



PHOENIX C.C. WINE APPRECIATION CLUB

NEWSLETTER

March Meeting

Well, what a night we had. Record responses saw us expecting 38 attendees for our March event, "Affordable Italian Wines".

Sadly, not everyone made it to the meeting, which was a pity, but it was still a Phoenix record.



The presentation was conducted by member Nathan Ramm and a sterling job he made of it, too, preceded by some very comprehensive and informative Notes which provided an overview of the Italian Wine Classification System and how the geographical regions of the country affect grape growing.

For those of us unfamiliar with Italian grape varieties, the wines were very different. We sampled three whites and three reds. My absolute favourite was the Monte Tondo Mito Soave, which was quite delicious, but the very last wine of the evening, the

Masso Antico Primitivo also scored some points with me.

I was also super impressed with how Nathan not only managed to pronounce all the Italian grape varieties and areas, but also managed a more than passable Italian accent! Bravo, signore!

New Members:

Our Phoenix continues to grow. All six guests from the previous meeting have now joined us, and a further six Val, Paul & Judy, Colin & Loraine and Michael attended as visitors. Hope you all enjoyed your encounter with Phoenix. And, yes, we did buy more glasses!

Degustation Dinner:

We are looking forward to our second Degustation Dinner on March 31. If it is anything like the first one



Our September Degustation Dinner was a beauty!

we will be very happy indeed. Still no cancellations to report (sorry, waiting list). Hope we can book another one before long.

Prizes:

Not sure where my head was at this meeting. Not only did I neglect to take pics of the proceedings, but I have no idea who won the Lucky Door Prize, or the Raffle Prize donated by Nathan. Once again we raffled the opened bottles at the end of the tasting and a number of people left the hall with smiles on their faces (I was one of them - yes, again!)

April Meeting:

In our last three club tastings we have focused on Australian wines produced from "non-mainstream" grape varieties (November '25), Australian wines produced by blending two different grape varieties (February '26) and Italian wines produced from grape varieties that we rarely encounter in Australia (March '26) ... and they have been real eye-openers!

But perhaps we can also enjoy returning to more familiar territory, so for our April club tasting, let's



take a deeper dive into the two most common varietal wines produced in Australia: Shiraz and Chardonnay.

We'll encounter wines produced in different parts of Australia using different wine-making techniques

(and include some premium wines), so do whatever you must to ensure you join us for our **"TWO BIG AUSSIES"** tasting.

Additional Social Events:

Thai Dinner:

We are seeking indications of interest for an Asian Restaurant meal, which was a member suggestion from Rod's survey.

This will be on **Thursday, April 30**, at a the Saifon Thai Restaurant, in Manns St., North Gosford. We will arrange our own banquet menu, for which Rod will choose matching wines. We are striving to keep the cost to around \$70. If you are interested in attending, please let me know asap, as numbers will be helpful to our negotiations. Visitors are welcome. It will be a pre-paid event.

Drinkies on the Verandah:

You are invited to join us at the Hardy's Bay Club, on April 12, when the U-Bouddi Swing Band will be playing. A purely social event where one can purchase drinks and snacks and enjoy the music.

Rod's Ramblings:

Rod Kinmond recently received the "presidential" treatment at several Hunter Valley wineries including Mount Pleasant (who were particularly generous, providing some discounted wines for the club) Hunter Wine Lab, (who discounted his purchases and offered a discount to any club member who visits), Petersons, Tyrrells, Brokenwood, Briar Ridge, De Bortoli (yes, they do produce wine in the Hunter Valley), Margan and Saddler's Creek - so if you're heading up that way, Rod would be happy to share his personal insights.

July Meeting:

Our July meeting will be our First Anniversary, so a celebration is definitely in order. We are considering a Christmas in July, along similar lines to our Christmas Party last year, where food is brought by attendees and wines by Rod. Would love to hear member's thoughts on this, please.

We are so delighted that our Phoenix is thriving - entirely due to our wonderful members. Thank you all.