



the bullionaire

BULLION 200

Covid will not stop us drinking good booze...



Kerri Greens Vineyard

Dan Sharp works at the Wine Library in Sydney.

Prior to this he worked at Fred's and before that he was the Head Sommelier at Sixpenny, where he was Gourmet Travellers Sommelier of the Year in 2017. To get his hands dirty so to speak, he also worked a vintage at Pegasus Bay winery in NZ.

Dan continues to travel the world honing his craft and if not in Fred's, can be found in a winery or vineyard somewhere in the world, or at University where he is studying for his Aeronautical Engineering Degree. A busy boy indeed!



Hard to believe 2020 is almost finished. I am writing this newsletter in mid November with a lot of things still up in the air. COVID is still the elephant in the room, Donald Trump, whilst losing the Presidency is hanging around kind of and the borders between NSW and QLD are still closed. It really does make one want to turn to the booze.

Dan Sharp is the Sommelier this time and he has been with us for several years and I really value his palate and his intellect. A great person to spend a few hours with, which I did when we selected these wines together.

Dan had chosen two Italian and two Australian wines, continuing our trend of Australian wines over the past 12 months. It really is no surprise, the quality has never been better. In Australia, he has gone with a Chardonnay from the Mornington Peninsula and a Cabernet from Margaret River. Where in Italy he has gone with a Nebbiolo from Piedmont and a Ripasso from Veneto, both in Northern Italy.

KERRI GREENS HICKSON CHARDONNAY *Mornington Peninsula, VIC*

The Kerri Greens winery was established in 2013 when two friends and winemakers invested in a neglected vineyard originally planted in 1982. The Kerri Greens philosophy has become entrenched in the vineyard ever since, as they have gone on to purchase 2 more sites across the Mornington Peninsula using sustainable and organic principles.

We have said this before, Australian Chardonnay is world class and this is a great example, if a little bit of a throwback. You see there is a tendency for our winemakers to make a leaner style of Chardonnay, scaling back on the full flavoured buttery style of the late 1980's and early 1990's. Now this wine is nothing like that, and is a very modern take on Chardonnay, but it is a full-bodied style with plenty of oak and a touch of creaminess (yes butter) from the Malolactic fermentation.



2018 HUTTON GRAFFITI CABERNET SAUVIGNON *Margaret River, WA*

Hutton is an example of what the French call a "Garigiste Winemaker", literally making wine out of their garage on a small scale. Only 100 cases of this wine were produced, which is tiny. A lot of wineries would use this quantity in the Cellar door for tastings. His family planted a vineyard in the Margaret River in 1975, but it wasn't until 2005, when Michael Hutton made 2 barrels of Cabernet in his Garage that this small but very impressive label was created.

This wine is inky black, and the aromas of blackcurrant and cigar boxes leap out of the glass. A really impressive wine and drinking a lot better than its price. At least in comparison to the Margaret River, where I have seen other wines of this quality selling for between \$60-\$70.



2018 VALPOLICELLA RIPASSO CLASSICO SUPERIORE *Veneto, Italy*

Giuseppe Campagnola has a very modern winery and access to 80 hectares of vineyards in the Valpolicella area of Veneto. The wine is a combination of 80 % Corvina and 20% Rondinella made in the Ripasso Style. Ripasso is a technique using the leftover grape skins from the fermentation of Amarone are added to the batch of Valpolicella wines for a short period time. This re-fermentation process (Ripasso, or passed over) gives the wine greater structure, colour, flavour and weight. It is a full-bodied, juicy red, brimming with aromas and flavours of black cherry, mixed berries, plum and pepper. A velvety texture, gentle tannins and a long finish will make you want to open a second bottle.



2018 MAURO MOLINO NEBBIOLO *Langhe, Piedmont*

Often regarded as Barolo's little brother, Langhe offers a more approachable, softer expression of the Nebbiolo grape from the Piedmont region. Mauro Molino makes this wine in a young, fresh style to showcase the beauty and intricate complexities of the grape variety.

This wine is made from 10-30-year-old vines with only 1,000 cases being produced. A subtle and considered approach to winemaking brings to the fore intoxicating aromas of bright red cherries, dried herbs and the charming hints of roses and violets that are so typical of the Nebbiolo grape. The first sip offers plum, tart cherry and dried fruit flavours along with fresh acidity, gentle tannins and a smooth mouthfeel.



Enjoy the wines! **Matt**



Stu Freeman and Matt Eagan, The Bullion Cellars Team



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