

Bruce Thiele Red Wine Club

MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER

COMING UP

- Apr: Red Vertical Tasting (Home)
- May Z Wines (Away)
- June: AGM Tenafeate Creek Wines (Home)
- July: Birthday at St Hallet (Away)
- August: James Haselgrove (Home)
- September : Kellermiester (Away)
- October Bruce Commeration (Home)
- November Kalleske Wines (Away—3rd Tuesday)
- Christmas at Lamberts with Wives & partners.

BRING A FRIEND

Remember, at home shows you can introduce a new guest for just \$25.

Guests

Laurie Rundle had three guests Dave McFarland, Michael Williams & John Williams. Andrew Maynard was John Albrecht's guest.

Taste Eden Valley Take Two

Our second visit to Taste Eden Valley was as enjoyable as our first one. Thirty four members and guests were welcomed by Melissa and Nicole with two distinctly different Rieslings. These were accompanied by some delicious



home baked bread provided by George Akkerman. Olive and Thyme Bread, Onion Bread and Fig and Fennel Bread were served with a full flavour Dukkha and a first press olive oil hand made by Rachael the Cellar Door Manager at Hemera winery.

Mel introduced her husband Peter, a vigneron, to lead us

through the wines that had been selected for us to taste. Peter is well qualified as a trained viticulturist, vineyard manager and lecturer in wine. He loves what he does particularly working with smaller wine producers and he is particularly proud of our part of the world.

Peter began by discussing the two different Rieslings we had been welcomed with. The first was a young wine—2017 Springton Hills Eliza Riesling. The complex soils of the Eden Valley lead to complex wines. The soils are the remains of once 'Everest' high mountains that have been eroded over millions of years. This particular wine was grown east of Springton in a wetter than average year. The mixture of crisp acid and fruit is typical of the Rieslings of the area.

The second wine—an aged Riesling was the 2008 vintage from Eden Valley Wines. It was from a relatively small lot of 200 cases made by Stephen Hentschke. Peter believes we should enjoy our great wines at their current low price, as soon the world will realise how great they are and the price

What is a vigneron? Strictly speaking it a French word meaning 'A person who cultivates grapes for winemaking', but can also mean a winemaker

GUEST INVITATION

You are invited to join a group of like minded men at a Bruce Thiele Red Wine Club dinner meeting to taste, talk about, learn and enjoy wine.

Inquiries Peter Frick btredwineclub@gmail.com



will rise.

Our tasting continued with six different reds. The first was a 2016 Springton Hills 'Femme Fatale' Grenache. Grenache is a difficult grape and often ends up in a blend, particularly in cooler years. This particular vintage was a good one. The result was a fragrant wine with great spicy length. Peter noted that the reds we were tasting had been double decanted and he felt this particular wine actually improved after being open for several days. The wine was typical of the winemaker John Ciccochoppo. The 20 year old vines were on the valley floor and picked at peak ripeness and matured for 16 months in older oak.



The second red was a 2012 Poonawatta Four Corners Grenache/Shiraz Blend (53% Grenache). In this case there was not enough Grenache from the old vines so it was blended with Shiraz. Peter described the palate as chalky with chocolate tannings and the nose as stewed rhubarb, chocolate and plum jam.

Our third wine was a Shiraz from the Southern Eden Valley—2015 Chaffey Bros. Wine Co. Evangeline Syrah. While the same grape Syrah is a more aromatic spicy style than the typical Shiraz. It was dry grown and without too much oak it exhibits the vibrancy of the site.

Wine number four was another Chaffey Brothers one—their 2015 Elijah Shiraz. The old vines grown in the Fechner vineyard near Moculta at the northern end of the Barossa/Eden Valley region produced a memorable wine.

A 2016 Mountadam Vineyards Eden Valley Cabernet was our next wine. The grapes were grown in the High Eden (a sub region of the Barossa Valley-Eden Valley region). The elevation (450m+), high rainfall and tough soils produced a gold medal winning wine.

Our final wine was another Cabernet, this time a Heathvale 2015 'The Encounter' Cabernet Sauvignon. It was produced from 35 year old vines grown on sandy soil over red clay near Keyneton township using wild yeasts and a cold soak. Peter stated that good yeasts win in a healthy environment. Heathvale use a low input regime and hand pick.

Bob thanked Peter, Mel and Nicole then it was time for some of us to buy some wine before moving to the Wanera Wine Bar Restaurant for a dinner of Fillet Steak, Sweet Potato mash, Red Current Jus, Broccoli and Battered Onion Rings topped off as usual with some club port.

Winners of the door prizes were Michael Williams (guest of Laurie Rundle) and Rex Way (!)



The Wines

Welcome Wines: Eden Valley Riesling vintage 2017 & 2008

Springton Hills Eliza Riesling – 2017

Springton Hills Wines Eliza Riesling showcases an Eden Valley Riesling for all wine lovers. The vineyard site is situated on a north west slope which captures afternoon sun to ripen the berries. The vineyard is hand picked and managed which delivers floral aromatics with fresh tangy crispness, that showcases mineral acidity typical of Eden Valley Rieslings. Bottle age is a bonus to those who enjoy softer acidity with fruit characters that soften and develop tropical flavours with honey notes. For those of us who enjoy a crisp and zesty style open with haste as this Riesling is ready to enjoy from release.

Awards: Halliday 95 Points, 5 Stars Wine State Magazine

Wine Maker: Jo Irvine, Alcohol: 11.5%, Cellaring: Now - 8+ years, Price \$20

<https://www.tasteedenvalley.com.au/wines/eliza-riesling>



Eden Valley Wines Riesling – 2008



Eden Valley is home to the oldest Riesling vines in the world and just like the long life of the vines so is the wine. Cellaring any Eden Valley Riesling is a joy in itself. The 'Saviours' Riesling is more than a collection of Riesling grapes from the best vineyards in Eden Valley, it is a story about dedication, history and passion for our sense of place in the wine world. Eden Valley Wines is owned by a group of good friends who fought hard and long to acquire the brand name to trademark a piece of the Eden Valley history for generations to come. This wine will remain true to the region and always sourced from the best Riesling grapes on offer. To save a brand name from ownership being sold to the big boys is the story of Eden Valley Saviours Riesling. The wine is medium bodied and carries intense aromas and flavours of citrus with candied orange. Oily characters dominate the nose with citrus blossoms bursting from the glass. The structure is still tight and vibrant which will allow the wine to cellar for many years to come. Produced from a selection of the best fruit from Eden Valley Wines members vineyards & built to last!

Wine Makers: Stephen Henschke & Jo Irvine, Alcohol:12%, Cellaring: 5+ years, Price \$28

<https://www.tasteedenvalley.com.au/wines/eden-valley-wines-riesling>

Wine 1: 2016 Springton Hills Femme Fatale (fatal attraction) 100% Grenache

Grenache is the femme fatale of wines, subtle at first taste then overpowering as you get to know it. This Grenache is bursting with fragrant floral notes and exotic spices, drink now, chilled or at room temperature.

Single vineyard established on sandy loam soils over red clay. Limited production = 700 bottles, exclusively available through Taste Eden Valley. 16 months French oak, some American in new and old oak. Vineyard is 20 years old with the owner also the winemaker; John Cicciochoppo

Alcohol:14%, Price \$28

The Ciccocioppo family migrated from central Italy in the 1950s; as is so often the case, wine was in their veins. In 2001, second-generation John and wife Connie purchased a grazing property at Springton, and began the planting of shiraz and Riesling.



Wine 2: Poonawatta Four Corners Grenache/Shiraz Blend vintage 2012

A blend of Grenache & Shiraz from some of the oldest vines in the world. Each parcel of fruit has been hand picked, barrel pressed and matured in second and third year French oak hogsheads, until the day of conviction when each parcel is assessed for the master blend. The final blend is 53% Grenache and 47% Shiraz has brought together two grape varieties that partner beautifully. Rich berry fruits, hints of spice, raspberries and luscious dark chocolatey fruits with fine integrated tannin create a medium length palate with layering complexity.

Wine Maker: Andrew Holt & Reid Bosworth

Total Production: 100 Dozen, Alcohol: 14.5%, Cellar: Now 10+ years, Price \$39

<https://www.tasteedenvalley.com.au/wines/poonawatta-four-corners-grenache-shiraz>



Wine 3: Chaffey Bros Wine Co. Syrah vintage 2015

Showcasing the best of cool climate Syrah(Shiraz) from the Eden Valley area at Springton. These wine grapes have been dry grown producing low yields and intense colour and flavor. The Shiraz grapes were fermented in a 6 ton open fermenter with 7 days of skin contact. Matured in shaved, seasoned French Oak barrels for 11 months. Evangeline Syrah is perfumed, fresh, vibrant in colour and enjoyed anytime of day - lunch time is perfect for this delightful wine.

Alcohol: 13.9% Acidity: 6.5g/l Residual Sugar: 0.8g/ Price \$33

<https://www.tasteedenvalley.com.au/wines/evangeline>

Wine 4: Chaffey Bros Wine Co. Elijah Shiraz vintage 2015

Chaffey Bros Wine Co. introduces 'Elijah' Shiraz to their wine range. A premium Shiraz for the serious wine appreciator and the ability to cellar for the long term. The Shiraz grapes were sourced from the Fechner vineyard, outside Angaston in the northern end of the Eden Valley Barossa region. Heavy clay soils with low annual rainfall assist with rich colour development and intense dark fruit flavours.

Aromas of dark cherry, liquorice and Chinese five spice lift from the glass with intensity. The palate is rich and long with layers of berry fruits, dark chocolate and spicy notes typical of the Moculta Eden Valley region. Wines that have stood the test of time are created from this region are always in limited in supply but demand is assured; Henschke Tappa Pass, Mount Edelstone, Penfolds just to name a few.

Wine Maker: Daniel Hartwig & Theo Engela, Alcohol: 15.5%, Cellar Recommendation: Now - 2040, Price \$70

<https://www.tasteedenvalley.com.au/wines/chaffey-bros-wine-co-elijah-shiraz>



Wine 5: Mountadam Vineyards Eden Valley Cabernet vintage 2015

Mountadam Vineyards single site Cabernet is grown in the High Eden region of the Barossa situated at 450m altitude. The climate provides a cool and slow ripening for Cabernet vines which is highly regarded by many wine appreciators. Rich full flavours like any typical Barossa red wine but the uniqueness of Cabernet; savoury grainy tannin's that integrate through dark blackberries and chocolate nuances. Medium to full bodied

Alcohol: 14.6%, Wine Maker: Helen McCarthy, Cellar recommendations: 10-15+ years, Price \$27

<https://www.tasteedenvalley.com.au/wines/mountadam-vineyards-cabernet>

Taste Eden Valley Take Two Continued

Wine 6: Heathvale Vineyards 'The Encounter' Cabernet 2013

The Encounter – An unexpected moment of significance that becomes a record of truth and promise.

The 2013 vintage is full-bodied & fruit driven. Matured in French hogsheads, the blackcurrant purity and freshness are well supported by savoury notes of fennel, wet gravel stones and earthy.

Enjoy with Roast lamb with hard, twiggy herbs (rosemary and thyme) and garlic, or just intense conversation.

Alcohol: 14.5% Wine Maker: Trevor March/Chris Taylor Cellaring: 15-20+ years, Price \$42

<https://www.tasteedenvalley.com.au/wines/the-encounter-cabernet-sauvignon>



Photos (Credits: Ian Cooper & Steve Blee)







