

Through the Bottom of My Glass

Bellvale Wines eNewsletter September 2017

Sth Gippsland – and mother nature

Months of vigorous pruning is finally over and bud-burst is upon us, with the usual frosts and sunshine that are typical of Sth Gippsland at this time of year.

What we've tasted and learned

Last year I mentioned some Nebbiolo that I'd grafted, so in expectation of my first crop this year I took a quick intensive trip to Italy during May to learn some things about Nebbiolo from the Italians. Visited six winemakers who were so generous with their information and experience. I tasted their entire ranges - it's such a popular and appreciated wine in Italy, although really in its infancy here.

I've also spent time back home tasting numerous Nebbiolo, and a couple of stand outs for me were the 2005 Riserva Barolo, **Rocche di Castiglione**, a Le Piane 2012 **Boca** and, from the Yarra Valley a 2015 **Luke Lambert**. All worth chasing down if you are keen to learn to love the Nebbiolo as I do.

Accolades

Thrilled that Halliday's 2018 Wine Companion granted us 92 points for the 2015 Quercus Vineyard Pinot Noir, a 90 for the 2016 Pinot Grigio and an 89 for the 2016 Estate Pinot Noir.

Exciting news about our wines overseas

I'm very excited that Le Petite Sommelier restaurant in Paris, owned by the esteemed former Ritz Hotel Sommelier is now pouring one of our 2013 Pinots.

Pinot Grigio change...

We've rolled over to the 2016 Estate Pinot Grigio which is drinking really nicely. Described as - well balanced with very good length, some complexity and a fully defined palate. Subtle, subdued flavours with deliciously fresh acidity.

Enjoy your wine. **John**