

MISTY VALLEY

NURSERY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2007

ON BRAGATO AND THE WHEEL

We were absolutely thrilled to see six of the eleven category trophy's were awarded to customers of Misty Valley Nursery at the recent 2007 Bragato Wine Awards. Congratulations to all Trophy winners.

These awards are now in their 13th year, and were instigated to acknowledge the avante garde foresight of Romeo Bragato over 100 years ago.

Being the youngest of two brothers, I was designated to help Dida (grandfather in Croatia) in the wine cellar after school whilst my elder brother helped Dad doing real work outdoors. I can remember Dida speaking of the wonderful Italian man at Te Kauwhata who visited the Dalmatian Winemakers of Oratia and Henderson (then the centre of wine making in New Zealand) on regular occasions, dispensing valuable advice.

Bragato imported most of the disease resistant rootstocks that we are familiar with today, and in his handbook, "Viticulture in New Zealand" published in 1906 by the Department of Agriculture, showed growers how to graft the European classical varieties on to the American root stocks, the varieties to plant, the Phylloxera resistant rootstocks to graft them to, the regions in which to plant vines, the varieties suitable to each region, vineyard layout, pruning methods and much more.

Regrettably his work was not acted on and lay forgotten. It took us nearly 100 years to realise that Bragato thought of New Zealand as a nation capable of producing great quality wine. During

that time we went through a number of boom and bust cycles, generally on the back of inferior wines from heavily cropped vineyards. But of course, Bragato was pushing the proverbial uphill. As my Dida would say so often, "Ven I kom hee-ah, all you can trink is bleddy tea!" **We needed to come of age as a wine drinking nation and reinvent the wheel a few times, to realise that we should have listened to, "that fine fellow from Te Kauwhata"**

On the subject of Fine Fellows

No doubt you will all have heard the recent news of Nikola Nobilo passing. At Nobilo Wines he too was called Dida by many staff. Nik was the last of the Dalmatian born pioneer winemakers. He was a contemporary of my own long departed Dida but clearly, by any measure of success, a bit more entrepreneurial and a better winemaker. I'll remember him for the very fine green beans he grew in his cherished garden and the bundles of kupus (Dalmatian cabbage) he would leave on my desk.

RIP Dida.

Spring Sale \$3.75 special price

It's that time of the year again and we are letting our vines go for an incredible \$3.75 (plus GST ex nursery). That's right! A saving of over 25% on our normal price.

We have stocks of the following varieties available for immediate delivery:

Cabernet franc
Cabernet sauvignon
Chardonnay
Gewürztraminer
Malbec
Merlot
Petit Verdot
Pinot noir
Sangiovese
Sauvignon blanc
Syrah
Tannat

The variability of top grafting or the losses associated with summer planted potted vines, makes this offer the most cost effective option for your new or reworked vineyard. Growers in areas newly infected with Phylloxera should grab this opportunity.

2008 Deliveries

Our grafting season for 2008 deliveries is underway, so you have a very short timeframe to get your orders in if you need specific combinations. We are once again experiencing significant demand for Pinot gris and Pinot noir vines, so please ensure that we know about your requirements without delay.



MISTY
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