

## **Merlot Mastery 21<sup>st</sup> July 2009**

### **Bar Alto**

#### Bracket 1 – Australia

2001 Hollick 'Nielson's Block', Coonawarra, South Australia  
2005 Morande 'Gran Riserva', Chile  
2005 Craggy Range 'Gimblett Gravels', Hawkes Bay, New Zealand  
2002 Newton, Napa Valley, USA  
2002 Jimbour Station Ludwig Leichardt, Granite Belt, Queensland  
2007 Coldstream Hills, Yarra Valley, Victoria

#### Bracket 2 – 'Rest of the World'

2006 Cedar Creek, Okanagan Valley, Canada  
2004 Tappanapa 'Whalebone Vineyard', Wrattenbully, South Australia  
1993 Petrus, Pomerol, France  
1996 Irvine 'Grand', Barossa, South Australia  
2002 Summit Estate, Granite Belt, Queensland  
2000 Masseto, Bolgheri, Italy

#### Format

All wines were served and tasted blind.  
Each bracket was spoken about and descriptors discussed.  
The wines were revealed after all wines were tasted and discussed.

#### Results

Bracket one showed some very interesting wines with most commenting on the complexity of the entire bracket.  
The expectation of simple, "soft", fruit forward wines, was discussed, as was the customer's perception of the descriptor "soft".  
The general consensus was the wines showed distinct varietal characters with a couple heading along the cabernet path with some minty and spice characters.  
The opinions regarding favourite wine were quite spread out, although wine 5, did receive the most votes.

29 Glasgow St  
Collingwood VIC 3066  
info@sommeliers.com.au  
www.sommeliers.com.au



Bracket two was discussed as a more serious bracket. Across the board, the wines showed more complexity, some due to some aging which was quite evident in colours in the glass.

The richness and intensity of these wines really showed them as being a step-up from the first bracket. Brettanomyces was evident in at least 2 of the wines, with Wine 5 being dominated by unpleasant "bretty" characters and wine 3 showing some elements, but in a character building fashion.

Wines 3, 4 and 6 were regarded as superior in the bracket with wine 6 being well and truly the crowd favourite.

Once we revealed the wines, comments were made about the typicality of both the Petrus and Masseto. The other two stand out wines in terms of complexity were the 2005 Jimbour Station and also the 1996 Irvine Grand.

The level of oak was discussed, as it was also a fairly significant factor in the majority of the wines. The older wines seemed to have this in check; however a couple of the more youthful wines had oak as the dominant bouquet descriptor.