



June 2010 Newsletter

Another late news letter! And again with very good reason; been gone. With harvest over and pruning well under way its time to visit overseas markets, if not to sell wine at least to be warm and eat some different food.

I have just returned from a wonderful week in China where despite my best intentions to produce a news letter while on the road there were so many things going on one didn't materialize

So am back in the lab looking at wines in barrel and writing this

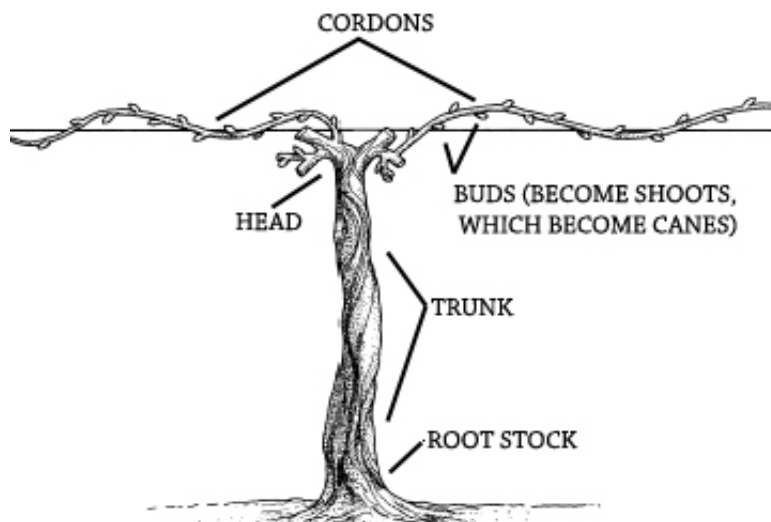
In a quick summary of my second China trip I would have to agree with P.M. John Key (who followed me over there) China is our future. The sleeping Giant has woken.

Back to the news letter, my natural inclination is to write about what is happening in the vineyard, but the words would almost be identical to last June's newsletter, so I recommend reading that again as a reminder and save me some typing.

There are things happening with the wines though, not so much the Pinot Noir which is happily developing in barrel, but with the Rieslings, yes plural, in 2010 we made two Rieslings in very different styles.

The 2010 "Old Vine Riesling" was just bottled last week and is a continuation of the dry Riesling we have been making from some countries oldest Riesling vines in Black Ridges Alexandra Vineyard. Cropping even lower than in previous years, it ripened perfectly and was picked before any of the heavy late autumn rains Central Otago had.

Our other Riesling only exists because of those rains; a block of Riesling left on the vines through the rain and developed some of the purest botrytis I've ever seen.



It is currently in tank where we have been monitoring the fermentation, today it will be stopped at about 9% alcohol and 180grams/litre sugar, already its flavours are of very concentrated dried apricot and Muscat raisins. It will be quite a special wine and only possible because of the right alignment of stars, moon, planets and who knows what else, were are excited by the wine itself but equally excited to still be making wine in July!

"Stretching the fun out as much as possible" is Valli's new motto.

Man cannot live on red alone, so keep an eye out for these Rieslings, like the Pinots they are only bottled if we think they are going to be exceptional.

Cheers,

Grant