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**August Wine of the Month** – Tiedenbrunner, Kirchleiten Sauvignon Blanc Alto, Adige, Italy.  
Waitrose £14.24

### **Club News**

- **Decanter Fine Wine Show.** See Naomi if you are interested in joining a group visit on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November to the Decanter Fine Wine Show at the Landmark Hotel, Marylebone. 12 tickets available at £42 each (normal price for a single ticket £50). First come, first served basis with cheques to Naomi.
- Tickets now on sale for the CAWC Christmas Party. A completely new format this year ....expect a lighthearted and fun evening! This will be a seated event. See Sandy for tickets, priced at £17.50 each.
- Still Wanted! ... cupboard - metal (preferred) or wood to be used for storing CAWC tablecloths, spittoons etc in the village hall shed. A 2 door office cabinet would be ideal. Wardrobe would be considered. Please contact a member of the Committee if you have, or know of one going spare.

### **This Month**

Sommeliers Choice return to the Club. This time for an evening of Spanish wine.

### **Next Month Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

Julia Jenkins will be putting us through our paces to determine if it's really worth the extra .

### **Chairman's Jottings....**

I think the tactic used to be - first a straight left, and then while the opponent was dazed, or at least taken aback, follow up with a quick right and left hook. Result - knock out. Or maybe you prefer a slightly more mundane analogy - you wait for ages for one, and then 3 come along at once. A comment normally reserved for buses, of course, but equally usable for comments about a given subject.

Anyway, whatever the analogy, it is interesting that having identified a couple of months ago that one of our pre-eminent wine critics was challenging the use of the Shiraz grape in the Barossa, (suggesting that Grenache would produce better wines in that location) the whole wine press seems to be teeming with similar observations.

Firstly in the shape of praise for Grenache from Stephen Spurrier (yes indeed - the very same Spurrier who organized the Paris Wine tasting of 1976, where Californian wines shocked the French wine world, by performing so well against top growth French wines in a blind tasting - actually most say that the Californian wines beat the French, but the French have taken a lot of time denying this over the years. See the film "Bottle Shock" for an allegedly totally inaccurate interpretation of the whole affair !!!).

So - where was I - oh yes - Grenache - interestingly the French seem to have forgiven the aforementioned Stephen, since he was chairing, of all things, a 3 day Grenache symposium - imagination boggles! And during this event he made the point that Grenache, whilst being smooth, warm and ripe, imparting good spiciness, and thriving in hot areas, avoids the jamminess that can be a feature of hot weather Shiraz.

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Anyway, that was the right hook, whilst the left hook came from elsewhere, where another wine guru was writing about the emergence of Syrah - in New Zealand !!: the Gimblett Gravels sub region of Hawkes Bay being the preferred spot. It's warm there of course, but not as much as the Barossa, and the point is made that NZ will produce Syrah, not Shiraz. I look forward to it.

So, will that be the end of it for the moment, or will this one run and run, I wonder?

In the mean time, it's been an interesting and very rewarding wine month for me - I hope the same for you too. Firstly a couple of icewines (eiswein if you prefer) from Canada (Jackson Triggs and Inniskillin). Definitely sweet, but almost completely lacking in the acidic balance that makes Sauternes, or Trockenberenauslese great wines - so no more of those for me, thank you. Then a 1991 Chateau Haut-Serre from Cahors, which had held up beautifully - still fresh but tannins completely integrated: and a 2002 Nuits St Georges, which was absolutely beautiful, even though relatively young, which is encouraging: and a comparative tasting of 4 Cabernets. 2 Chilean (1999 and 2002 Cousino Macul), a 2000 Tasmanian (Domaine A) and another Chilean - a Cabernet/Syrah blend from 2009. All really excellent wines, with the Domaine A, I think I remember right (!!), being judged the best by a short head.

All of these experiences were as a consequence of visiting, or being visited by, friends. Ah - what it is to have friends who have good wines !!

Incidentally, I discovered Domaine A as a result of attending a Decanter Fine Wine tasting at the Landmark a couple of years ago. They will be exhibiting there again this year - the date is Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November if you want to come as part of the CAWC group (we are hoping to get a dozen together, so we can get tickets reduced to £42 per head - down from a single entry price of £50 per person). I can promise you a real treat.

### What's going on.....



25-26 September, Stanlake Park, Twyford, Berkshire are holding a free wine & cheese tasting event to mark the start of the 2010 harvest. Stanlake Park has received over 50 awards for their wines in recent years including a Gold Medal at this year's English and Welsh Wine of the Year Competition.

For more information, [www.stanlakepark.com](http://www.stanlakepark.com)

CAWC has been given an exclusive 10% discount on all purchases made in the Stanlake Park Cellar Shop during 25-26 September on presentation of the attached voucher.

11 September. Why not join a historical Culinary walking tour of Mayfair. A City of Westminster guide will introduce you to the gastronomic delights of London's most exclusive area including historic pubs, restaurants and tea shops. Organised by Tastour. Go to [www.tastour.co.uk](http://www.tastour.co.uk) for further details.



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### News.....

- The average price for a bottle of wine in the UK has increased by 13p from last year to £4.40. The Nielsen figures also showed New Zealand as the only main wine producing country which saw a fall in average prices from £6.39 to £6, thanks in part to supermarket discounting. However New Zealand wines still have the highest average price at £1 dearer on average than the next most expensive country.
- Price increases in the UK however doesn't necessarily reflect success for the wineries. Overproduction in Italy, together with the economic situation has led to an all time low for some harvests. Barbera and Dolcetto are as low as 20-30 cents/litre.... lower than the cost of production, leading some producers to not bother harvesting at all.
- English Sparking Wine goes from strength to strength with Ridgeview taking the top sparkling wine trophy at the Decanter World Wine Awards. Ridgeview's Grosvenor Blanc de Blancs 2006 beat competition from five Champagnes, including the Taittinger Prélude NV, Charles Heidsieck Millésime 2000 and Thienot's Brut Rosé NV.

### Travellers Tales.....

A rather autumnal feel greeted me on my return from the Basque Country last week....sun, sea and Rioja now just a distant memory. However Sans Sebastian....the heart of Spanish Gastronomy is a great reminder of how good food, good wine and good company is ...well ....what life is all about.

For those who haven't been, I can thoroughly recommend Sans Sebastian. And if you do happen to find yourself there, go easy on the lunchtime tapas and save yourself for the tasting menu at La Muralla - excellent! [www.restaurantelamuralla.com](http://www.restaurantelamuralla.com).

### Set-Up Rota

October	Help.....
November	Help.....
December	Committee
January	Help.....

### Catering

Thank you to Graham, Sue and Gill for providing the food this month.

October	Pippa & John
November	Roz & Trevor and Helen
December	Committee
January	Mike Rosemeyer and Paul Kelly

### Diary Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Julia Jenkins - Flagship wines	Is it worth the extra?
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Indigo Wines	Southern France
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party	Christmas Party



Driving? ....Please use the spittoons provided and ask the pourers for less.  
For the facts, go to [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)

