

August 2007 Newsletter

How fast the year is rolling by. As we prepared to put together our wine club members August packs, it came to light just how much has happened in the last 6 months at Tulloch. The activity began as we were actually in the swing of sending out member's February packs, when my youngest daughter, Christina, was married. We welcome her husband Alex the Texan into the Tulloch fold. Alex will have his hands full with Christina as she moves from strength to strength in the wine industry. Following on from her appointment as Secretary of the Hunter Valley Vineyard Association, Christina was promoted to General Manager of Tulloch Wines in April and in June she was named Rising Star of the Year at the inaugural Hunter Valley Wine Industry Awards. To round out her busy schedule she has also been selected to participate in the National Future Leaders Program for the Australian wine industry which begins in Adelaide in August.

Along with Christina's achievements, Tulloch was also thrilled to be recognized as Cellar Door of the Year at the inaugural Hunter Valley Wine Industry Awards. It was a great night for the cellar door and something all of the Tulloch team are rightly very proud of. To be recognized by your peers in this way is a wonderful achievement. While the cellar door continues to be busy on the domestic front, my son Jock has been taking the Tulloch name to the International stage in his role as Business Development Manager. With the ever increasing demand for Aussie wines overseas, he has spent a hectic 7 weeks touring trade shows and making valuable connections in Asia, Europe, Canada and the USA.

- Tulloch WINS Cellar Door of the Year, 2007 Hunter Valley Wine Industry Awards
- Tulloch WINS 2007 Cellar Door Garden Competition
- 9 Medals for Tulloch at the 2007 Hunter Valley Wine Show
- New Release: Tulloch 2005 Private Bin Pokolbin Dry Red Shiraz
- New Release: 2007 Marsanne & 2007 Viognier
- New Release: 2006 Merlot Cab & 2006 Petit Verdot

Looking to the vineyard, we are settling into Winter with the vines being pruned. The long overdue rains that fell in June have thoroughly drenched the vineyard and the dams are full for the first time in a many years. While we think of all the people in the Hunter region who suffered during the storms, it is business as usual in the vineyard area, with no real damage but lots of smiling winemakers and vineyard owners so pleased to see the desperately needed rain. We also saw the creek under the bridge into the cellar door running for the first time in many, many years and we are now looking forward to Spring and Summer when we will really reap the benefits of the wet.

NEW RELEASES: The past six months has had a real shiraz focus to it, with the long awaited release of the 2003 Limited Release Hector Shiraz and the relaunch of the classic Pokolbin Dry Red Private Bin Shiraz. Both wines are made in limited quantities and have been extremely popular, so it has been with much restraint that we have managed to keep just enough for our members to enjoy with their August delivery – and to hopefully tide them over until the new releases in 2008. If you aren't a member of the wine club, you can call the cellar door and place your name on a waiting list for the next releases of these wines. The success of these wines, along with our regular Pokolbin Dry Red, truly goes to show just how great the Hunter is for producing outstanding Shiraz.

While classic styles always lead our sales, there is an ever growing interest in the lesser known varieties. The cellar door and the 1895 Club provide you with the perfect opportunity to experience a selection of wines which we hope you will enjoy as much as we have enjoyed creating them. Coming off the back of one of the fastest vintages we have experienced in many years, we continue to believe that some of the best fruit we get is in these situations, when picking is early and without the threat of late Summer rains.

To the wines themselves! Already released is the 2007 Rose, as well as a brand new addition to the Tulloch range, with what is sure to become a crowd favourite, our 2007 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc blend. Also released in August, we have two new, less common but exciting varieties – Viognier and Petit Verdot. Viognier is a white grape that has traditionally been used as a blending varietal for both white and red wines. Today it is enjoying a rise in popularity as a stand alone style. It has rich aromatics and a long, soft palate and is best enjoyed in its youth. Petit Verdot has been introduced to replace one of our Cellar Door favourites, the Cabernet Franc. Sadly the vines themselves were no longer viable for the Cab Franc, but we don't believe you'll be at all disappointed with the Petit Verdot. It is a medium bodied style with ripe berry flavours, plum and even a hint of chocolate according to the Cellar Door staff. The best judge though, is of course, yourselves!

Many of you will be pleased to see the release of the much anticipated 2007 Marsanne. Again, it is a small quantity only, as this is one varietal that gives us lots of headaches in the vineyard. The outcome though is exceptionally pleasing and as they say, the proof is in the bottle! The final news on the wine front is the change from a straight Merlot to a richer blend of Merlot Cabernet, a style we are sure you will love.

For now cheers and happy drinking. J.Y. Tulloch