



**WHISKEY GULLY WINES**  
FINE WINES FROM QUEENSLAND'S GRANITE BELT

## PLUCKERS' PLANET

*Sed vinum non potest, rerum  
omnium fessa sustentetur aetas*



Dearest Pleasant Pluckers

The pace of life isn't slackening... we declared vintage 2021 last month with late rain contributing to the mayhem as we rushed to get the Cabernet Sauvignon off.

As predicted, a late Spring frost in October restricted the crop but the fruit we picked was generally excellent in quality.

In our previous Pluckers Planet we suggested members would get to taste the new reds in the winter six-pack, however, as it happens, they are not yet in the bottle. Wines do that to you... they are ready when they are ready.



*Young and old...*

*Left: The new Black Rod is popular with punters - deep, dark and soft*



*Right: We opened one of our first ever wines recently. The cork was surprisingly good and the bottle in excellent condition. Heaps of honey and marmalade at this ripe age along with smooth, tasty oak*

In their absence we've decided to mail out the same pack as last time, a move which has its virtues... the wines are well-rested and in the drinking zone with the exception of the Beverley Chardonnay, which could do with another few months. If patience and discipline are in your nature, putting it in the wine fridge until summer would be a good move. Delaying the release of newer wines will help us catch up to our usual virtuous cycle of sending you well-rested wines.

Soon it will be winter and, when the last leaves have fallen, we'll be back in the vines, positioning canes to repair damage the frost caused. Later, we'll get the pre-pruning machine in to clear and mulch the remaining canes prior to manual pruning in August, which will set us up for what promises to be a splendid new season now that our dams and aquifers are full again.

Meantime, Denice has been slimming down with frequent sessions at the gym while John has been fitted with hearing aids to the relief of all who meet him. If you are wondering about the Latin below the Pluckers' masthead it means: "Wine cures most things, but not the ravages of age." Sigh! But it makes you feel young... for a time.

Regards,  
John and Denice

### What's in the Pluckers' Winter Six Pack

These notes reflect the impact of six months additional ageing on the wines. The sparkler, colombard, and République Red are all in the drinking zone, the Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon are pouring well but will naturally benefit from cellaring. The chardonnay needs time.

#### 2018 E.B. Reserve Sparkling Blanc du Blancs

This has settled brilliantly and has great freshness. People with wine memories will notice how much it has opened out in six months. Brioche, peaches and citrus on the nose, a beautiful mouth texture and cream on the finish. Certainly drink now but it will age and deepen if cellared.

#### 2019 Black Rod Shiraz

2019 was a very good Shiraz year and this has concentrated, ripe fruit and a fleshy palate. The aromatics are sensational with mocha, charry oak and caramel; the palate has chocolate and raspberry in a bed of velvet spice. American and French oak are beautifully balanced and they linger deliciously. Cellar by all means.

#### 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

Our typical Granite Belt Cabernet - young and vibrant at present with choc mint characters and chary spice. Blackberry on the palate. Wafting French oak. Such wines age beautifully, gradually losing complexity but gaining depth and gravitas. The palate is typically long and perfumed. Just a lovely, rollicking pup at present.

#### 2019 République Red (Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz)

Designed to hit the zone quickly, it has done so. Medium-bodied with the essential spice and orchard characters of its constituent varieties, it is bright and offers raspberry and juicy beetroot on a firm palate. We recommend medium term cellaring for those who like to age wine.

#### 2020 Beverley Chardonnay

Much more like a delicate Chablis than our usual fruit bomb Montrachet style chardonnay, this has fig and melon characters and a hint of truffle. It has been slow to open up and needs more time yet. It also demands subtlety in food matches. Favour chicken, eggs, light pastas. Salmon Gravavlax and truffled egg are perfect.

#### 2020 Bon Blanc Colombard

This has floral notes as well as a hint of tropical fruit. The foundation palate is, as always, cut green apples. Goes in slightly sweet, goes down perfectly dry, a satisfying combination.

Club members should order wine from our web site through the club page: [whiskeygullywines.com.au/wine-club](http://whiskeygullywines.com.au/wine-club)

## Girraween treats

In the 25 years we have lived on the Granite belt, a big attraction has always been Girraween National Park. When Emily was at primary school, She and John would walk there or at neighbouring Bald Rock once a week.

From hearing tiny frogs croaking in unlikely rock holes, to being confronted by strange balancing rocks and stumbling on stunning views in remote corners of the park, it's a journey of discovery of which they've never tired. John still visits those places and discovers many new ones. We're happy to report that the frogs (or their relatives at least) are still there, as are hundreds of balancing rocks and countless amazing views. So bring hiking shoes next time you come.

John theory is that Girraween's stability is reassuring in a world which otherwise changes at bewildering pace. Well aged wine, he says, holds similar pleasures: fruit, once pert and fresh, is savoured as an aromatic liquid, now deep and mature, evoking memories of a harvest and events long past. Sentimental fool.

## Sunday Schmoozic at WGW

Our Schmoozic Club meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month and everyone's welcome for an afternoon of music featuring local musicians as well as talented ring-ins.

The Cellar Door bar is open too. It'll set you back a \$5 donation to enter, which is used to bring visiting musicians from time to time. So if you are coming up, check our Whiskey Gully Facebook page for details and please join us.

## May bottlings



The serious business of bottling our 2020 reds and the 2021 Bon Blanc is about to happen as we go to press.

Labels are in the cellar waiting for the moment and we'll then let the wines rest for a few months prior to release. They will be in the next Pleasant Pluckers' Six Pack.



Note to all: We are already running short of 2020 Piazza Red and the 2020 Bon Blanc Colombard, so, if you feel you can't live without them, get in quick.

## Business almost as usual

Despite three drought years and a pandemic we are currently operating much as usual, offering wine tasting and sales at the cellar door for club members and the public by appointment.

If you head this way through winter, please text or call so we can ensure you a prime spot. We've been exceptionally busy in recent months and bookings are highly desirable to avoid having to wait.

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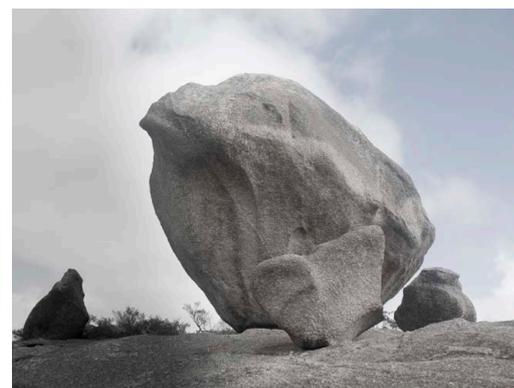
Spot the frogs

Above: Frog Rock 2006

Below: Frog Rock 2018



Frog Rock, The Junction, Girraween



Dolphin Rock, Mallee Ridge, Girraween



Atop Mallee Ridge, Girraween

## Doggone Scruffy!



Here one minute, gone the next. Look at the ears. He's heard something and is ready to bolt after it.

That's what he did the other day with Shirley in tow.

And if that wasn't bad enough he rolled in fresh cow manure, just to let them know how much he loves 'em. Sheesh!

Shirley returned from the same escapade limping, having hurt a rear leg, presumably on a barbed wire fence. The patient is recovering.