

McKellar Ridge Newsletter

January 2010

Cellar Door

Our cellar door has re-opened after a relaxing Xmas-New Year break and we have been busy planning a program for 2010 (see attached). It includes special wine tastings and events, which, we hope you will find interesting. However, you don't have to wait for a special event, come on out any Sunday between 12 and 5pm. We'd love to see you.



Vintage 2010



The vines are developing well this vintage, with 70mm rain over Xmas/New Year being just what the Doctor (Brian) ordered. We also had good follow-up rain last week as well, so the vines have very good leaf colour and growth which will lay down the carbohydrates needed for good grape development and ripening - all the criteria for a great 2010 vintage.

We expect to begin vintage at the end of February with the picking of the Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling (a new wine for us in 2010!). The picking of the reds will be mid March to the end of April. If any friends want to assist with picking or come out and see the winemaking in action, please let us know by return email and we will try to fit you in.

Forthcoming Events

Riesling Benchmark Tasting - Sunday 7th February at 2pm

This tasting is part of an ongoing series of Sunday afternoon Benchmark Tastings of different wines from Australia and around the world.



We have selected a number of the best Rieslings from France, Germany and Australia. The tasting series is designed to identify the fruit and flavour

structure of wines from different terroirs. The tasting costs \$20 per head and includes a Hugel Riesling from Alsace, Grosset Polish Hill from Clare, Pipers Brook from Tasmania, Shaw and Smith from the Adelaide Hills and a selection from our own Canberra District. Please call Brian or Janet on 62581556 to book a place, as attendance is limited to 20 places.

Vertical Tasting - Special Event for Friends of McKellar Ridge (not advertised to the wider public) - Sunday 28th February

We have dusted off the wines and put together a vertical collection of our Shiraz-Viognier from 2005 to 2008. There could also be a barrel sample of the 2009 if Brian can be persuaded to open one up. As a special event for friends of McKellar Ridge you are invited to a BBQ and vertical tasting beginning at 1pm. Cost will be \$10 per head. Come and see the evolution of our wines as they have matured in the bottle and as we have adjusted the proportion of Viognier in the wine.

Favourable Reviews

We are pleased to report that we have continued to receive favourable reviews for our wines, with Chris Shanahan including them in his Top Drops column in the Canberra Times of January 17th and Huon Hooke including our 2009 Sauvignon Blanc in his Top 100 New Releases in the forthcoming February/March issue of the *Gourmet Traveller Wine* magazine.

In October/November 2009 issue of the same magazine, he included two of our wines for top ratings - our 2008 Shiraz-Viognier and our 2008 Merlot-Cabernet Franc.

Blogging

McKellar Ridge Wines has been brought into the 21 century - with one of our valued customers including a blog of our wines in a special group website - <http://thesydneytarts.blogspot.com/search?q=mckellar+ridge>

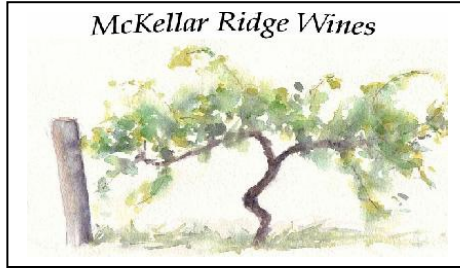
The blog reviews Clonakilla, Helm and our wines, giving Canberra District wines a good rap - have a look at our wines there, it's an interesting review!

Kind Regards

Brian and Janet



McKellar Ridge Wines



2010

February

7th (Sunday)
28th (Sunday)

Riesling Benchmark tasting
Sip and Savour - Vertical tasting of
5yrs of McKellar Ridge Shiraz Viognier

March

14th (Sunday)

McKellar Ridge supports Smith Family Day at Government
House (Cellar door closed)

April

10th/11th

Harvest Festival - winery open Saturday and Sunday

May

2nd (Sunday)
23rd (Sunday)

Merlot and blends Benchmark Tasting
Shiraz Regional Masked Tasting

June

6th (Sunday)
20th (Sunday)

En Primeur tasting of 2009 reds
Last open day at cellar door before winter recess

August

29th (Sunday)

Cellar door reopens

September

12th (Sunday)

Cabernet and blends Regional Masked Tasting

October

2nd & 3rd
TBA

Murrumbateman Moving Feast
Rocksalt Dinner

November

6th & 7th
28th

Wine and Roses Festival - open Saturday and Sunday
Christmas Party