

## Newsletter September 2026

### Upcoming Meeting: Australia (minus Shiraz!)

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September: 8:00pm Village Hall: Jamie Smith – The Online Wine Tasting Club**

**From David**

Dear members and guests,

Next month we attempt a daring rescue mission to promote the vinicultural reputation of an entire continent. Mention Australian table wine to a village hall of Buckinghamshire wine enthusiasts, and some may experience a flashback to 1990s dinner parties spoiled by over-oaked fruit bombs that could strip paint and leave you with a hangover before dessert hits the table. For years, the Aussie wine narrative has been influenced by experiences of a jammy Shiraz vinted with the subtlety of a kangaroo in a boomerang shop, or an oaked Chardonnay that resembles sipping eucalyptus bark.

Instead, Jamie will present a seven-wine flight specifically curated as evidence that Down Under is capable of elegance, finesse, and remarkable restraint when left to its own devices. Whether gliding through bone-dry, razor-sharp Clare Valley Rieslings, cool-climate Yarra Valley Chardonnays, or Tasmanian Pinot Noirs that would make a Burgundian nod in reluctant approval, we can expect a line-up designed to politely inform your inner wine critic that Australia has evolved past the dark days of syrup-textured reds. So, cast aside any previous experiential adversity, and join us after the bank holiday Monday safely knowing that nothing in tonight's flight could be described as a "wine for laying down and avoiding" or carrying the subtle bouquet of a stock herder's leather boots. A relaxation in my work commitments mean I should be able to attend next month.

### About Our Presenter

Jamie Smith is a Certified Sommelier, Certified Specialist of Wine, and WSET Educator and Winner of the International Wine & Spirit Competition's *Emerging Talent in Wine* award for 2021. This accolade has qualified him as an official judge for the International Wine Challenge and the Independent English Wine Awards. Over 20 years working in the wine industry includes experience with fine dining wines, wine importing, training, and consultancy, and a decade spent working in the United States before the tariffs went crazy!

As founder of The Online Wine Tasting Club, Jamie brings the world of excellent wines to clubs like ours through fun, accessible and interactive tastings. Jamie has spent many years working with wineries and wine makers around the world, discovering great wines and sharing the stories behind them.



## Website Booking

All booking must be done via the website to secure your place. The number of tables (and therefore the number of tickets available on sale) will be reduced depending on the number of bookings on the Sunday just before the event - so please book early to ensure you secure your places. This is to prevent purchasing too much food for the night. There will be some residual places available, and these will be on sale right until the evening itself for any last-minute bookings. **If the event is sold out, please send an email to [webmaster@chalfamwineclub.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@chalfamwineclub.org.uk) to be placed on the waiting list.**



If you have a credit note from a previous cancellation, please do remember to use this on your next booking!

### Guests:

In the final week before an event, members can book additional places to bring guests (subject to there being spaces remaining!). Please do not book for guests before this time as earlier bookings are for members only – any guests booked before this time will be removed from the booking.

### Refunds:

Refunds/credit notes can be issued if members (or their guests) become unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. This applies up to 24 hours before the evening (8pm on the Monday). Refunds/credit notes are not possible after this point unless there is another member on the waiting list who is able to take the place – **so please do let us know if you are unable to attend even at very short notice** as this may enable another member from the waiting list to come in your place. This is because the club will have finalised the orders for the evening. As issuing refunds to cards costs the club money, we kindly ask that if possible, a credit note is issued in preference to a full refund.

If there are any problems accessing the website or completing a booking, please email me at [webmaster@chalfamwineclub.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@chalfamwineclub.org.uk) and I will do everything I can to assist.

