

Winter 2008

Vintage 2009 Issue 1



TOPPER'S MOUNTAIN WINES

# Vintage 2009

Winter is a surreal time in our vineyard I think. On one hand, we get beautiful winters days where it is a pleasure to be out in the vineyard pruning; but the constant

quickly! Anyway, pruning is finished and we wait for the first tentative green shoots of the new vintage with misty breath.

you remember how wet early autumn was for us! This is an intense wine with plenty of pepper & mint and a relatively high alcohol; higher than I would like, but we have to deal with what Mother Nature is kind enough to bless us with! This wine will need a year or more in oak barrels, so we have plenty of time to see it develop.



The fruit of our labours (photo—Simon Hughes)

The '08 reds are looking good and getting better by the week as they slumber in oak barrels. The '08 Thunderbolt's Dry White

is released as I type (more details below).

pressure to get the pruning completed before budburst detracts from the pleasure a little! On the other hand, we get these misty, bitter days where your fingers are always numb and the only sensible place to be is curled up in bed. And the transition from one lot of weather to the other happens blindingly

Of particular interest is the '08 Shiraz which was grown with no chemicals to control Botrytis. Quite a feat when



Another misty, cold winters morning—no pruning for a while! (photo—Mark Kirkby)

## 5th quarterly draw of 1/2 doz for Wine Club members!

Our lucky winners are .....

**Gudrun Dieberg & Oscar Cacho**

of Armidale. Gudrun & Oscar both work at the University of New England. Gudrun teaches Anatomy & Physiology & Oscar, Agricultural

Economics

I met Gudrun & Oscar a Duval College (a UNE residential college) fundraiser a long time ago!

Tell your friends of our Wine Club and ask them to email me their details if

they would like to join and become eligible for the quarterly draw.

Next draw will be in the Budburst (spring) Newsletter at the end of November 2008.



## 2008 VINTAGE FIRST RELEASE!

Our 2008 Thunderbolt's "Beeswing" Dry White was released last week. It is a Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc blend with a beautiful herbal & fruity nose followed by a long, crisp finish with nicely balanced acid. \$16/bottle(+ frt) available in straight or mixed 1/2 or full dozens.

toppers mountain  
new england



TOPPER'S MOUNTAIN (near T. DROBINSKI in  
Probably named after brother of George  
and W. Jones, employees of Union Valley)  
Bottleage (coloured glass) as Wynaham  
in the 1890's. All about the wine world  
http://www.wine.com.au

## Tingha wines in 1900!

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and other varieties of Australian Wines, spec-  
ially recommended for invalids.

### THOS. JONES

EDEN HEIGHTS VINEYARD, TINGHA  
DEPOT, OTHO-STREET, INVERELL,

Next to Mr. THOMAS' Chemist Shop.

N.B.—FRESH GRAPES sent per Mail  
Coach reliably packed. Orders attended to.

*Inverell Times, Saturday 24th March  
1900 (courtesy Dickson Library UNE &  
Susan Moore)*

Not that different to today really, when you take away the old fonts and the outdated technology such as the mail coach, is it?

This is an advertisement from the Inverell Times in 1900 by Thomas Jones whom, it seems owned the Eden Heights Vineyard at Tingha.

This ad doesn't specifically say that Thomas produced wine but a second ad placed 6 weeks later proclaims that Thomas is a "Wine Grower & Commission Agent ... for Pure Australian Wines".

I especially like the comment here re his Ports "specially recommended for invalids".

I have been doing some asking around among the locals to find out just where the Eden Heights Vineyard was, but I can't find anyone who knows.

Are there any readers who can throw any light on the question of the location of Thomas' vineyard? I will be very pleased to hear from you!

My special thanks to Susan Moore of Thunder Ridge Wines at Armidale whose research dug up this little gem.

## Upcoming Events

**1. New England Regional Wine Show**— a date for you diaries; Friday 17th October 2008. The 2008 New England Regional Wine Show is on in Glen Innes next week & Friday is Public Day. Events are;

- ◆ 10am—Wine Masterclass focusing on Semillon & Cab. Sauv. (\$150 per person)
- ◆ 2pm—Wine Faults & Consumer Flavour Preferences Workshop (Free Entry)
- ◆ 6pm—Public Tasting. All entries in the Show will be available for tasting. (\$10 per person).

Go to [www.newenglandwineshow.com.au](http://www.newenglandwineshow.com.au) for details.

**2. Inverell Art Gallery Competitive Exhibition**— held in conjunction with the Sapphire City Festival, this year's Competitive Exhibition begins on Saturday evening 18th October. Topper's Mountain Wines will again be providing wine for the evening as part of our sponsorship of the Inverell Art Gallery.

There is a small entry charge for the Opening Night—call Sharon on 02 6722 4983 for details.

Hope to see you at one of these excellent local events.©



**The Perfect Christmas Gift**—Monogrammed Topper's Mountain display boxes are available for special occasions & gifts for 1, 2 or 3 bottles with clear or timber lids. Prices (all inc. GST);

with monogrammed ply lid;

- 1 bottle box— \$9
- 2 bottle box— \$16
- 3 bottle box— \$19

with monogrammed clear acrylic lid;

- 1 bottle box— \$16
- 2 bottle box— \$20
- 3 bottle box— \$25

**STOP PRESS**  
**2007 Topper's Mountain Gewurztraminer**  
**rated 9/10 by Max Crus in his column**  
**"Grape Expectations"**

(Daily Examiner 9-10th Aug. 2008)  
(one of the most widely published & longest running (12 yrs) wine columns in  
Australia. Published in the likes of The Daily Examiner (Grafton), The Coffs Har-  
bour Advocate, Port Macquarie News, The Northern Star (Lismore) & more)



*Chairman of Judges Stephen Doyle & Chief  
Steward Scott Wright - (photo—Susan  
Moore)*