



MISTLETOE WINERY



HUNTER VALLEY AUSTRALIA

Merry Christmas

A big thank you to you our loyal members and supporters for your continuing association with Mistletoe. We take this opportunity to sincerely wish you, your families and loved ones all the very best for a safe and happy Christmas followed by a rewarding and healthy 2019.

Our warmest regards, **Ken, Gwen, Rob, Cassandra (aka Golden Child), Jessica and Natane.**



Season's Greetings from Mistletoe in the Hunter Valley

It's that Mistletoe time of the year again. Time to stock your cellar with some great wines to enjoy with your family and friends over Christmas and during the warmer weather.

VINTAGE 2018 UPDATE We have so many New Releases in this newsletter – 12 in total. We won't list them here – just look for the New Release stars in the following wine pages.

The 2018 Vintage has been exceptional for both reds and whites.

The Semillons are among the best we have ever produced and will be released early in 2019. That said, the 2017 Semillons are absolutely fantastic as well and have received many accolades.

New Releases include three 2018 Chardonnays, one of which is a new vintage of the Wild Chardonnay. As you would expect from such a great vintage, all 3 of these Chardonnays are great examples of lovely, superbly drinkable, Hunter Chardonnay made in the Mistletoe style.

We also have four Hunter Shiraz from 2017 vintage which are all exceptional.

Not great quantities of some of them so get in quick. Included in these 4 Shiraz is our 3rd only Grand Reserve Shiraz. In what we regard as testament to our vineyard management this wine was sourced entirely off the Mistletoe Home Vineyard.

We are simply ecstatic that our grapes are now performing that well. There is also a new wine for us, Hilltops Pinot Gris from 2018, and the old favourite, Hilltops Cabernet Merlot from the 2017 vintage.

NEW – 187ml BOTTLINGS

We have bottled some of each of the two wines mentioned immediately above into 187ml bottles.

We have realized that there are now a lot of single person households, partners who don't drink the same wines (e.g. red for one, white for the other) and also people who simply just



want a glass of good wine and don't want to open a 750ml bottle and waste it. You can also save the empty bottles, wash them thoroughly and use them to store left over wine from a larger bottle. Tasting notes are in the enclosed wine pages.

THE VINEYARD As with 2017, we experienced a very dry Winter but have received our first decent rain in over 5 months. The weather has been nearly a carbon copy of last year as is the vineyard at the time of writing in late - October.

The whole Valley is glowing in Spring growth and the vines at Mistletoe look absolutely magnificent.

We are still experiencing some quite cold nights with a lot of variance in temperatures. Pretty typical Spring weather.

At this early stage all is looking good for another great season. We are hoping for a repeat of the last two vintages as they have both been exceptional.

As we have mentioned previously the Hunter Valley is a very challenging place to grow good grapes on a consistent basis. This is because of the sub-tropical weather we quite often experience during the growing / ripening season.

We really do not need too much follow up rain between now and vintage. Even if it returns to very dry conditions we shall manage to get through from where we are currently.

MISTLETOE MAIL LIST MEMBERS,

enjoy very special pricing on the entire Mistletoe range. On a price paid to quality ratio Mistletoe wines offer **BETTER VALUE** and **BETTER DRINKING** in comparison to online bottle shops!

You also get to deal direct with the Winery where you will receive the very best attention from one our family members. Enrol now! www.mistletoewines.com.au **EXTRA SPECIALMEMBERS PRICING - ON STRAIGHT CASE PURCHASES.**



Mistletoe – Italian Odyssey 2018



Castello Grinzane Cavour

Ken and Gwen Sloan, the founding owners of Mistletoe Winery, travelled to Italy in August with one of Ken's Italian mates and his family.

Ken and his mate have been friends since the day they commenced high school together in 1959.

Ken says, while in Italy we had a chance to see quite a lot of vineyards and taste quite a few very reputable Italian wines including Barolos and Barbarescos from the Piedmont region.

The one thing we agreed upon after his experience was that Australia, and the Hunter Valley, do indeed produce some absolutely world class wines.

However, we don't have the history or the old buildings like Italy. One of the most outstanding places we visited was the Castello Grinzane Cavour, a castle that can trace its origins back to the 13th Century.

It is a truly fascinating building with its history of winemaking over the centuries.

There are many old winemaking artefacts on display including ancient Roman amphorae (see image) and a truly impressive lever basket press that was, in the main, hand hewn from timber. The centerpiece of the press is the lever which was one huge tree that would have to have weighed 20 tonnes or more. The screw that was used to drive the press was also hand made from timber.

The Castle, besides being on UNESCO's World Heritage List, is also home to the Wine and Health Observatory on the Responsible Consumption of wine. Its main purpose is to promote correct communication of the health giving properties of a responsible consumption of wine. Through scientific, epidemiological, biological and clinical research, it aims to counter all illogical parallels putting wine on the same level as spirits and drugs. Well worth a visit if you are in the region!



▲ Wine lever log press



◀ Roman Amphorae

