

# Bruce Thiele Red Wine Club

MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER

## COMING UP

- ◆ Apr: Thorn Clarke Wines (Home)
- ◆ May: Mataro with Kym Jenke & Rick Burge (Home)
- ◆ Jun: Fortifieds with Ron Leibich (Home)
- ◆ Jul: 36th Birthday Dinner at Kies Family Wines (Away)
- ◆ Aug: Yelland & Papps Winery (Away)
- ◆ Sep: Tscharke Wines (Away)
- ◆ Oct: Veritas Wines with Rolf Binder (Away)
- ◆ Nov: Pinot with Kym Jenke & Rick Burge (Home)
- ◆ Dec: Christmas at Jacobs Creek with Wives & partners.

## BRING A FRIEND

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

## Mystery Wines Mystify Members

Ian Cooper presented a 'Mystery Wines' night that harked back to similar events conducted by our founder Bruce Thiele.

We began the evening with a welcome wine from member Dean Trinne—his

2013 Shiraz Grenache Movedre . Accompanied by a variety of nibbles from our caterers for the night—Bob and Jenny Heinicke. We savoured Comparison tasting platters of Barossa traditional Metwurst and

Wild Game Metwurst, cheese, biscuits, dips and crisps and Prawn Balls.

Ian welcomed 24 members and returning guest Jeff Wenkler. We were told that there were some themes linking the six wines to be presented and the task of members was to identify the wines and hence the themes.

Members were provided with a tasting sheet to help them with their deliberations.

The six wines were tasted in succession with considerable discussion by members but few clues from Ian.

Once the tasting was done and the sheets filled the wines were revealed. Ian invites members to tell him the wine, year and maker and there was a variety of responses. The first wine was a 2013 Charles Cimicky Trumps Shiraz from the Barossa Valley rated by James Halliday at 92 points. The second was a 2009 St Hallett Faith Shiraz again from the Barossa and rated by Halliday at 93 points. The third wine was a 2012 Hart of the Barossa The Brave Shiraz once more from the Barossa with a Halliday rating of 94. Ian had indicated that there was something special about this wine which was that it was 'Certified Organic'.

At this stage members were starting to pick up on the theme i.e. the wines were Barossa Shiraz with a Halliday rating. The final three wines were a 2014 Teusner 'The Riebke' Shiraz, a 2013 Kilikanoon Exodus Shiraz and a 2012 Wolf Blass Brown Label Classic Shiraz. The last wine was a bit different in that it had some McLaren Vale and Langhorne Creek grapes in it as well as Barossa ones.

Full details of the wines follow.



## Door Prizes

The night's door prizes were won by Rod Tomlinson, Jeff Wenker, John Albrecht, and Peter Frick

## Mystery Wines Continued

The wine tasting was followed by our meal—a Buffet Table of Seared Kangaroo leg, Big Porky Rissoles, Lucky Dip Gourmet Snags, Hot herbed Tomatoes, Roasted Garlic Cloves, hot gammon, German Potato Salad, Leafy Green Salad with Herb/Garlic Bread. Followed by sweets to compliment Club Port—Chocolate and sweet treat Platter and Palate Cleansing Water and Rock Melon.

## The Wines

### 1. Charles Cimicky Trumps Shiraz 2013

Low-profile winemaker, Charles Cimicky, is known for focusing all of his energy into producing big, bold Barossa red wines of the highest pedigree. This latest Trumps is one of the best value Barossa Shiraz's available with its rich, ripe plums and blackberry, all wrapped up in smooth dark chocolate and vanilla spice. A fantastic drink.

Fergus McGhie: "Barossa wines have undergone a makeover in recent years. There's more fruit in the modern Barossa Shiraz, less reliance on heavy oak, and they are all far more approachable when they are in their youth. The Trumps Shiraz was ahead of its time; it's always been approachable, thanks to its full ripe soft fruit flavours. The oak, while undeniably present, is well-handled and not too intrusive.

The 2013 vintage is another dense, fruit-driven wine, balanced with a touch of savoury oak. The tannins are fine and grainy. There's enough concentration here to give it life for the cellar but really, when a wine is this juicy and flavoursome, why leave it to wrinkle in a cellar?"

James Halliday: "Plenty of fruit; laden with blackberry jam and bitter chocolate". **92 points**  
\$16.99 Dan Murphy's



### 2. St Hallett Faith Shiraz 2009

The St Hallett reputation as Masters of Shiraz is based on our range of top class wines, sourced from our own vineyards and a select group of dedicated growers situated in both the Barossa and Eden Valleys. The varying ages and mesoclimates of the vineyards we own and manage contribute to the intensity, complexity and variety of Shiraz styles we make in our Barossa cellars. Faith Shiraz is a wine rich in colour with lifted spice and cherry notes on the nose. These characters follow through onto the palate which is rich and warm with sweet-cherry lifted fruit and soft smoky, toasty flavours that come from American oak maturation. This wine is best enjoyed with red meats, casseroles, pasta and cheese and will cellar well for five to eight years from vintage.

**Tasting note:** Strong crimson-purple; a very rich, traditional full-bodied Barossa Valley shiraz, with luscious black fruits on the bouquet, augmented there as well as on the palate by 20 months in American oak; the texture is velvety, the tannins ripe.

Good colour; although in radically different style to Blackwell, with attractive, spice, chocolate and mocha components to its cherry and blackberry fruits; ever so slightly sweet. Alcohol Volume 14.5%

James Halliday: Good depth to red-purple colour; attractive wine; exuberant red and black cherry fruit aromas on the bouquet lead into a juicy, spicy, medium-bodied palate; fine tannins and oak are in carefully measured support. **93 points**

\$23.99 Dan Murphy's



## Mystery Wines Continued

### 3. Hart of the Barossa The Brave Shiraz 2012

An elegant and well balanced Shiraz. Aged in American and French oak barrels for 18 months. Luscious fruit with refined elegance and beautifully integrated soft dry tannins. Smooth palate length with pleasantly persisting soft fruit finish. Vanilla and spice aromas, flooded with layers of fresh fruit.

Luscious fruit, with refined elegance. Bold palate with structure and soft tannins. Layer upon layer of succulent ripe fruit.

Certified Organic

Balance: Bold and well balanced.

Length: A lengthy finish with vibrant fruit notes.

Intensity: Warm mouthful of fruit with good structure and bold tannins.

Complexity: Lots of layers of intense succulent fruit.

Vintage comments: The 2012 vintage produced exceptional quality fruit.

Vintners: Michael & Alisa Hart. Custodians of the oldest 'certified organic' vineyard in the Barossa Valley.

James Halliday: Deep purple-crimson; the Hart family owns the oldest certified organic vineyard in the Barossa Valley, with family-planted vines over 100 years old. This medium-bodied shiraz was matured in exactly measured French and American oak, and is a class act; it oozes red and black fruits, but has a positively elegant back-palate and finish; sparklets of spice and liquorice lead the flavour dance. **94 points**

RRP \$28.00 Cellar Door



### 4. Teusner The Riebke Shiraz 2014

Young gun Barossa winemaker Kym Teusner undoubtedly makes some of the finest wines in the Barossa Valley today. There's a vibrancy and excitement to his wines that continues to win hearts and minds aplenty. His Riebke Shiraz has proven to be a bona fide star in recent years and his latest release will surely have you coming back for more! With its rich, full-bodied palate that Barossa Shiraz lovers can't get enough of, the Riebke is also balanced with fine, powdery tannin and great use of oak to bring a moreish quality to this great value-for-money Shiraz.

[www.winecompanion.com.au](http://www.winecompanion.com.au)

James Halliday: From the sixth-generation Riebke growers, deeply coloured and unashamedly full-bodied, gritty tannins standing guard over wild blackberry fruit. A degree of patience is absolutely essential, but will be rewarded thanks to the overall balance of the wine. **95 points**

\$20.99 Dan Murphy's



### 5. Kilikanoon Exodus Shiraz 2013

Recently named the James Halliday Winery of the Year for 2013, Kilikanoon are a winery on the definite up and up. It isn't hard to see why when flavoursome, terroir driven Shiraz like this Exodus are produced. Sourced from estate vineyards in the Greenock and Vine Vale sub-regions along with private growers in Ebenezer, the Exodus is aged in French and American oak hogsheads for 22 months before bottling. The result is a super smooth, rich and vibrant Barossa Valley Shiraz that has a lovely textured and satisfying palate of dark fruits and hints of liquorice. A superb long palate due to the fine grained tannins will this Barossa beauty age comfortably for the next 10-15 years.

James Halliday: Entirely French oak-matured and the result is entirely seamless. They've



## Mystery Wines Continued

nailed this one. Black berries, coal, cloves and woodsmoke, dense but supple, with massaged tannin rippling through the majority of the wine. The quality was born in the vineyard, but the winemaking is particularly skilful. **96 points**

\$29.99 Dan Murphy's

### 6. 2012 Wolf Blass Brown Label Classic Shiraz

The original Wolf Blass Brown Label Shiraz was first released in 1975, a blend of Shiraz from Langhorne Creek and the Barossa Valley. The wine came to be known as Brown Label 'Classic Shiraz', evolving into the finest Shiraz blend of the vintage, with fruit selected from the year's three most outstanding regions. The 2012 release proudly reinstates Brown Label to the Wolf Blass collection.



This is a truly synergistic Shiraz, bringing together the opulent fruit of McLaren Vale, the fragrance and finesse of Langhorne Creek and the depth, tannin structure and length of the Barossa Valley.

Acid: 6.6 g/L PH: 3.56 Alcohol %:14.5%

Tasting Notes:

COLOUR: Deep crimson.

NOSE: Lifted dark fruits of mulberry, blueberry, blackberry and satsuma plum combine with undertones of dark chocolate and mocha oak to create a wine of complexity and interest.

PALATE: Opulent richness and depth of fruit provide both intensity of flavour and density on the palate, with mocha oak supporting the fruit and imparting a creaminess in texture. Tannins are fine, powdery and layered, building through the mid-palate and coming together to support a long, lasting finish. A generous wine of power and intensity, yet with finesse, character and eminent drinkability.

Vintage Conditions:

Healthy vine canopies established over spring in all regions, setting them up well for ripening. Moderate conditions with cool nights and very few rain events continued throughout the season, allowing for steady ripening and excellent accumulation of colour, flavour and tannin.

**Winemaker Notes:**

Batches of fruit from each vineyard were fermented separately in small open-top fermenters for 7 to 10 days, allowing optimum extraction of colour, flavour and tannin. Pumping over and plunging were utilised to work the cap, and build structure and length. Some batches were pressed off skins to complete fermentation in barrel, building mid-palate texture, while others remained on skins until dryness, creating wines with great length, persistence of flavour and tannin finesse. After 20 months oak maturation, each batch was carefully assessed before blending, to create a truly synergistic wine that brings together the finest attributes of Shiraz from each viticultural region.

Maturation:

Matured in fine seasoned and new French (75%) and American (25%) oak barrels to incorporate further layers of complexity.

James Halliday: A sentimental return to mark Wolf's 80th birthday after being discontinued after 01; a blend from McLaren Vale, Langhorne Creek and the Barossa Valley. Tremendous drive and persistence to its black fruits; tannins and oak are mere adjuncts. **96 points**

\$47.50 Dan Murphy's



# Photos



# Mystery Wines Photos Continued

