



This Model Needs a Feed

Not long ago I was at a wine industry seminar hosted by New Zealand Winegrowers.

Industry stalwart, (and the father of NZ Savy), Ross Spence, asked Philip Gregan about what research is being done into alternative varieties to Sauvignon blanc, New Zealand's vinous cash cow. The response was vague.

You know my thoughts on the next big thing, (refer Newsletter April 2009). But if there is going to be a next big thing, it's going to be a slow process under the current model.

So what's the current model?

There is only one functioning quarantine station for grapevines in New Zealand. That facility is privately owned and dependent on a healthy nursery industry. Yes, New Zealand's largest horticultural enterprise has entrusted its future imports of new genetic material to a privately owned nursery at the very time the nursery industry is shrinking.

It's at precisely this time that we need to ask ourselves what do we need to do to ensure our future?

Here's some possible answers:

- At an industry level we need alliances with plant breeders and selectors all around the world. ... Few seem to realize that the majority of the material coming to New Zealand is from a single source. There are many more sources of Vitis material around the world with potential for New Zealand. Our industry needs to be certain that we are developing the best material. This can only be done if we

broaden the sources of plant material that we import.

- We should have an industry funded quarantine station and genetic library for the entire industry to benefit from.
- We need a programme of virus elimination and evaluation of the genetic material languishing in the vine repository at Rakaia, (currently being shifted to Lincoln). Dr Dan Cohen has perfected the technique of virus removal, it's just a matter of allocating some funds.

Facts are that nobody knows what's the best material until it has been trialed and evaluated in New Zealand over many years. The cost of releasing a single new clone is huge, it's over \$60,000. At that price no individual can afford to take the punt in the current economic climate. The risk is too high and the payback too slow.

New Zealand Winegrowers encourages us to act under a kiwi brand umbrella when we sell our products overseas. We are told that our competition is not our fellow exporters, it's the premium brands from other countries. If they are correct, and I believe they are, we need to collaborate in the vineyard as well, and be looking ahead 20 years.

Even in 10 years it will be unthinkable for New Zealand's largest horticultural industry to remain detached from acquisition and evaluation of genetic material.

Our starved model needs a jolly good feed. The wine industry needs to take control of its future varietal direction by having direct input into acquisition, evaluation and source of material. This must be for the benefit of all stakeholders in the industry.

There's still a good selection of vines available for 2009 delivery, so call us now. At Misty Valley we provide high quality advice free of charge to our customers. And, we're committed to providing NZ's best quality vines under the grafted grapevine standard.

Donna Pecar and Rex Sunde

What's Available

VARIETY	CLONE
Barbera	MS
Cabernet Franc	214, 326, 327, TK 05102
Cabernet Sauvignon	338, FPS29, KWV15, LC10
Chardonnay	B95, UCD 6, UCD15, 121, 131
Chenin blanc	KWV9, ST68/01/09
Cornalin	MS
Dolcetto	UCD1
Flora	MS
Gewurztraminer	456, 457, 1106, GM11, GM14
Malbec	584, 595, UCD 6, UCD4
Merlot	181, 347, UCD3, UCD8
Montepulciano	MS
Nebbiolo	111, 230, 36
Petit Verdot	C400, G7V4
Pinotage	1/48
Pinot blanc	GM 1, GM 2, GM 7
Pinot Gris	7a, LBS, 326i, 40a, Barrie, GM 2/15, GM2/16, GM 2/21, 52B
Pinot Noir	UCD4, UCD5, 114, 115, 667, 777, Abel
Riesling	110, 198/19, 239/9
Roussanne	HR1D1, HR2F5
Sangiovese	12T
Sauvignon Blanc	MS/UCD1
Semillon	UCD2
Syrah	470, MS/Hermitage, 174, Chave
Tannat	Haden
Tempranillo	HR2C1, HR3B2, HR4C1
Touriga Nationale	MS
Verdelho	HR1C1, HR2D4
Viognier	642, HTK, UCD1
Uzbekistan Muscat	MS
Orders for 2010 delivery \$4.50 + gst and freight	

LEADING THE WAY IN QUALITY, PRICE AND KNOWLEDGE

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Practical Tips Follow the STA ... See the light

An old colleague from the Ag Chem Industry sent me a link some months ago, to Gustav Holz's seminal paper on Botrytis. I think it is so worthy that every grape grower in NZ should sleep with a copy of it under the pillow.

To download this paper, go to the link on the home page of our web site www.mistyvalley.co.nz.

Sure this paper is a bit heavy in parts but this is the best article I've seen on botrytis in many a year. It is the culmination of 7 years of very good work by Gustav Holz and his team at the University of Stellenbosch. What I like about it is Gustav's clear dispelling of botrytis myths, and how he homes in on how, where, and when the fungus attacks your crop.

At the risk of over simplifying the disease I have attempted to summarise some of the key points of the paper.

- This may come as a surprise. The berry is very resistant to infection through undamaged skin throughout the season. Infection through the skin normally results in death of the fungus through natural vine resistance.

- The only time the surface of the berry is the route to Botrytis symptoms is when spores land on **freshly damaged skin**

that's wet. (think... leaf plucker damage followed by rain).

- **The primary sites for infection are the bits behind the berry** that attach it to the rachis, (the bunch stem). These bits are all very susceptible early in the season and the most susceptible, the pedicel, remains susceptible throughout the season. (Ever wondered why botrytis always seems to appear from behind the berry?)

- The primary time for infection to take place is the period from the onset of flowering through to bunch closure. **As we now know, this infection enters through the berry stalk, not the berry surface.**

We've always known that infection occurs early and then remains dormant until conditions are right for expression of the disease later in the season. The wetter it is later in the season the more chance that wildfire rot will flare in the vineyard. What hasn't been entirely clear has been the way in which infection takes hold.

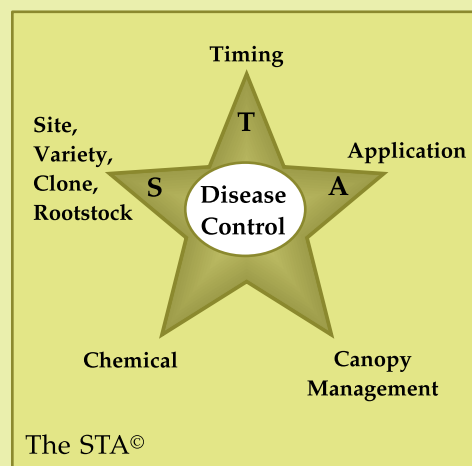
Those caps sitting on the end of your berries may be a source of spores, but those spores landing on the berry surface do no harm. The bit that needs to be protected from spores is the bit behind the berry, the bit that holds the berry on to the rachis. Now here's the rub. The

tiny bits you're trying to protect are hidden behind the flowers and berries. They're deep inside a fortress we call the inflorescence, and there's lots of them, and every one of them could be a potential little bot explosion next vintage.

Our problem is that we have become dependant on chemicals for botrytis control when these are only part of the answer.

So what's the solution?

I have developed a model that demonstrates all of the elements of successful disease control, it's The STA®



I'll explain this in the next newsletter. Now go to our website and click on the link to Gustav's paper... When you've read it the relevance of all the elements of The STA® will start to gel.

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