wine has not been on tasting this year with limited supplies available. It still retains fantastic fresh tropical characters of pineapple and mango with an elegant acid structure. Be quick to purchase before stocks are exhausted.

2006 Cabernet Sauvignon \$20 3 Bronze medals

(Pre release for members only) Perfectly ripened fruit from an outstanding season has gone into this stunning wine. With 12 months of bottle age, the blackberry, cassis and integrated oak flavours are wonderfully mouth filling. This wine will not be released to the public till next year, so take advantage of this pre release to stock up.

2006 Helping Hands Red Blend \$30 1 Bronze medal & Winestate 3 stars

Our first blended wine, containing all four of our red varieties; 30% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Shiraz and 10% Chambourcin. This wine is a dedication to all the 'helping hands' that helped set up, plant and pick in the vineyard. This wine is incredibly complex and has certainly been the talk amongst Hunter locals since its release earlier this year. Rich and flavoursome, it is a true testament to those that have helped make RidgeView what it is today.

2006 Generations Reserve Shiraz \$40

Generations is our premium range dedicated to the three generations of our family who have helped make our dream come true and honours the countless hours they have spent with us. This has become our 'flagship' wine since its release. Select parcels of intensely ripe handpicked fruit underwent a slow fermentation in open vat fermenters with hand plunging for 2 weeks before 18 months of maturation in new French oak barriques. The result is an impressive 'big' wine that deserves to be enjoyed with a great meal and friends and will benefit from many years of careful cellaring.

2006 Tipple's Gold Botrytis Semillon \$25 1 SILVER & 3 Bronze medals

The return of an old favourite. This highly awarded wine (runner up in the Australian Small Winemakers Show) has developed some amazing complex flavours since its release in December 2006. Lovely developed botrytis characters are the backbone of this luscious wine with the subtle French oak nuances the hallmark to its appeal.

Liquid Lounge

Remember that we can arrange a private tasting in your home or office free of charge. Call Tracey for details.

At the request of some Liquid Lounge members we have decided to create a **GOLD** level of membership for our Liquid Lounge Wine Club.

Regular membership is still available: 6 pack of selected wines in June & December @ \$ 99-00 per pack.

GOLD membership will contain 2 bottles of the selected 6 tasting wines (ie. 12 bottle case) @ \$198-00 per pack.

Unbelievable Membership Giveaway (See separate flyer)

Upgrade your membership to GOLD & order a case of wine from our Showcase Dozen @ \$198-00 (mixed or straight) to receive a 2 night midweek getaway staying in either KIEWA or PARRAGILGA cottage absolutely free.*

*Please note you must remain a **GOLD** member for at least 2 packs (ie. Dec '08 & June '09 or June '08 & Dec '08) or full accommodation rates will be charged. Take advantage of this fantastic offer by sending an email to Tracey or Belinda, drink@ridgeview.com.au, by faxing the enclosed order form to **02 9534 5468**, or by calling Tracey on **0419 475 221**.

We hope you enjoy the selection of wines in the Winter '08 pack and we look forward to seeing you at cellar door or whilst staying in our cottages in the Hunter Valley.

Cheers, Darren & Tracey Belinda, Brendan, Michelle & Kelly Scott.