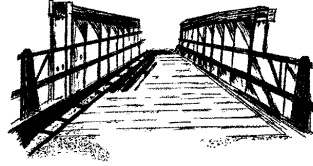


Monahan Estate



OLD BRIDGE BUGLE

Summer 2005

Set for summer

Hello and welcome to all lovers of fine boutique wine. The weather is warming and the time is perfect for those summer afternoons on the verandah or the deck with a good bottle of Monahan Estate Old Bridge wine.

At this time of year the vines are all green again and our thoughts are turning to harvest at the end of summer.

Perhaps the biggest news is that 2005 was the perfect year for semillon. We have just bottled, labelled and warehoused our 2005 vintage. We think it's the best yet. And, yes, we're biased. But everyone who has tried it so far has raved about it.

Unfortunately, the bottles arrived after the Hunter Valley Wine Show had started, so we weren't able to enter it. But we'll definitely be

entering it next year.

The season wasn't just great for Semillon, however. We have now bottled the 2005 rosé, verdelho and chardonnay as well and they are a treat to taste.

The merlot is also relatively new. Reds take a little longer in the winery so we have not long taken delivery of the 2004 vintage.

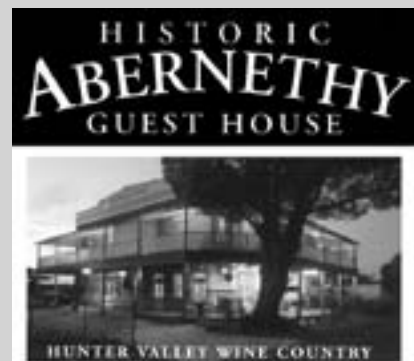
This is a serious red wine and is already a popular choice at the cellar door.

So plan your trip now to Monahan Estate to sample the new vintages. Don't forget that we have a lovely picnic site beside the creek where you can enjoy your own hamper or enjoy one of our cheese platters.

Hoping to see you soon. And have a happy and safe summer.

– John and Patricia Graham

Win a stay at Abernethy Guest House



Here at Monahan Estate you don't just get quality wine at reasonable prices, you also get a chance to win a great two-night accommodation package for two people at historic Abernethy Guest House.

The prize includes a Continental breakfast on both mornings and can be taken at any time of the year, Monday to Thursday, depending on availability.

All you have to do to be in the running for this great prize is to purchase a case of wine from our cellar door. The winning couple will be announced in the May, 2006 newsletter.

Abernethy Guest House: 02-4990 8303.

LONG LUNCH HILTER KILTER



Although we are not officially part of the Lovedale Long Lunch, it's always a big day for us. And last May's big day was no different.

We had a huge number of people calling in over the weekend and we made a host of new friends.

Two joyous coachloads of lunchers managed not to get in each other's way as they picnicked beside the creek. One of these, who'd booked their lunch space 12 months previously, were all dressed in kilts and tam-o'-shanters.

As the photo shows, the party were in great spirits, mostly fuelled by Monahan Estate wines!



HOT PRICE FOR COOL SEMILLON

At the time of writing we have just under half a pallet (about 30 cases) of the 2001 unwooded chardonnay left at the special price of \$95 a case. This has meant making a decision on what else to offer as a "special".

Well, call us crazy, but we've decided to reduce the case price of one of our most awarded wines: the 2002 semillon. Yes, it's the same wine that James Halliday rated at 90 points or four-and-a-half stars!

To let new readers know (and to remind regulars, because we're pretty proud of this), Halliday rates the wine as "excellent wine full of character – of gold medal standard". He also rated our property as a "gold medal vineyard" in "an area noted for its high quality Semillon".

So this is our new special. Just \$95 a case (that works out at just \$7.92 a bottle). Buy it as we weep!

SPEAKING OF SEMILLON ...

Winestate magazine's December issue included Monahan Estate's 2001 and 2003 semillons as well as the 2004 chardonnay.

Each wine received a high three-star rating and the 2001 semillon was included in the Top 40 Hunter best buys for under \$15. Not surprising really, given that the 2001 was a top vintage and has been travelling very well in the bottle and is on track to be a toasty Hunter classic in the future.

It's also only \$13 a bottle at the cellar door, or \$10.83 by the case!

TOUR ALLY

If you're planning a day in the Hunter, you can't go past Hunter Tours.

Leisa and Andrew or Tamar and Greg (pictured) take small groups on intimate tours of the valley's best wineries and sights.

Both couples are knowledgeable and friendly and they finish the day at Monahan Estate where Trish will supply a cheese platter sourced from local suppliers.

Hunter Tours can be contacted on 02-4933 2537 or through www.huntertours.com.au.



A GREAT GRANDMA

Just to prove there is longevity in this wine game, here's a photo of John's mother holding the Grahams' latest grandchild, Isabella, their daughter Coralie's first born.

As a great grandmother John's mum is known simply as "great ma". She won't reveal her age, but John's no spring chicken. The big Six Oh is looming large for him. So she's doing well.

WORD OF MOUTH



It's nice when people take you at your word.

We were down at the Terrigal Wine Show in mid-July introducing many new wine drinkers to our range (they loved the 2001 semillon because we ran out on the day) when Craig Evans ordered some wine.

We mentioned the picnic site next to the creek and a few days later 19 Evans family members descended on us to celebrate a birthday at the site.

It was a lovely spring day and as it's such a pretty place they all had a great time. Give us a call if you want to stage a picnic there.

John and Trish Graham
Monahan Estate

319 Wilderness Road Rothbury, NSW 2320

Phone: 02-4930 9070 Fax: 02-4930 7679

Mobile: 0427 307 679

www.monahanestate.com.au