

SPRING 2008



## PIKES VINTNERS NEWSLETTER

### It's Pouring

The "Winding Stair" in Dublin is one of those restaurants you need to visit if you're in that part of the world. Across the river from the way-too-touristy area of Temple Bar, the "Winding Stair" produces a delicious modern take on traditional Irish food, amongst a wonderful ambience. They are pouring Pikes "Traditionale" Riesling and it's going down a treat!

Further North, in the historic city of Belfast, is another restaurant worth a visit - "Deanes". "Deanes" would be considered one of the top 3 restaurants in the North. It's serving up local fare with wines from all over the world. Our "Red Mullet" was a fantastic match with the rabbit.

Closer to home, the "Squires Loft" in South Yarra, Melbourne, is one of the best steak houses in the country. They have been great Pikes supporters for a long time and are currently featuring our "Eastside" Shiraz.

### NEW RELEASES

2008 "Traditionale" Riesling  
2008 "Valley's End" Sauvignon Blanc Semillon  
2008 "Luccio" Pinot Grigio blend  
2006 "Eastside" Shiraz

### MEMBERS SPECIALS

2005 "Luccio" Sangiovese blend



### Pikes 2008 Fresh, Young Whites - Something for Everyone.

As soon as the year ticks into September it seems our customers are on the prowl looking to stock up on the brand new, fresh young white wines for the spring and summer months ahead.

In this year's spring release we have something for everyone.

My personal fave and our flagship wine, the Pikes "Traditionale" Riesling 2008, is a beauty. Despite another drought and the "heatwave from hell" we experienced in early March, we have again produced a wine of exceptional quality. As always, the features of this amazingly consistent wine are the pure citrus, apple and mineral characters. It is quite rich and powerful in its own way, but still the focus is directed to the elegant, linear aspects of the palate - crisp, dry and fine.

The Pikes "Valley's End" 2008 Sauvignon Blanc Semillon blend is also a great success. For lovers of this style it shows all the attributes one would expect from a blend such as this - loads of fresh, tropical fruits, some grassy undertones and crisp, bright acidity. Not an "in your face" style, but still gives a nice little Sauvignon hit.

The Pikes "Luccio" 2008 Pinot Grigio blend is also in the zone. If the rate of sales through our cellar door is any indication we have clearly got it right with this wine. As a distinct alternative to the two previous aromatic whites, the "Luccio" displays some lovely subtle stonefruit and mineral characters and is suited to a whole range of food styles.

Also look out for our summer newsletter when we will release our other two 2008 vintage whites - Pikes "Gill's Farm" 2008 Viognier and "The White Mullet" 2008 blend. Both will impress.

Those of you who are on our Reserve mailing list will also be pleased to hear we have bottled a 2008 version of "The Merle" Reserve Riesling. More on this later.

Cheers, Neil Pike.



1.



2.



3.



## Five Halliday Stars



We're quietly rapt that James Halliday has seen fit to award Pikes Wines a five-star rating in his latest edition of the Australian Wine Companion 2009. Here are just a few snippets from the guide...

**2007 "Traditionale" Riesling** - Classy Riesling; good intensity without heaviness to the lime and tropical fruit flavours; good balance and length. Rating: 94

**2006 "Luccio" Sangiovese Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon** - A Sangiovese that really sings; its display of cherry fruits beautifully backed by slightly savoury tannins of the other components; a bargain that should be on every Italian restaurant wine list in Australia. Rating: 94

**2005 "EWP" Reserve Shiraz** - Medium-to full-bodied, intense, long and focused; blackberry fruit with quality oak and fleeting hints of choc mint all work very well in the mouth; fine tannins on the finish. Rating: 95

## At Last...The Winter Cometh !

We feared the worst after recording only 113mm of rain in the first half of 2008, but since July 1<sup>st</sup> we have recorded almost 180mm which, if the current pattern continues, promises to get our season back on track. Early days yet, but the signs are a lot more positive than six weeks ago.

Given the very dry conditions and severe soil moisture deficits experienced in the first part of the year, we made a strategic decision to invest heavily in our soil moisture and management program. Since May, in excess of \$100k has been invested in various soil amelioration programs on our Polish Hill River Estate, including mid row deep ripping, under vine straw mulching (photo 3), composted cow manure, gypsum, lime and "Nitramulch" (photo 1), a composted organic mulch from Peats Soils.

In addition, a new "Agua" soil and climate monitoring system has been installed in the vineyard (photo 2) which not only monitors soil moisture, temperature and salinity, but also records all other relevant climatic data such as rainfall, temperature, humidity, evaporation, wind and solar radiation.

The objective being to not only store and conserve every possible millimetre of precious rainfall in the soil, but then to give us the management tools to apply precisely the desired amount of irrigation water to the vineyards to optimise vine balance and wine grape quality...which ultimately means even better stuff in every bottle of PIKES!

Money well spent me sayeth!  
Andrew Pike.

## REVIEWS

**Pikes 2005 "Eastside" Shiraz** - The Clare valley can produce terrific shiraz. This has generosity, full flavour and is immediately approachable, yet has the structure and elegance to age in the short term. There are dark chocolate and mulberry characters, smooth texture and supple, ripe tannins. Delicious.

*Peter Forrestal - QANTAS - The Australian Way, July 08*



**Pikes 2006 "The Red Mullet"** - Designed as a ready-to-drink easy-on-the-gums quaffer and it works perfectly. Fleshy middle palate, but a dryish food-friendly finish. Plenty of ripe berry softness makes for an appealing drink. *Ray Jordan - West Australian, 31 July 08*

**Pikes 2008 "Traditionale" Riesling** - Expect this to improve in both the short and long term. Grapefruit notes dominate. Taut and terrific with impressive length. 94 points. *Ken Gargett - Courier Mail, 26 July 08*

**Pikes 2006 "Eastside" Shiraz** - Rich, ripe and soft, this is a warm inviting wine of generous proportions. Blackberry and mulberry fruits abound, and there's little sign of harsh tannin to hold the palate in check. Sweet vanillin oak completes the picture in this crowd-pleasing wine. ★★★★★  
*Fergus McGhie - Canberra Times, 30 July 08*