

Murray ESTATE

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Vineyard, Winery, Cellar Door Sales

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FROM UNDER THE GRAPE VINE

Newsletter Vol. 1 June 2007



Hello and welcome to our new-look Murray Estate newsletter! We really value your custom and friendship, and want to keep you up-to-date with news and to find ways to show our appreciation of you.

Murray Estate was a long-term dream come true for my wife Sue and I, when we established ourselves in 1997. I undertook the Diploma in Viticulture with Melbourne University and am now completing the university's Diploma in Wine Technology to further expand my winemaking knowledge.

It is my pleasure to be president of Sun Country Wineries, which exists for mutual support and to share resources such as festival sites, bulk buying and advertising. We are all also part of the 19-operator Sun Country Farm Gate Trail brochure, which aims to attract more visitors to buy direct from producers. As many of you will know, being part of an active, enthusiastic business network and a supportive community is a win-win for everyone concerned!

Call us at any time and meanwhile we hope you are taking as much delight in our wines as we do!

John and Sue Weinert

Our new-look newsletter is produced by Gwen Potter of TekMedia. Gwen, a highly experienced journalist and public relations consultant, works extensively with business and tourism in Victoria and NSW. Contact: (03) 5482 4932 or 0438 387 094.

New Merlot is out – get in quick!

We are as excited as new parents – our first-ever Merlot is being released this month. Merlot grapes are challenging to grow and we are very proud of this limited batch of 360 bottles from the 2005 vintage. The wine is big and full-bodied with plum jam flavours and lots of colour. It appears to have very good ageing qualities.

Our 2004 Shiraz was released back in February this year and is looking very good. It makes up for sadly seeing the last of our 2002 Shiraz.

Still plenty of chances to order our 2002 Cabernet Sauvignon, the feedback on which has been most favourable indeed. Wine lovers have been describing it as “really nice, great licorice or molasses flavours.” Some of this Cab Sav has found its way to California, no less, while 18 months ago our Brut Reserve was travelling as far as Florida, as well as all around Australia.

Stop Press! Opening hours change!

Want to have a tasting at a special time? We have changed to appointment-only at the Cellar Door, but this means lots more flexibility. Call us with your weekend, week day or evening suggestion and we'll work out a mutually convenient time.



Great to see everyone relaxing at our marquee at the recent Tastes of Tatura (above).

“Wine is bottled poetry.” – Scottish novelist and poet, Robert Louis Stevenson

Great drinking for you from a very tough year

It's good news – the Murray Estate wines from the 2007 vintage are going to be brilliant, despite our exceptionally tough year, climatically.

And we have our first-ever Merlot being released – see our announcement above.

The harder the conditions, the better the wines get in colour and complexity. Quantities for 2007 are well down, but our Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Riesling are in the barrels and they are going to be magnificent – watch for these '07 labels in two years.

Looking back over the year, the winter of 2006 was cold and dry with no rain until spring. We had to irrigate to encourage budburst for the first time since we established our vineyard 10 years ago. Luckily we have bore water on the property.

Spring stayed dry. Then very severe frosts, in September but particularly in October, affected us, with all our Chenin Blanc grapes being wiped out. Irrigation continued all summer, but it is nowhere near as good as rain, and overall we achieved only one-third of our normal crop. Merlot grapes were particularly affected. We hand-picked three weeks earlier because of the heat and dryness.

It's our quiet time now and we await the first frosts which will stop the sap and allow us to begin pruning.

Note: A special “thank you” to Peter, a valued customer who helped to pick. He simply said he would “love to try that” and arrived promptly at 7 am to start! Greatly appreciated, Peter.