



We make most of our wines to age, but realise that most people think age is something to do with Grandparents, NOT wine. We had a wonderful dinner on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January in Albany to mourn the closing of our favourite French Restaurant, Lavender Cottage, whose owners are retiring. They opened 15 years ago and decided on 15 courses to celebrate...we decided to drink 15 year old wines to help the evening along. The **2004 RIESLING** was fantastic. We simply opened the bottle and drank it with great joy, lovely honey and still crisp fruit and acid. The **2004 SHIRAZ** was similar...open and pour ...with little time to breath it was still full of fruit and spice. The **2004 MAGNUM OF CAB. SAV.** had a powerful and not very pleasant "old Cab" nose...we decanted it into a carafe and the nasty nose disappeared immediately to reveal a simply beautiful earthy and fruity Cab.Sav. Decanting DOES work and decanting the first two wines would certainly not have done them any harm. The end result was a sad, nostalgic, but wonderful dinner and three memorable wines.

### THE PLANETS ARE IN LINE. MORE ACCOLADES FOR DUKE'S

It is rare for wine writers to agree on anything, but our **MAGPIE HILL RIESLING 2018** has been awarded 96 points by messers Halliday (the Wine Companion), Hvon Hooke (Sydney) and Ray Jordan (Perth). You see lightning can strike twice! Hvon Hooke has named it **EQUAL TOP RIESLING IN AUSTRALIA** and Ray Jordan has named it his **TOP WA RIESLING** in his current Book. It too, has almost sold out and you need to get your orders in **VERY SOON!**

### NEW REDS FROM 2017.

2017 was another really good vintage for Porongurup. We complained that we missed the rain that most of WA's wine regions received at the end of summer, but the end result was some beautifully ripe fruit and intense flavours. The 6 reds we made in 2017 reflect not only the good season, but the superb balance that our Winemaker Robert Diletti has achieved.

**2017 SINGLE VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON**....Released early at the Cellar because Duke got excited about it, the first pallet has already gone and we have had repeat orders from the early buyers.. currently Duke's favourite tippie.

**2017 MAGPIE HILL CABERNET SAUVIGNON**.... Rich and beautiful with lovely acid to carry it on its potentially long journey. A typically soft and elegant Porongurup Cab. with that earthy, black berry married to French oak.

**2017 SINGLE VINEYARD SHIRAZ**...another beauty...nothing more needs saying.

2017 Magpie Hill Shiraz.. won a gold medal 10 days after bottling ..if you liked the 2015 you will be a very happy wine drinker with the 2017.

**2017 INVITATION CABERNET SAUVIGNON** ..Crafted by the most exciteable winemaker in the Great Southern, Luke Eckersley of Plantagenet Wines. A beautifully crafted wine with no expense spared on French oak. Once again made from the same fruit as our Magpie Hill and once again showing the direction that the winemaker has taken. Sweet fruit and powerful oak will drive the wine for many years...Thank you Luke.

**2017 THE MORRISSEY**...OUR FIRST EVER BLEND, our most expensive wine ever and the wine which "we eventually had to have". A beautifully soft and elegant red from the best fruit in our vineyard. Selected individual vines all handpicked.....This wine makes Duke think he may eventually go to heaven.



## 2019 VINTAGE

The DRIEST YEAR ON RECORD in 2018 has meant that our irrigation dam is being tested to the limit in 2019. We have been irrigating since September and forecasts suggest that will continue. Vines are healthy and carrying a good crop and provided the water supply is adequate, fruit should benefit from the long dry. As usual we are in God's hands and we know that she can be fickle. (THIS YEAR IS EVEN DRYER!)

## A PRIZE WITH YOUR ORDER?

At our Perth tasting in November we gave a six pack of Halliday's Wine of the Year to a lucky couple who ordered a box of wine on the day. The prize was popular, so for this Newsletter we are giving away a six pack of "THE MORRISSEY" valued at \$500. Every box of wine ordered will go into the hat and the winner will be picked on March 31. We will keep "THE HAT" on the shelf at our cellar and names will be added as orders are sent. Someone will be smiling.

## OUR NEWSLETTER SPECIAL

SIX CELLAR DOOR RIESLING and SIX ROSÉ for **\$180** ready for your autumn evenings.  
AND/OR



### 12 2017 REDS CONSISTING OF:

- 2 X Single vineyard Cab Sav (\$52)
- 2x single vineyard Shiraz (\$52)
- 2x Magpie Hill Cab Sav (\$70)
- 2x Magpie Hill Shiraz (\$70)
- 2x Invitation Cab Sav (\$70)
- 2x THE MORRISSEY (\$180)

Total Cellar door price **\$494**

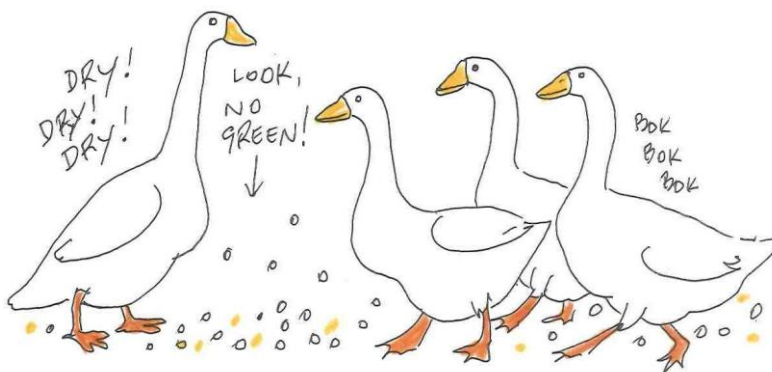
**NEWSLETTER SPECIAL PRICE. \$360**



\*\*\*\*\*Everyone says Duke has lost his marbles with this Special. (We only discount for newsletter specials, and SELDOM at the Cellar Door.)

## PERTH TASTING OF RED RELEASES AND OTHER WINES.

We will have a tasting at Nedlands Rugby Club soon for a special tasting to release the fabulous 2017 Vintage reds on a date to be advised. (we will also have our Riesling and Rose to taste.)



## Duck for Dinner?

All farms with space enclose a pen to run their favourite chooks  
To lay fresh eggs and some fine breeds to show off their good looks  
And Duke's followed down that path and added twenty geese  
And extra feed was needed just to keep the peace

As time went on the flock increased when we added guinea fowl  
We didn't count on foxes on their hungry evening prowl  
They ate some chooks and baby geese and the odd wild duck as well  
But slowly the feeding flock numbers steadily did swell.

The guinea fowl bred, the wild ducks came and native birds descended  
And at the daily feeding time all avian friends attended  
Parrots made the daily trip to see what they could find  
And local bronzewing pigeons with an easy feed in mind

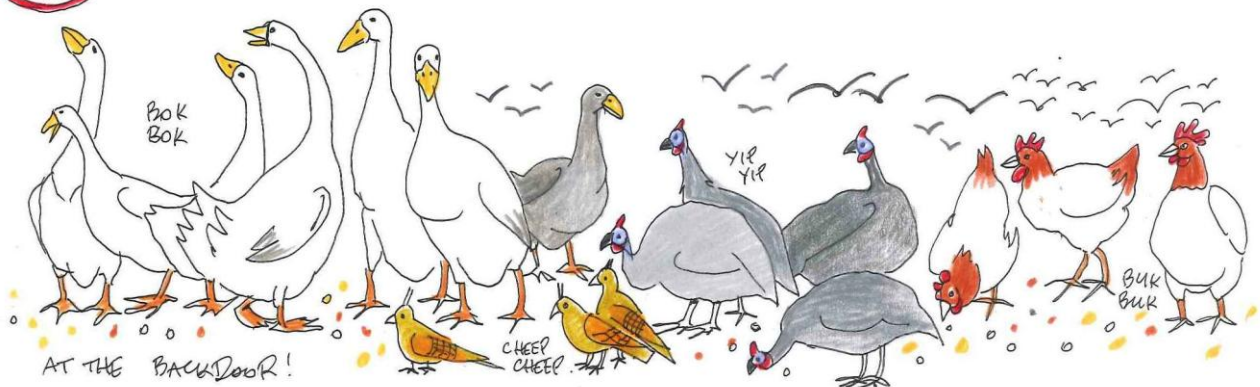
The pen is now an empty patch that's overgrown and weedy  
But feeding time in Duke's back yard is for the destitute and needy  
And still the numbers grow each week with greedy ones and strays  
That walk and fly and waddle in to see what's lunch today

And if by chance we do forget to distribute daily grains.  
the birds will all accumulate to show their hunger pains  
We often have three dozen birds and sometimes even more.  
All gathered round and ready to invade the Duke's back door

The biggest single increase of birds that come for lunch  
Is the growing hordes of healthy ducks, the fattest of the bunch  
Now I have a suggestion that would make the ranks much thinner  
A bottle of good cabernet and duck L'Orange for dinner.



## Duke



## NEW BLOCK RIESLING

A special mention that this wine has developed as it has been sitting in the bottle. It is now the preferred Riesling at the cellar door. It has filled out and become a superbly balanced wine with loads of beautiful Riesling fruit and a long, long finish with a nice meld of fruit and acid. A SUPERB RIESLING.

## DUKE'S ON YouTube

Check out Duke's moving video made for the Halliday Wine Companion Awards Dinner, (last August) where and when the Wine of the Year was announced at wonderful dinner in the Great Hall at the National Gallery of Victoria. Just search for "WINE OF THE YEAR 2019"



We continue to enjoy our "WINE OF THE YEAR" success, but a looming vintage will soon bring us back down to earth.

Enjoy fine wines in 2019.

Cheers from

Duke

Hide

Freddie

Rachel

& Justin