



Twisted Gum

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2014

New Year Greetings to you all from up here in Granite Belt Wine Country. We hope you had an excellent festive season – and that you ate and drank well in the company of friends and family. We had a fabulous Christmas up here at Twisted Gum Vineyard. We had 26 family members for Christmas for four days which was lots of fun and also exhausting at the same time! I am one of seven children – and all seven were here together this Christmas for the first time in some years, along with my Mum plus various nieces, nephews and partners. There were lots of endless meals on the deck, water fights among the cousins, walks in the bush, games of pool and many tall yarns told around the campfire over a glass of red or two – just generally enjoying the beautiful scenery and cool mountain air of the Granite Belt.

Cellar door questions

Our cellar door has been open for nine months now and Michelle and I are so pleased with how well it has gone. We have really enjoyed the fact that we have time to stop and chat with visitors and yarn about our vineyard and wines. We have noticed particular questions coming up regularly so I thought I might include some “Q&A” in this newsletter.

Question #1: What breed is Gus and how old is he and why is he so nice? This is the most common question by far! Gus is a Border Collie Kelpie cross. He is five years old. We got him as a puppy from a sheep farm about one hour west of Warwick when he was just six weeks old. He is a very friendly dog partly because he was born with a lovely nature and partly because he has 40 hectares to roam around and lots of visitors to play with. ☺



Gus on the lookout for more visitors to greet

Question #2: What does it mean when we say that all our wines are “single vineyard wines”? Single vineyard means that each wine is 100% made from grapes from a single vineyard – which in our case is Twisted Gum Vineyard. We do not obtain grapes from any other source. This ensures that we have full quality control over the fruit used in our wines and also allows us to produce wines with unique flavours that truly express the wonderful cool climate and free draining granite soils that are characteristic of our picturesque three hectare vineyard.

Question #3: What does it mean when we say that all our wines are “dry grown”? Dry grown means that we do not irrigate our vines at all, and instead rely upon the use of mulch and the rain that falls from the sky. This produces low yields of small grapes with impressive flavours. Many people comment that they would expect that an irrigated vine would produce nicer fruit. An irrigated vine will generally produce a lot more fruit and “prettier” looking fruit, but it will rarely have the flavours that can match the fruit from a dry grown vine. The best way to explain this is to draw an analogy with apricots. The apricots we get in supermarkets these days tend to be large and juicy and rather flavourless, compared to the amazing flavours that you can get from the (small and less pretty) apricots that we sometimes find on dry grown trees growing in backyards or available in small independent grocers. The same applies to wine grapes. When you taste the grapes from a dry-grown vine prior to harvest the flavours are fantastic – which is reflected in the quality of the wine that is then made from these grapes.

OK – that is enough Q&A for one newsletter – more to come later!



Another beautiful sunset over Twisted Gum Wines Cellar door

Apple and Grape Harvest Festival

It is on again! Every two years the Granite Belt community gets together to throw a big three-day party called the Apple and Grape Harvest Festival (7-9 March, 2014). There are stacks of things to do, including seasonal harvest feasts, the gala ball, street parade, celebrity grape crush and fireworks. Plus the park hosts a *Taste of the Granite Belt* on Saturday and Sunday where you can indulge in local wines and food and enjoy the live entertainment. Michelle and I will have a Twisted Gum Wine stand in the park, so be sure to drop in and say hi and chill out with a glass of fine wine while soaking up the great atmosphere. For more information see: <http://www.appleandgrape.org>.

Cheers!

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