

TORONTO VINTNERS CLUB Inc.

www.torontovintners.org



ALL MANNER OF AUSSIE SHIRAZ BLENDS

Tuesday, November 9, 2004, 6:15 P.M.

The Ontario Club, 5th Floor, Commerce Court South
(Northeast Corner of Bay & Wellington Streets)
Toronto, Ontario Tel: (416) 862-1270

Shiraz is the “in grape” and has been growing in popularity since the Australian winemaker’s started to offer their many wonderful single grape and blended wines. It was sometimes referred to in Australia as “Hermitage”, which term was also used for the Cinsaut. Not at all confusing! Shiraz seems to be blend wonderfully with a wide variety of other grapes, including Grenache, Mourvedre and Cabernet Sauvignon. We shall taste different blends at this tasting. The Shiraz is the Australian (and South African) name for the Syrah; so some of the following should be similar to the write-up for the Chateauneuf du Pape tasting last spring. But there are fewer grapes blended in with Shiraz in Australia and the added ripeness from the hot climate will create richer taste, perhaps with lower acidity. Notes from Jancis Robinson’s *Vines, Grapes and Wines* and her tome with Hugh Johnson, *The World Atlas of Wine* provide several insights. “It is generally agreed that Australian Syrah is Petite Syrah...Syrah is immensely important to the Australian wine industry, in quantitative terms at least...there are still 7,000 hectares (17,500 acres) more than any grape variety other than the ignominious Sultana. It is grown all over the country, largely in New South Wales and South Australia, in different but usually relatively hot climates. ...When the variety is raised in relatively cool climates, such as Coonawarra (where optimum, but not necessarily lowest yield, is 5 tons per acre), southwestern Australia and the isolated well tempered vineyards of Victoria, It takes on a dry peppery quality that is so appetizing in many of the reds of the Southern Rhone. Acid and tannin levels are kept well up; these wines much more familiar to European palates, keep their colour and age extremely well.”

“South Australia is definitively to Australia what California is to the USA; *the* wine state. It crushes 46% of every vintage and houses all of the most important wine and vine research organizations. “ It also contains the Barossa Valley, Clare and Eden Valleys, which contain some of the vineyards chosen for our tasting and contain some very old vines. “Such vines can produce the most concentrated form of what has become one of the world’s most distinctive wine styles, Barossa Shiraz. Rich and chocolaty, spicy and never shy, these wines can range from intriguing essences to unctuously alcoholic. ...Some Barossa winemakers add tannin as well as acid. And instead of the long post-fermentation maceration that Bordeaux producers give their wines while extracting colour and tannins, Barossa reds are typically encouraged to finish their fermentation in American oak barrels, imbuing them with a heady sweetness and smoothness.”

NOTE: 108 places. *Guests are accommodated if members don't fill the tasting. First come basis. No telephone or e-mail reservations. Deadline for reservations: November 5. To cancel without penalty until Nov. 5, call 416-209-1442 or email events@torontovintners.org. You will be contacted only if we're sold out. Cheques payable to Toronto Vintners Club Inc.*

Name:		
Address (only for info changes):		
Bus Tel:	Home Tel:	
Email:	_____ Please email future notices to me.	
Guests' Names:		
_____ Member's assessment -	\$46.00 pp	\$
_____ Guest / non-member assessment -	\$54.00 pp	\$
TOTAL		\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I would like to sit at the Newcomers table with an experienced taster or to be introduced to other members.		

Aussie Shiraz
Nov. 9/04

Mail to:
Toronto Vintners Club
c/o S. Dorosh
PO Box 1023
TDC Postal Station
77 King St. West,
Toronto, ON
M5K 1P2

I understand and accept my personal safety responsibilities when attending a Toronto Vintners Club event.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

THE BACK PAGE

AUSTRALIAN SHIRAZ BLENDS

1. **1999 Wolf Blass-Black Label** \$90
The vineyard is in the Barossa Valley, N.E. of Nuriootpa, in Australia's biggest quality wine area. The wine is medium to full purple red. The palate has a silky, supple smoothness, the oak evident but in no way excessive. Best 2004-9. Score 95
2. **1999 Penfolds-St. Henri** \$47
Remarkably supple and seamless, holding back on its beautiful, ripe blackberry, cherry, leather and pepper flavours until they come through almost as a second wave. The fruit character is intoxicating in a wine of such refinement. Drink now through 2020.
3. **1999 Moppa Springs Rockford** \$37
A Barossa Valley wine, which Wine Spectator says is "Rich and ripe, a blast of spicy, floral mulberry and black cherry flavour that sails on through the finish, keeping a fair balance amid fine tannins." Grenache with Shiraz and Mourvedre. Score 87
4. **2001 - The Ironstone Pressings** \$48
A blend of Grenache/Shiraz/Mourvedre, likely Grenache-70% Shiraz 25% and Mourvedre 5%, as in the gold medal-winning 2000. Wine is firm in texture, radiant in flavour, offering juicy red cherry and blackberry fruit, tinged with subtle spices and a tiny hint of leather. The flavours seem to float in midair for minutes. Drink now. Score 92
5. **The Hattrick- 2001 McLaren Vale Australian Domain** \$42
The most serious effort from this estate. 50% Shiraz, 43% Grenache, and 7% Cab. Sauv. A deep, ruby/purple colour, tremendous fruit, a flowery component on the palate, and surprising elegance as well as definition. Drink it over the next 7-10 years. Parker ranks it 91.
6. **2000 Cabernet/ Shiraz "Bin 389"** \$39
South Australia, Penfolds McLaren Vale- "There is confidence in McLaren Vale's glossily seductive reds....Rosemount sources its reds here. Penfolds certainly soaks up a fair bit of the fruit for its many Bin numbered wines".
7. **2001 "The Steadings" - Torbreck Vintners** \$48
A South Australia selection. The wine is ripe and distinctive. A Grenache, Mourvedre and Shiraz blend. Parker notes that the wine is made from the same blend as the Juveniles, but aged 18 months in old French and American hogsheads. A deep plum/garnet colour, a big, spice-driven nose of cinnamon, pepper, soy, damp earth, dried herbs, etc. Score 92
8. **2000 Henschke- South Australia** \$49
A blend of 65% Shiraz, 30% Cab. Sauv., 5% Malbec grown in the Eden Valley and the Barossa valley. The wine is clear and bright, red-purple, with a fresh, lively berry-scented bouquet of light to moderate intensity, followed by a sophisticated palate in which everything flows seductively through sweet berry fruit, gently sweet/spicy vanilla oak and soft tannins. Wine Spectator scores 93.

Notes from Hugh Johnson, Jancis Robinson "The World Atlas of Wine, Vintages, Wine Spectator and Robert Parker Jr. write-ups.

Toronto Vintners' Upcoming Events:

Jan.11/05- West Coast Pinot Noir

Feb. 8/05-Champagne

2005 Membership Fees are Due

After a decade with no change in fee, the Executive voted to increase single membership to \$30 pp and introduced a double membership at \$50. Sadly, wines and other costs (e.g., liability insurance) have risen dramatically over the years and we can't afford to keep TVC's cellar stocked with fine older wines without a membership increase.

The membership year runs from Jan. to Dec. so we would appreciate your renewal at this time. Renewal forms will be sent out via mail and a form will be posted on our website. To celebrate Vintners' 30th year of operation, we'll be featuring 1990 Bordeaux in June 2005 (a members-only event) - another great reason to renew or join. Thanks for your support. **DON'T DELAY; RENEW TODAY!**

"There are five reasons we should drink:
Good wine - a friend - or being dry -
Or lest we should be by and by -
Or any other reason why."

Henry Aldrich 1647 - 1710
Five Reasons for Drinking