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Silos Society

Welcome...

...to our third issue for 2009, one in which the shock of becoming parents has *almost* worn off.

Highlights in this issue – new releases; stories on some Silos friends and their travels; some very exciting news on further environmental initiatives at Silos Estate; competition winners (and new competitions) as well as a special offer from a wine partner.

We hope to see you again at the cellar door soon.



Sophie and Rajarshi (and Zoe)

Vineyard News

And so...the rhythm of the seasons continues...and we are now well into preparing for this year's vintage on the Estate.

Much like Christmas decorations, spring seems to come earlier and earlier every year. For us, it was an 'inconvenient truth' to have bud burst in July (normally September) and all our weather models are telling us that it will be a long hot summer. By and

large this will be terrific for the grapes – and at the risk of completely jinxing ourselves – if this weather keeps up the vintage promises to be a very high quality one indeed. While positive for us, unfortunately there is a negative in that we may again experience a difficult bushfire season and a continuation of the drought elsewhere - such is the nature of farming in Australia.

Cellar Talk

New Releases - 2009 Silos Estate (Semillon; Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay) On October 17, we will release our 2009 whites – all of which have something of a story. In the words of Ken Henry we 'went early, went hard and went households' or less prosaically we went for an early harvest – giving us wines that were fresh, light and packed with fruit notes. Alas - if only it were that simple.

2009 Telephone Cable Chardonnay The bottom line – always check where the telephone cables are on your property...say when you are extending the vineyard in your backyard. This is the most expensive wine we have ever made – and we would be quite prepared to bet that it was the most expensive vintage made in

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The good life...

No...not the BBC show from 20 years ago (featuring the quite foxy Felicity Kend...err...moving on). Sometimes life gets a little away from us – and we often wonder what would it be like if we made different decisions in key points in our life? You know the sort of things we mean...changing your job; making a sea change; ~~running a vineya~~ ~~scrub~~ that.

This issue we profile two Silos friends who are living the dream – they have thrown in their jobs and started two very different odysseys. Homer like.

Tim and Kat Well...if there was anything to make you completely jealous – surely this has to be it.

Tim (a film producer) and his partner (Kat) have bought a Toyota Troop Carrier and set themselves one simple objective



– to visit every wine region they possibly can in 12 months. They are logging their journey for television – and snippets can be found at the website **winearoundoz.com**. As you review the shows (two of which ...ahem...feature Silos Estate) remember that they are doing this entirely from the back of a truck.

Also remember that you heard about them here first – and when they are famous (as in fact they already are) - you can ask for our autograph.

Andrew, Allison, Evan and Aaron So if you think that's pretty good – take a moment to contemplate the following. You like drinking wine. You think it's time to take a break from work. You have two children. One of whom is nine months old.



You enjoy travel. What is one to do? How about

buy a caravan, hitch it up the car and start driving around Australia visiting the sights and wineries along the way? Two of our Silos Society members did just that, and their online journal has become a bit of a sensation ([mytripjournal.com/Evan and Aaron](http://mytripjournal.com/Evan_and_Aaron)) From the mundane to the extraordinary, their trip log would make Bill Bryson jealous. A recent observation from Katherine (at the top end of Australia) sums it up neatly:

[As you travel around] the best of the campervans are your Britz campers, which invariably seem to be driven by the Germans, or 'Fritz in his Britz'. The lowest end of the rental van is the... 'backpacker' and 'hippy' campers...one of which we helped to push start today. These are now known as "Poms in Bombs". The rest of the Europeans seem to be in a variety of makes and models so they are just generalized as 'Frogs and Clogs'.

Just brilliant. And if they weren't such nice people, we would hate them.

Sebel Harbourside Kiama



In each issue of Silos Society we try and feature a venue that we think is worth your while to visit (usually for either the food or the accommodation – but sometimes because there is just something special about the place). Subtly, we also undertake product placement (notice the subtlety?)

Kiama is a pretty seaside town just 20 minutes' drive north from Silos Estate - home of the famous Kiama Blowhole (it's not as hokey as it sounds – it really is quite good when the storms are up) – as well as lots of pretty little shops; restaurants and wonderful beaches. It also marks the beginning of the South Coast Wine Trail, and is a good place to start your visits to the wineries in the region (Product Placement No. 1).

The Sebel Harbourside is one of our partner venues – and encompasses accommodation, restaurants and bars – located right on the water at Kiama. The '1871 Restaurant' acquired its name from the 1871 heritage trust listed school house on-site. Readers are being offered a chance to experience their new spring menu and take advantage of a special Silos Society (No. 2) 2 course dinner with matching Silos Estate wines (No. 3) for only \$65 per person. They are also offering one night special rates on stays for Silos Society (No. 4) readers. To book call 02 4230 7500 and mention Silos Estate to redeem the offer (*valid until 23 December 2009*). Please also don't mention this to John Laws or Alan Jones. Or Media Watch.

Cellar Talk

Continued from Page 1

Australia in 2009. Cutting the cable, however, appears to have produced a light, zippy wine.

Wedding Block Sauvignon Blanc
This is the first vintage to come from the block planted on our wedding day and may be a good proxy of our relationship. A bad vintage, and you will know that Raj has spent most of the previous year sleeping on the lounge. **Floodplain Semillon** Yes – the Semillon is really grown on the floodplain – the rich alluvial deposits when we get floods give us a great wine. However, this years’ vintage is special - picked on the day Zoe was born. So based on past experience, it *may* mean that when you drink this wine you wake up for another guzzle at 10.30; 1.00; 3.00 and at 5.00AM - you get the idea.

The wines are actually quite good – so ask to try some next time you drop by the Estate – or if you would like to order, drop us a line at thesilos@thesilos.com

Competition winners There were a staggering number of winners last month – principally because we forgot to set a limit to the number of winners! So... congratulations to the following readers: A. Morrissey- Smith (Canberra); M.Cornish and K. Fairhall (Wollongong); B. Dicker and the Healy Family (Berry); as well as A. Koen and L.Cusack (Sydney) - all winners of the Wild Ferment Chardonnay. So... harder this time. Think primes and tell us how many new

releases? Events in the last three months? Percentage reduction in glass usage? A three pack of our latest releases – for the first answer by e-mail; by Facebook and by Twitter (so that’s nine wines in total – and must be 18 or over).

Environmental News

After having made a terrible mistake in a previous issue (claiming to be the first at something when we were not) let’s caveat this news with we *think* we are amongst the first wineries in Australia to do this – and we are *pretty sure* that we are the only winery in the region to do this. Do what exactly? Well... completely change our bottles to dramatically reduce our carbon footprint. Regular readers will know that we were amongst the first wineries to use only renewable energy; to become carbon neutral and offer carbon offsets; join Earth Hour – the list goes on. For this vintage, we also switched bottles, to a terrific new product (I-O Glass) which is made in Australia and uses 37% less glass, and is estimated to have a 50% lower CO₂ footprint over its lifecycle. Or...almost 100% guilt free wine.

Silos Events

As always, we took the chance to take a few photos over the last three months – and we did have eleven events to choose from – including weddings, a Landcare Show; bottling; some rather extraordinary weather, and even an appearance in the media. A

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Dates for the diary

Accommodation

Limited vacancies: Christmas Holidays and 2009/10 New Year

Holiday opening hours Please note that this year the Cellar Door will be closed on Christmas and New Years Days (getting in early!)

Release Date: 17 October 2009 **Silos Estate 2009 Vintages (whites only)**

Anticipated release date for 2009 Silos Estate White Vintages (Chardonnay, Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc) has been set. Pre-order at thesilos@thesilos.com, otherwise ask to try them next time you are down our way.

Date: Early November **Silos Society Shipping**

Second shipment of Silos Society wines for 2009 to Society Members. To join Silos Society please fax, e-mail or post the form on Page 4

Date: 25 December 2009 **Christmas Lunch**

As always, Rob Salmon will be hosting Christmas Lunch on the Estate. As in previous years, a set menu will apply, but great food and great service will make the day whizz by. Bookings are essential and of course it is mandatory to be in good Christmas cheer. Call 02 4448 6160 to book.

Date: 26 December 2009

Mark your diaries – only 364 shopping days left until Christmas.

small selection is provided below – as we are again reminded how much we enjoy having people share the Estate with us - and experience all the amazing things that happen here.

July 2009 4.58am (or so) ►
2009 Budburst

*Trust us...this is VERY exciting
Berry, N.S.W.*



◀ August (and September) 2009

Qantas In-Flight Magazine appearance

(c) Qantas Airways
Sydney, N.S.W.



August 2009 ►

Bottling at Silos Estate

*All done by hand...500 bottles an hour (vs.
Yellowtail @ 36,000 an hour!)*

Berry, N.S.W.



◀ September 2009

Carla and Simon's Wedding

Sydney, N.S.W.



September 2009 ►

Landcare Australia Art Event

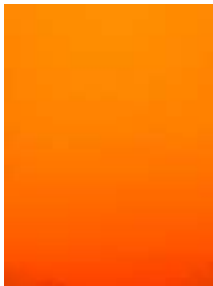
*...a very confused looking cow
Berry, N.S.W.*



◀ October 2009

Spring Dust Storm

*No...the photo hasn't been touched up
Berry, N.S.W.*



JOIN THE SILOS SOCIETY A-LIST



...and receive quarterly e-newsletters, exclusive wines twice yearly, special offers, advance events notice, discounts at the cellar door and more...

Sophie and Rajarshi invite you to join the Silos Society. For \$135.00 automatically debited to your credit card each May and November, you will be amongst the first to taste the best of Silos Estate and Wileys Creek.

Twice a year, we will pick out six of our vintage and send them, along with written commentary on the wines, directly to you.

Not only does this offer you an excellent price on the tasting pack itself (including freight) but your commitment to buying just a dozen bottles of wine from Silos Estate a year also entitles you to some fabulous benefits (* please note a small fee may apply for remote areas).*

List of benefits:

- . 6 wines delivered to your door in May and November*
- . 5% discount on wine and accommodation at Silos Estate*
- . A quarterly e-newsletter*
- . Exposure to exclusive Silos Society wines*
- . Special prices for Silos Society food and wine events*

Name _____

E-Mail _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Ph. BH _____ Ph. AH _____ Ph. Mobile _____

Please debit my (circle) Visa M/C American Express

Name on Card _____

Card Number ___ / ___ / ___ / ___ Exp. ___ / ___

Signature _____

By signing above, I authorize Silos Estate to send me a Silos Society Pack twice yearly and charge my credit card prior to dispatch.