

OFF THE VINE

SPRING 2012



TWO RIVERS

HUNTER VALLEY

WELCOME

2012 is the Year of the Farmer and as we are involved in agriculture every day here at Two Rivers, we are always keenly aware of the very important role that farmers play in our everyday life. Brett & I recently attended a very interesting talk by Professor Bill Bellotti, who holds the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation Chair in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, based at the Hawkesbury Campus of the University of Western Sydney, and who is a Director on the Board of the Australian Year of the Farmer.

The theme of his discussion was the need to better connect food consumers to food producers and the challenges the world will face in the next 50 years to feed our ever expanding global population. We have some of the most efficient farmers in the world and by the year 2050 our global population will reach 9 billion and demand for food will be 50% greater than it is today.

So to all our farmer friends, we truly appreciate your efforts and salute you for a job well done.

Linda Keeping

It's been a cold frosty winter here in the vineyard and as I write this the first welcome signs of spring are starting to show.

On most mornings this winter we have had either a bumper frost or a thick fog which hangs heavy on the property, particularly on the flats around the river. Once the frost thaws and the fog lifts, the days are beautiful – perfect for getting out and amongst it in the vineyard. As soon as the sun sets however, the evening air chills down quickly, and it's time to settle in and enjoy a good red in front of a roaring fire.

It's been a busy winter this year with pruning and trellis maintenance dominating most of our activities. Pruning is a critical operation and it is important that our vineyard workers carefully select which buds to retain as these are our 'fruit bearers' for next year's crop.



Pruning is an age old 'art' dating back to Roman times and needs to be carried out during winter when the vine is dormant. Generally the later a vine is pruned the later bud burst occurs so the timing of pruning is also important to ensure we miss those damaging early spring frosts.

We are fortunate at Two Rivers to have a dedicated team of pruners who have been with us for many years. Kaye, Leanne and Janice don't seem to mind the chilly mornings, but they are certainly thankful when the sun comes out. The girls work hard during winter to ensure our vines are at their optimum for what will hopefully be a very 'fruitful' harvest next season.

Brett Keeping

RIVER STORIES

In our last newsletter, we have talked about River Stories - the wonderful series produced by the ABC which explores the Hunter River and the people who live on its banks.

The second instalment revisited many of the characters of the first series and looked at the changes that have taken place along the river over the last ten years.

Two Rivers was very proud to be featured in both of the series and we thoroughly enjoyed every bit of our involvement. The River is such an important part of our lives and we take every opportunity we can to raise awareness of the problems the river faces and do our bit to improve its health.

The ABC released a CD of the second series early August and Brett was very honoured to be asked to do the official launch. Series producer Phil Ashley-Brown organised a great night which was hosted by ABC personality Craig Hamilton with the incredible guitar virtuoso Bruce Mathiski who wrote the sound track for the series, providing the entertainment.

You can see the Two Rivers River Story by visiting our website - head to the News page.



Above: Craig Hamilton, Phil Ashley-Brown, Linda and Brett Keeping

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

One of our very clever Off the Vine Members, Scott Bevan, has recently published a book titled *The Hunter*. The Hunter River weaves its way through our district and means different things to different people. For ABC journalist and author Scott Bevan the river has managed to weave its way into his life in an extra special way. Scott has paddled the length of the mighty waterway, from Barrington Tops to the Pacific Ocean at Newcastle, and detailed his accounts in his latest book. *The Hunter* chronicles Bevan's Hunter River journeys in his curiously named kayak, the Pulbah Raider.

Scott's book may be purchased from Two Rivers Cellar Door for \$32.99. Please ring and we will gladly send you a copy.



TWO RIVERS WINS TROPHY FOR BEST CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Two Rivers have taken out top Gold and the Trophy for Best Cabernet Sauvignon at the 2012 NSW Small Winemakers Show for the 2011 Rocky Crossing Cabernet Sauvignon.

We had a very successful show winning a total of seven medals and a trophy for the 10 wines submitted for judging. The medals included one Gold, two Silver and four Bronze. The Trophy winning Cabernet Sauvignon has only just been released. The success is great news for this wine which will continue to be shown at regional and state wine shows.

Comment for this wine from the senior judge was "the top wine was a standout for freshness and vibrancy of fruit".

Other recent awards won by the Two Rivers range include:

2012 Stones Throw Semillon

- Top 40 Best Value Wines in 'The Australian and New Zealand Wine and Spirit Insider' Magazine - retail price of AUD \$20 or under
- 4 1/2 stars – Winestate Magazine
- Bronze – 2012 Royal Queensland Wine Show
- Bronze – 2012 Cowra Wine Show

2012 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc

- Top 40 Best Value Wines in 'The Australian and New Zealand Wine and Spirit Insider' Magazine - retail price of AUD \$20 or under
- 2011 Stones Throw Semillon
- Trophy 2011 NSW Wine Awards
- Gold 2011 NSW Wine Awards
- Gold 2011 Cowra Wine Show
- Gold 2011 Hunter Valley Wine Show
- Best value white wine in Australia – 2012 SMH Good Wine Guide

2011 Hidden Hive Verdelho

- Trophy 2011 Cowra Wine Show
- Gold 2011 Cowra Wine Show
- Top 40 wines of NSW at the NSW Wine Award

2011 Reserve Chardonnay

- Top rated Chardonnay - Winestate Magazine's 2011 New Release
- 4 1/2 Stars Winestate Magazine
- Silver – 2012 Boutique Wine Show

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 28 - Rock'n at the Rivers - Twinsanity - contact Denman Children's Centre on 6547 2355 for details.

Denman Cup - run at Muswellbrook Race Club, Skellatar Park. Two Rivers proudly sponsoring a race on this day.

INTERNET SNIPPETS

We recently received a lovely comment via the internet from a lady called Sonya which read, 'We have just opened a bottle of your 2002 Cabernet Franc from our wine cellar. It was stunning. Any ideas if we can still purchase this wine?' Sorry Sonya but this wine has all gone, but we would recommend that you try our 2011 The Confluence Cabernet Merlot. This wine has the same soft tannins and rich fruit characters that were evident in the Cabernet Franc.

Don't forget members, you can always visit and shop online at our website tworivers.com.au. And of course we're tweeting and being liked all over the place at facebook too ;)

VIIGNIER IS BACK

We are pleased to report that the new vintage of The Corner Block Viognier is back on the shelves at the Cellar door. The 2012 Viognier has lovely aromas of apricot, tropical fruits and creamy almond meal. Apricot flavours on the palate are balanced by hints of zesty orange and spice with a juicy acid finish and subtle oak maturation.

HTBA SPONSORSHIP

Hunter Valley is not only synonymous with growing great wines. Many champion racehorses have been born here over the years and some of the world's most internationally acclaimed stallions stand at stud nearby in our backyard. The Hunter Valley is one of three centres of excellence in the world for thoroughbred breeding along with Kentucky in the USA and Newmarket in the UK.



We have recently become a bronze preferred supplier to the Hunter Valley Thoroughbred Breeders Association. We are proud to be associated with this group and look forward to developing our relationship with them. HTBA members are welcome to contact Linda to discuss our prices.

