

OFF THE VINE

AUTUMN 2015



HARVEST REPORT 2015

After twenty seven years of growing grapes in the Hunter Valley, you learn to expect the unexpected. Every season we have experienced here at Two Rivers has been different - each has its own unique set of conditions and challenges with the only constant being that Mother Nature is ultimately always in charge! This year we experienced the hottest spring on record and our earliest ever start to vintage with picking commencing on the 7th January. Thankfully things cooled down in December and January which helped prevent stress (on the vines – and us) and gave the fruit a lovely balance leading into harvest.

This year we even dusted off the old buckets and snips and hand-picked a selected portion of Semillon and Chardonnay. All of our staff took part and made what is a tough job into a fun and rewarding day. It is all about trying new things and working with our winemakers to really bring out the best in our vineyard. We look forward to showing you the results.

Brett Keeping



ROCKY'S GROWING UP!

Time flies and as you can see from this photo our adorable Rocky (nicknamed 'The Rockstar') is now a big, boisterous, boofheaded 6-month old Labrador!



SEMILLON STRIKES AGAIN!



Hunter Valley Boutique Winemakers Show

The Hunter Valley Boutique Winemakers Show is open to Hunter wineries that crush less than 350 tonnes. This year we followed on from our success at the Hunter Valley Wine Show with our 2013 Stones Throw Semillon winning the Trophy for the best one year old Semillon. Our 2014 Semillon also won gold at this show – a great sign of things to come with this wine.

WineWise Championship

Each year WineWise, a web based wine magazine conducts the WineWise Championship. This invitation only event, limited to the best wines judged by the WineWise panel in the preceding twelve months, and gold medal winners from the major regional and national wine shows. Some of the finest palates in Australia – winemakers, oenologists, wine journalists and sommeliers – join the WineWise panel as judges for the show. We are thrilled to announce that the 2013 Two Rivers Stones Throw Semillon has been awarded winner of the best Semillon from the 2013 & 2014 vintages. Another great result for this highly awarded wine.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

Blue Heeler Film Festival - Red Carpet Awards Night.
Wednesday 15 April 2015, gates open 6pm

The Blue Heeler Film Festival is a local short film competition. Four events are held during the festival which concludes with the awards night held here at Two Rivers.

Upper Hunter Wine and Food Affair:
Saturday May 2, 2015. 11am - 4pm.

The Hunter's best street party just keeps getting bigger and better every year. Mark this date in your diary and head to the main street of Denman on May 2nd for a gourmet reveller's delight. Plenty of award winning local wine and delicious food stalls will take over the main street of Denman. There will be entertainment to suit all ages. Check out:

www.upperhunterwineandfoodaffair.com.au for details.

Winemakers Dinner: Friday May 29, 2015

Two Rivers is heading to Sydney again for a winemakers degustation dinner at the historic Banjo Patterson Cottage Restaurant, overlooking the harbour at Gladesville. This is always a great night with beautiful food and a unique atmosphere that can only be found in the hallowed home of Banjo. We will definitely be pulling some special wines out of the cellar for this one!

For bookings please contact Banjo's on 02 9816 3611.

VINEYARD NEWS

The Hunter Valley has a rich history and is home to some of the oldest and finest Shiraz in the world. These old vines are unique, highly sought after and worthy of their heritage status.

In an exciting project, we have been able to secure a small number of vine cuttings from two of the best and most consistent old vine Shiraz blocks in the valley.

We have grafted these cuttings onto some of our existing vines and we can't wait to see how they perform in our vineyard. This is a long term project and it will be several years before we get to see the results but it is exciting to know that we are directly replicating the old vines that made the Hunter famous! We will keep you posted with our progress.



Left: The successful graft union between the older host vine and the new Shiraz.

LINDA'S HOT ARTICHOKE DIP RECIPE

This recipe was given to me by a friend and is an **absolute winner** – easy, quick and everyone (and I mean everyone) loves it! Try it out the next time you have friends over.

Base

1 jar Marinated Artichoke Hearts (drained)
½ cup whole egg Mayonnaise
250gm Cream Cheese
1 cup grated Parmesan Cheese
2 garlic cloves – roughly chopped
1 teaspoon Dried Dill (or 2 tablespoons of fresh)
Cracked Pepper



Topping

1 onion – chopped finely
2 slices of bread crumbled
¼ cup Parmesan Cheese

Method

Place all base ingredients into a food processor and whiz till combined (don't over blend). Pour into a shallow pie dish.

Topping

Sauté the onion in a little oil in a fry pan. When browned mix in the breadcrumbs and cook slightly. Sprinkle over top of dip, then scatter over extra grated parmesan cheese and cook at 180°C for 35 to 40 mins until browned on top. Leave for 10 mins before serving.

Serve with pita bread, veg sticks and/or crackers. Love to hear from you how it went.

Cheers Linda

5 MINUTES WITH - MANDY



Q: Job Title: Cellar Door Sales

Q: How long have you worked at Two Rivers? 4 years

Q: Where are you from? Born in Canberra, lived in Salamander Bay 20 years, now in Denman

Q: Nickname? Mandoo

Q: Favourite wine? Hidden Hive Verdelho

Q: Favourite food to go with that wine? A Thai inspired chicken & cashew dish with a bit of spice, or a Pad Thai

Q: Favourite co-worker (i.e. who do you like best, Tracy or Stella?) I love you all!

Q: What is your favourite holiday destination? Ski chalet in Charlotte's Pass, or beautiful Port Stephens

Q: Tell us something about yourself that would surprise us. I love writing lyrics & picking out the melody on my piano. I LOVE karaoke!

Q: Best thing about working at Two Rivers? Our fabulous team of staff; my office (the Cellar Door with its gorgeous views) & of course the delicious wine!

Q: Most memorable wine experience? Tasting Penfolds Grange at a wine course in Pokolbin - just a little bit amazing. Of course my first tasting of the Two Rivers range - very difficult to choose a favourite. They are all superb

GRACIE'S HEAD SHAVE

Keeping it in the family, our daughter Grace has made the scary commitment to shave her head for the Kid's Cancer Project. Gracie has set herself a goal to raise \$5,000 for this incredibly worthy cause with the big shave happening on Sunday 19th April.

We are very proud to support Gracie to reach her target and if you would like to watch her progress or even better make a contribution, please visit:

www.mycase.com.au & search for Grace Keeping

