



Sunshine Coast chapter club night Report

Date: 15 October 2011 at 5.30 pm

Venue: Melrose on Fifth at Maroochydore

Theme: Barossa Valley versus Adelaide Hills

Most wine lovers have a favourite wine region or two. But what happens when two prominent Australian growing regions go head to head?

The Sunshine Coast branch of the Guild pitted Barossa Valley against Adelaide Hills at its October gathering – with a tasting of members and guests contributions, followed by brief addresses from advocates for each region.

Fifteen wines made it to the scoring sheet on the night – eleven of them from the Barossa versus four from the Adelaide Hills. Scoring details are at the end of the article.

John Gribble opened the debate, with a sales pitch for the Barossa. His simple plea, “let the wines speak for themselves”.

He argued for the Barossa’s famed qualities of big wines, beautifully made, and he finished as he started by urging the audience to judge the debate not on his advocacy but on the quality of the wines.

Peter Schofield’s pitch for the Adelaide Hills pointed out that the cooler (by an average of 5 degrees) climate of the Hills means slower ripening of the fruit, and more time for winemakers to concentrate on style. He also pointed out that Adelaide Hills’ growing areas support 210 vineyards, versus 140 for the Barossa. He argued that the Barossa’s image is built largely on big, blokey Shiraz while the Adelaide Hills is blessed by a great diversity of styles.

While Peter was speaking, he tried to seduce the voters by having a Hills’ sparkling circulated.

But there can only be one winner, and a show of hands gave the verdict to Barossa Valley by a single vote. For more information on each of the regions, check out the web sites:

- <http://www.winediva.com.au/regions/barossa-valley.asp>
- <http://www.winediva.com.au/regions/adelaide-hills.asp>

The wines for the night, as judged on a scale of nought to five by the enthusiastic attendees, and displayed from low score to high, were:

Adelaide Hills

Nepenthe "The Rogue" Shiraz/ cab /merlot	2009	3
Ashton Hills Sparkling	2008	3.2
Wicks Cabernet Sauvignon	2007	3.4
Penfolds Reserve Riesling	2007	3.4
Petaluma Chardonnay	?	3.5

Barossa Valley

Jacobs Creek Reserve Shiraz	2006	2.4
Annie's Lane Clare Valley Cab Merlot	?	2.6
Two Churches Riesling	2006	3
Mountadam Shiraz	2003	3.5
Grant Burge Merlot	2009	3.5
Rolf Binder Shiraz	2009	3.6
Langmeil Shiraz Cabernet	2008	3.7
Elderton Friends Shiraz	2006	3.8
Hares Chase Shiraz	2006	3.8
Rockford Basket Press Shiraz	2004	3.9

The region-versus-region theme of the night was deemed to be a great success, so the guild is looking for suggestions on further specific themes which can be developed for the 2012 calendar.

So suggestions so far include Australia-versus-overseas in a particular variety or blend, a champagne night, and further specific styles. It's up to members to make their suggestions.

Sunshine Coast members should keep in mind that their Wine Guild membership offers a variety of opportunities beyond our regular functions. They include functions in Brisbane, and winery trips where we get to go 'behind the scenes' with the winemakers and have a generally excellent time.

Our next function celebrates Christmas.

When: 26th November

Where: LEFTY'S Restaurant

51 Duporth Ave

Maroochydore.

Cost: \$50.00 a head for members, and \$60.00 non-members

3 Courses plus coffee. BYO Wine (no corkage)

Book in early (limited numbers)

RSVP : John Gribble 0419 574 749

gribbz69@hotmail.com

John Bourke 5443 8202

bourkes01@bigpond.com

Menu choices in a couple of weeks.

Finally, thanks to John Gribble and John Bourke for organising the October function, and as always thank you to the Body Corporate of Melrose on Fifth for the superb venue.