

# Off the Vine

## Spring 2011



TWO RIVERS  
HUNTER VALLEY

### Welcome to our Spring 2011 edition of 'Off the Vine'.

We have witnessed a marvellous year with our wines in the show arena and full credit to our vineyard and winemaking teams for making this all possible. The passion and dedication that these people collectively bring to the table is outstanding and our wines reflect this. Thanks to our many friends who have sent in interesting articles that we have been able to share. Wishing you good health for the coming months.

### Wine Shows

For the last 5 years I have had the good fortune to be a steward at the Hunter Valley Wine Show and I have always thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We folk in the industry can be fairly critical of wine shows, particularly when we don't get the results we expect - so I thought I would let you in on how they work.

Each day, a large number of wines (can be up to 150 per class) are judged by a panel of independent judges who have no knowledge of the wine's origin, only the wine style for which they have been entered under.

These judges quietly and independently assess and then score each wine. After the class is completed the judges cumulative scores determine which wine will be awarded either a gold, silver or bronze medal.

A bronze medal wine is considered a 'sound' everyday wine, a silver medal wine is considered to have more 'interest' and a gold medal wine has real 'quality and character'. Gold medal winning wines will then go through to a Trophy taste off and sometimes, but not always, a Trophy is awarded to a wine that is considered exceptional by all of the judges.

Typically very few wines, generally less than 5%, win gold medals. Only around 35% will win any award at all. Trophies are scarce and highly prized!

However, at the end of the day, the best advice is to be your own judge. Wine show results are a great guide but your own enjoyment is the most important thing for drinking pleasure. We hope you enjoy our wines as much as the judges did.

*Linda Keeping*

### 2011 Vineyard Report

After a long cold winter, the days are now starting to warm up and there are signs all throughout the vineyard that spring has finally arrived! Bud burst is already upon us - in fact it has come two to three weeks earlier than usual so we will be keeping our fingers crossed that we don't get any late frosts.



The vineyard has been full of activity over winter with cover crops to plant, trellis maintenance and some 150,000 vines to prune! More recently, we have been busy spreading compost over the entire vineyard. This wonderful organic fertilizer (sourced from a local Denman company) encourages natural soil biodiversity and increases earth worm populations and beneficial soil organisms. Cover crops are also planted

throughout the vineyard which are slashed and thrown under the vines, providing a perfect natural mulch deposit over the cow manure. This practice fits well within our sustainable farming goals and ensures that we are continually working to improve the health of our most valuable asset - the soil.

*Brett Keeping*

### 2011 Hidden Hive Verdelho wins the top trophy at Cowra

The bubbly was flowing recently when Two Rivers collected gold across the board for a number of our wines at the recent Cowra Wine Show and ultimately scooped the pool with our 2011 Hidden Hive Verdelho winning the Top Gold and Trophy for the Best Verdelho of Show.



The Cowra Wine Show, now in its 29th year, is one of the largest national wine shows held in Australia, every year attracting top class judges from Australia and overseas. Our wines were competing against a high number of entries at the Cowra Wine Show - a staggering 2100 entries had been received this year.

This is an incredible outcome for us and we are understandably elated about the results. To have placed so highly with our 2010 & 2011 Stones Throw Semillon and the 2009 Rocky Crossing Cabernet Sauvignon was fantastic, but we are ecstatic about the Trophy collected for the 2011 Hidden Hive Verdelho. We have worked hard in the vineyard with this variety for many years - we are very conscious of meeting the needs of today's changing tastes and markets and it is really pleasing to see our wines reflecting this commitment.

### Full tally as follows:

- 2011 Hidden Hive Verdelho - Top Gold & Trophy
- 2010 Stones Throw Semillon - Top Gold
- 2009 Rocky Crossing Cabernet Sauvignon - Top Gold
- 2011 Stones Throw Semillon - Gold
- 2011 Wild Fire Unwooded Chardonnay - Bronze
- 2011 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc - Bronze
- 2010 Reserve Chardonnay - Bronze
- 2007 Reserve Semillon - Bronze



### Huon Hooke (Sydney Morning Herald)

Our 2009 Reserve Chardonnay featured recently in Huon Hooke's Cellar Talk in the Sydney Morning Herald. Huon rated this wine his "TOP AUSSIE WHITE" for the week and gave it the following review:

"I like the intensity and nerviness of this wine in the mouth. It has good acidity and is bright, taut and youthful, with room to grow... It could be even better in a year. Drink now to 2015. 13.2 per cent alcohol. 90/100. Food: Sauteed scallops."

### As Tough as Two Rivers

Visitors to our cellar door, Doug & Heather Stewart sent us this amazing story - thanks for sharing.

"When we visited Two Rivers we were on the first stage of a trip along the Murray River and then the great Ocean Road. We were in a small caravan and had put the wine securely in the rear of the van.

We had travelled nearly 7000km and were just 120km from home when we were hit in the rear by a semi trailer travelling far too fast. Our van was a total write off. We were later staggered to find that despite the damage to the van and particularly the rear end we had only lost one of the six Lightning Strike Chardonnays.

So not only were we largely unharmed, we still had good wine to recuperate with"

# Off the Vine...

## Flood Relief Raffle raises \$276,848.90

Recently Two Rivers was involved in the Wine Trade Flood Relief Raffle in aid of those affected by the devastation caused by the Queensland floods earlier in the year. \$193,794.23 (70%) was donated to the Queensland Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal and \$83,054.67 (30%) to the Red Cross Victoria Flood Relief Appeal.



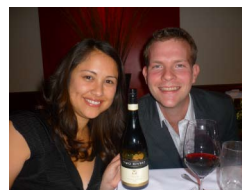
## The Elixir of Life

*"Wine improves with age. The older I get, the better I like it. - Anonymous"*

Not that we want to go spreading false claims, but a recent visitor to our Cellar Door, 96 year old Millie Patrick, swears by two glasses of Chardy a day. Who can argue with that philosophy? Ms Patrick is seen here enjoying a glass of Two Rivers Lightning Strike Chardonnay with Linda.

## Noah's on the Beach Wine Dinner

We recently travelled to the spectacular Noah's on the Beach at Newcastle for a wine dinner at Jonah's Restaurant, where we were joined by some of our wonderful Club Members. Brett guided diners through each of the wines which were perfectly complimented with a superb menu prepared by Executive Chef Jason Richardson and Head Chef Aaron Campbell. Many thanks to Martin, Jennifer and the team at Noah's for a great night!

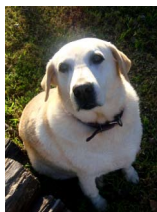


## New York! New York!

Sam & Nicole Rivers celebrated their New York wedding in fine style with a bottle of the 2009 Reserve Chardonnay all the way from Two Rivers Australia. Their great friend Heather went to a lot of trouble to have this wine sent over to America for their special day. Heather loved the significance of the name Two Rivers for this happy couple. Thank you to Heather for this great shot!

## Vale Millie

On a very sad note, our beloved Labrador Millie recently passed away. Millie has been a big part of Two Rivers for the past 11 years and even featured in the video clip of John Williamson's classic song 'True Blue' and in the ABC's river stories. Millie was a favorite with all our cellar door customers but really shone when we had visitors to our guest cottage where she always managed to get some extra attention – particularly when the barbeque was cooking. Our family and everyone here at Two Rivers miss her terribly and we have appreciated everyone's kind thoughts.



Anyone using QR codes yet? Scan this one with your iPhone and see where it takes you. (You can download QR scanner apps from iTunes)

## Tennis Report

As reported in the last newsletter, there has been hot competition in the Two Rivers Office. Linda and myself split the previously victorious Two Rivers doubles team to play singles in the Denman Tennis Championships. In a triumph of unbiased journalism I have to report Linda has managed to cheat her way to the title. Her shameless super sonic serve and blistering forehand are just not acceptable at this level of competition and I am awaiting a ruling on the official complaint I have lodged with the committee.

In the meantime, congratulations to Linda. I look forward to teaming up with her for a return of the doubles competition this spring (if she'll have me).

## The Travelling Two Rivers Cap

Thanks to all of our members who have been sending in some wonderful photos of the Two Rivers cap on its travels! Remember, there's a Two Rivers wine pack sent to you if you do!



From Antarctica to Africa, New Zealand to The Kokoda Track, a big thank you to: (clockwise from top left) Brad Duggan (Antarctica); Bob and Pam Minch (NZ); Jane Orr (Africa); Ian Muddle, Warwick Hunt, Brett Keeping, Geoff Parmenter, Dave Bick and Peter Weal (The Kokoda Track).

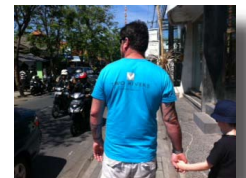
For those of you were following Brett's trip to The Kokoda Track on facebook, keep an eye out shortly on Brett's blog to hear more about the journey.

## Now for the Travelling Two Rivers T-Shirt

Spotted recently strolling down the busy streets of Seminyak Bali sporting a Two Rivers T-shirt.

*Eracy Main*

Cellar Club Co-ordinator



Two Rivers Wines has gone all social - don't forget to like us and follow us!

