

News, views & latest releases *from* Te Mata Estate

Coleraine '07 Steals The Show

More than 1,000 people enjoyed 8,500 glasses of Te Mata Estate's wine during the *Showcase 2009* release and subsequent tastings.

The highly anticipated release started at the winery with a huge local crowd basking in the late summer sun. Whilst our newly launched Zara '08 created much discussion, it was Coleraine '07 that stole the show.

After Hawkes Bay, the Te Mata Estate team then went on to conduct a further 14 tastings around New Zealand. All of the new releases were highly praised but, again, Coleraine '07 received the standing ovation.

Critical praise quickly followed:

“Coleraine '07 is the finest wine ever made in New Zealand.”

Sam Kim, *Your Weekend, The Dominion Post*,
28 March 2009

“One runs out of superlatives to describe this wine... It's doubtful if there's a better example of a similar blend in Australia or New Zealand”

Winewise, Australia, April 2009

“New Zealand's greatest red wine ...mind bending.”

Huon Hooke, *The Sydney Morning Herald*,
20 June 2009

These reviews are just the beginning for a wine with a huge future. For anyone with an interest in New Zealand wine, you should experience Coleraine '07. To get hold of your Coleraine '07, email me on sally@temata.co.nz or visit our website at www.temata.co.nz

Coleraine '07 Balthazar Breaks The Record!

The Coleraine '07 Balthazar (12 litre bottle) broke all records for previous Te Mata Estate lots at the annual Midlands Hawkes Bay Charity Wine Auction, with a staggering \$6,100 raised.

By the end of the evening \$160,000 had been raised, making this one of the most successful wine auctions in its 18 year history. The auction has now donated over \$2 million to Cranford Hospice in total.

Congratulations to Mr John Armstrong of Waipukurau, the successful bidder for the Coleraine '07 Balthazar.



New Releases

Elston '08 – Worth the Wait

Elston lovers take note... the '08 is now available. Given a wonderful season with magnificent grapes, quality winemaking, and additional maturation, Elston '08 is an outstanding wine. With glorious fruit flavours, the '08 is hard to resist now; but for those with patience, Elston is worth the wait.

The heart of Te Mata Estate

We love Bordeaux blends and so do you; Woodthorpe Merlot/Cabernets remains our biggest selling wine. The quality of the '07 vintage reds shines through with the new release of Woodthorpe Merlot/Cabernets '07. Bursting with dark cherry and plum flavours with fine and even tannins, this is a rich and exquisite wine. Without question the best Woodthorpe Merlot/Cabernets we have made, this wine is perfect for those long winter nights and hearty comfort foods that we all seem to crave over the winter period (well, I know I do!).

Enjoy these new release wines in:

HEART AND SOUL \$240.00 SAVE \$40.80

6 Elston Chardonnay '08 and 6 Woodthorpe Merlot/ Cabernets '07

Around The World With Te Mata Estate

Our wines are now available in all corners of the world, in over 27 countries. New markets continue to open up from Finland to Fiji, so when you are next on your travels keep an eye out for our wines. For a full list of all countries where Te Mata Estate wine is available, see our International Distributors page on our website at www.temata.co.nz

As we go to print, our latest listing has just been confirmed with Woodthorpe Gamay Noir soon to appear on the wine list in each of Harvey Nichols eight restaurants and bars in the UK, including the fabulous London Knightsbridge flagship.

New Faces

We are delighted to announce that Stephanie Maggin has joined our cellar door team.

Stephanie has recently returned to Hawkes Bay after many years spent overseas, mainly in the UK (with a short time spent working in a fish house in Iceland!). Make sure when you are next in Hawkes Bay you pop into the cellar door and say hello to Stephanie.



When Less Is More

You asked and we listened. For the first time, a Te Mata Estate wine is now available in half bottles. The excellence of Awatea '07 is now even more accessible with these half bottles.

“Superb... The best Awatea yet”

**Huon Hooke, The Sydney Morning Herald,
20 June 2009**

How about a glass of Awatea tonight? Available through this newsletter or online at www.temata.co.nz at the special case price of \$199 (12 x 373ml).



Next month, watch out for new releases of the first wines from the '09 vintage, our ever popular Woodthorpe Gamay Noir and Woodthorpe Sauvignon Blanc. If you would like to pre-order these wines, then send me an email on sally@temata.co.nz

Sally

New Zealand Cabernet/Merlot Lights Up The World Stage...

Give yourself a pat on the back — you picked a winner before the world woke up.

Since the Circle of Wine Writers invited us to open the London International Wine Fair back in 2007, with a vertical of Coleraine and tasting of Hawkes Bay Cabernet/Merlot, the international stature of New Zealand's Cabernet/Merlot has grown in leaps and bounds.

That same year, UK wine writers Steven Spurrier and Hugh Johnson publicly identified the qualities of these blended reds, opening the door for others to follow. Spurrier declared New Zealand, particularly Hawke's Bay, as “the natural home of the claret lover”.

In early 2008, Neal Martin's reviews for Robert Parker's publications endorsed many Hawkes Bay Cabernet/Merlots to an international audience, with multiple 90+ scores. Te Mata Estate, in particular, was singled out for praise. In November that year, Hawkes Bay hosted the inaugural New Zealand Cabernet/Merlot Forum where growers, winemakers, and sellers celebrated this new found acclaim for their wines.

Hawkes Bay's Gimblett Gravels group followed this up with a comparative tasting in Taupo against top flight Bordeaux and, encouraged by their good showing, decided to repeat the exercise in London in 2009, for an audience of UK wine professionals. Again the wines surprised, prompting praise for their quality and similarity to the best of Bordeaux.

In March, our Coleraine '07 release even forced the Aussies to concede, “it's doubtful if there's a better example of a similar blend in Australia or New Zealand”. You know that has to hurt!

Seizing the opportunity, New Zealand Winegrowers held a seminar on the quality of the '07 reds at the London Wine Fair in May. Our John Buck spoke on Cabernet/Merlot's rising star to a packed audience of media and trade, as they enjoyed Coleraine and other fine New Zealand reds.

The momentum is building with a repeat of Winegrower's London seminar taking place in Melbourne this month and the next Cabernet/Merlot Forum confirmed for January 2010.

The secret about New Zealand's Cabernet/Merlot may well be out of the bag but, as a buyer of Te Mata Estate wine, you knew it first.

Nicholas Buck

Winter 2009 Case Selections...

AWATEA '07 HALF BOTTLES

12 Awatea Cabernets/Merlot '07 373ml bottles

\$199.00



HEART & SOUL - \$240.00

6 Woodthorpe Merlot/Cabernets '07

6 Elston Chardonnay '08

Save \$40.80




Te MATA
ESTATE
www.temata.co.nz

Vintage 2009

2009 was the hottest season for the last ten years and the driest since 1973, giving us another superb quality vintage.

Mild spring weather led to budburst occurring about ten days earlier than usual in early September. The rest of September continued mild and dry, with some days reaching 25 degrees. The warm to hot conditions carried on through October and November with only one day of rain.

Flowering was completed earlier than usual in all varieties by the first week of December, and December continued on with hot summer days. The lack of rain meant that by Christmas some of our vineyards were requiring irrigation. On the vines, shoot growth had stopped in all blocks which is a critical requirement for growing quality red wines.

The warm and dry weather continued throughout the rest of the summer, with the thermometer often showing 30 degrees or above. Our decision in December to leave more than usual leaves on the white grapes, to protect them from excessive temperatures, proved wise, as the heat continued all summer.

We began harvest in perfect weather on 26 February (one of the earliest starts on record). A week later, on 8 February, we had 60mm rain followed by a week of cooler weather, but with no further rain to the end of picking. The rain day had the effect of steadying the vintage. The tremendously favourable growing season had made us apprehensive that the red grapes would ripen all at once, even before the whites were finished. But, after the rain day, ripening slowed for a while and we harvested the reds in a very orderly manner, with picking finishing on Saturday 18 April.

The 2009 vintage is showing wonderfully fruity white wines, ripe to very ripe dark red wines with pronounced floral fruity notes and elegant tannins.

Peter Cowley