



'07 Vintage Roundup

Well, the drought and the bust in the wine industry finally got the better of us!

Pressure from our interests out west in the flat country at Moree and lack of water in Copeton Dam forced us



to lease the vineyard to John Cassegrain of Cassegrain Wines at Port Macquarie. However, this is not an enormous change as John has been buying all our excess fruit since our first vintage in 2004.

Nor will it make any difference to our wine offer-

ing as we will continue to give John small parcels of our best fruit to make the wines that will make up the Topper's Mountain & Thunderbolt's labels.

Topper's Mountain Vineyard is managed under the lease by Nigel McDonald from Richfield Estate near Tenterfield with the more than able assistance of Stafford Youman, who lives at Topper's Mountain.

The '07 vintage was pretty good one as we missed the frosts which did so much damage early in the season and we had plenty of water in our large dam to give the vines the couple

of small drinks they needed toward the end of the season. Yields were;

- ◆ Tempranillo - 5.4t/Ha
- ◆ Chardonnay - 9.1t/Ha
- ◆ Gewurztraminer-7.8t/Ha
- ◆ Merlot - 3.3t/ha

The total vintage was 60.1t off 9.4Ha which is 6.4t/ha or 2.6t/ac average.



Part of the pruning crew, our daughter Grace, in the Riesling block. You can see that the vines have been mechanically pre-pruned with hand clean-up still to be done.

1st quarterly draw of 1/2 doz for Wine Club members!

Most of you put your names down to enter our quarterly draw for 1/2 dozen bottles of Topper's Mountain wines.

Well, we have finally gotten around to the first draw after much procrastination and not much time developing our random number

generator i.e. the handle on the pokie!!

And the lucky first up winner is

Marian Johnston of Grafton.

Good on you Marian, we trust that you will thor-

oughly enjoy your win with family & friends.

Tell your friends and ask them to email me their details if they would like to join our Wine Club and become eligible for the quarterly draw.

Next draw— end September



I invite you to contact me;

- If you have any comment or questions on our vineyard, our wines, our service and such issues
- If you have any suggestions (or dread the thought - corrections) to the Newsletter
- If you have anything you would like to pass on to other Wine Club members
- If you have anything all you would like to say or bring to my attention.

toppers mountain
new england



TOPPER'S MOUNTAIN (near TINGHA) is probably named after brothers of George and W. Topper, employees of Inman Valley Winery (Dalwood, 1890s) and William Wills (1850s). Available from the W. Topper's Winery, 1890s. Available from the W. Topper's Winery, 1890s.

Local History

TOPPER'S MOUNTAIN WINES

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This is the gravestone of Joseph Wills, who discovered tin in the area in about 1870. Wills was a shepherd and his grave is in the cemetery at "Newstead" near Elsmore. The inscription reads;

*"Here lies poor Wills who found out tin,
But very little did he win,
He paved the way for others gains,
And died neglected for his pains.
This stone is erected to his memory by a few friends"*

"Newstead" is where Tom Roberts stayed as a guest of the Anderson clan while painting "The Golden Fleece" (1895),

"Bailed Up" (~1895) & "In a corner on the Macintyre" (~1896). "Bailed Up" depicts Thunderbolt (Fred Ward) holding up the Armidale to Inverell coach in the 1860s - this is the same Thunderbolt after whom our wine is named..

'06 & '07 Bottlings.

The drought issues mentioned in the '07 Vintage Roundup on p1 also played havoc with our '06 vintage bottling - there wasn't one!



De Pury cooper in about 1885

However, we are catching up. Some '06

wines and one '07 wine will be bottled in mid-July and will be available in mid August.

The wines being bottled are;

- ⇒ '06 topper's Mountain Gewurztraminer
- ⇒ '07 topper's Mountain Gewurztraminer
- ⇒ '06 topper's Mountain Chardonnay
- ⇒ '06 topper's Mountain Tempranillo
- ⇒ '06 thunderbolt's 'Combo' Dry Red (Merlot Cabernet Malbec blend)

And just in time for Xmas, we will bottle our newest line - '06 Touriga Vintage Fortified (not allowed to call it Vintage Port anymore!)

And from previous vintages, now with some nice age beginning to show, we have;

- ⇒ '05 topper's Mountain Chardonnay
- ⇒ '05 topper's Mountain Traminer
- ⇒ '05 thunderbolt's Riesling Traminer



Our new website

We are in the process of upgrading our website. Those of you who have had a look will notice that it is very basic!

The new website will include;

- ◆ On-line purchase of our wines and Gwydir Grove Olive Oil
- ◆ Live weather data from the vineyard at Tingha
- ◆ Tasting notes and other info on our wines, and their viticulture & wine-making.
- ◆ Hopefully, a webcam of the vineyard.
- ◆ And much more as it develops!

Thanks for your attention and interest in our wines.

..till our next newsletter or your next purchase!.

Mark Kirkby

