

# Through the Bottom of My Glass

## Quarterly Newsletter

**Bellvale wines - November 2016**

### Sth Gippsland – and mother nature

Wet wet wet, cold cold cold, best describes this quarter. In fact we had the coolest October on record, and the state's highest daily rainfall for one day. But the sun's out again now and I'm awaiting flowering, hoping for clear days to get that all important 'fruit set'.

### What we've tasted and learned

I mentioned on Facebook about a blind tasting I was involved in and how delighted I was that an Aussie wine had all the sublime characteristics of a great Bordeaux, and the best I've had in years. The Orlando 1998 St Hugo from Coonawarra – search it out, you'll be pleased.

### Our wines this year

Well we're near the end of the 2013 Quercus Pinot Noir and rolling out the 2014 soon, and it's absolutely delicious, a nice acid structure, good colour and just remarkably good.

Also the 2016 Pinot Grigio is being released any day now, it also came up very nicely, crisp, fresh and completely dry. This is what Winefront had to say – *It's a cracking Grigio. Weighty and flavoursome but flushed with refreshing acidity. It hits you up and then sails out through the finish. Lime, Nashi pear, crunchy apples and dry chalky spice. Lovely dry finish too.*

In summary, right now it's all about the 13's Pinot Noirs, the 14's Chardonnay, 15's Estate Level Pinot (limited stock) and the 2016 Pinot Grigio.

### A few recent accolades

Thrilled by recent accolades! Achieving Silver and Bronze awards for the 2013 Stony Block and Quercus Pinot Noir's respectively at the prestigious Decanter Asia Wine awards.

And also James Halliday's Wine Companion made mention of the 2014 Athena's Vineyard Chardonnay - *Smoky, bacony oak adds a clear edge to strong, characterful fruit. If an elegant wine can also be a force to be reckoned with, then this is it.*

Enjoy the wine... and the remainder of 2016, looking forward to the new year! *John*