



## The Kistler Blind Tasting



Date	:	Friday, Sep 15, 2017
Time	:	7:00pm to 9:00pm
Venue	:	12/F Hong Kong Wine Vault (Wong Chuk Hang)
No. of Attendees	:	10
Wines Tasted	:	Champagne Agrapart Cuvee 7 Cru NV (Reception) Mount Eden Santa Cruz Mountains Chardonnay 2011 Kistler Vine Hill Road Chardonnay 2010 Kistler Trenton Roadhouse Vineyard Chardonnay 2010 Kistler Durell Vineyard Chardonnay 2010 Kistler McCrea Vineyard Chardonnay 2010 Pierre Yves Colin Morey Chassagne Montrachet Champs Gains 2010

## **Our thoughts:**

*It was indeed a fun and educational tasting with plenty of laughter. The wines paired gloriously well with our artisanal canapes. All Kistler's Chardonnay stood out the most with*



*distinctive characteristics such as power, weight and balance usage of oak, especially McCrea Vineyard and Durell Vineyard. The Chassagne Montrachet Chardonnay by Pierre Yves Colin Morey was indeed a giveaway and definitely not the mystery bottle. Just how is it possibly to escape from the elegance, complexity and delicacy of well made Burgundy whites? The overall showstopper of the evening which performed tremendously well and fooled everyone that it was one of the Kistlers',*

*was the Mount Eden Chardonnay 2011 of Santa Cruz. This impressive showstopper displayed great integration between fruit and oak characteristics. Distinctively, it has something which Kistler's Chardonnays were lacking, 'crisp acidity'. Apart from that, power, weight and balance usage of oak were all in the package. Most shocking part was Mount Eden's price!*

### **Mount Eden Santa Cruz Mountains Chardonnay 2011**

*"Mount Eden's 2011 Chardonnay is simply magnificent. Intense and tightly-coiled from the very first taste, the 2011 pulsates with energy, texture and pure class. Bright citrus, lemon oil, flowers and crushed rocks are all vivid in the glass, but it is the wine's exceptional balance that stands out most. The long, vibrant finish is a thing of beauty. In 2011, winemaker Jeffrey Patterson did not make a Reserve, instead all of the juice went into the straight Chardonnay. Readers who want to understand why the Santa Cruz Mountains is one of the world's great terroirs for Chardonnay should start here. Quite simply, the 2011 Chardonnay is a, reference-point for California. The only question is how long it will take to come around." 96 pts, AG*

### **Kistler Vine Hill Road Chardonnay 2010**

*"The 2010 Chardonnay Vine Hill Vineyard is another wine with superb aromatic presence. Silky and gracious on the palate, the 2010 stands out for its pure balance and harmony. Absolutely nothing is out of place. Sweet, beautifully articulated fruit, expressive aromas and a silky finish round out the impeccable Vine Hill Chardonnay. This is a wine of total finesse. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2020." 95 pts, WA*

### **Kistler Trenton Roadhouse Vineyard Chardonnay 2010**

*"Kistler's 2010 Chardonnay Trenton Roadhouse is one of the bigger, richer wines in this lineup, but at the same time, there is a huge center of minerality running in the fruit. Orange blossoms, nectarines and tropical all make an appearance in this striking, totally exciting Chardonnay. At times, the Trenton Roadhouse appears to have the structure and frame of a red wine, yet all the elements are in the right place. The 2010 is a wonderfully complete, exciting wine from Steve Kistler. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2018."* 94 pts, WA



*Wine pairing canapés sourced from our most trusted suppliers who also supplies to Hong Kong's finest establishments.*

### **Kistler Durell Vineyard Chardonnay 2010**

*"The 2010 Chardonnay Durell Vineyard comes across as quite creamy, especially right after the McCrea, which is a more delicate wine. Hints of tropical fruit, white flowers, mint and passion fruit all take shape in the glass. A seamless, textured wine, the 2010 stands out for its depth and generosity. The resonant finish makes it hard to resist a second taste. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2018. It is always a pleasure to visit with Steve Kistler and his partner Mark Bixler. The 2011s and 2010s are excellent across the board, although I currently have a preference for the 2011s. Vintage 2011 is shaping up beautifully, for both the Chardonnays and Pinots. As was the case throughout the region, the season was cool and slow to develop. The 2011s were picked at lower sugars than is the norm here, but very much in keeping with the personality of the year. Steve Kistler commented that a poor set in 2011 resulted in their lowest crop loads in years. Like a lot of his colleagues, Kistler noted that the experiences of 2010 had a huge positive impact on how he responded to similar challenges in 2011. The 2010 Chardonnays are beautiful across the board. Although solid, the 2010 Pinots aren't quite at the level of the superb 2009s and I expect, ultimately, the 2011s. It was a tough vintage for the Pinots. Yields were mercilessly low. Sadly, there is no Cuvee Elizabeth, as the little fruit that came in went into the Kistler Vineyard bottling."* 93 pts, WA

### **Kistler McCrea Vineyard Chardonnay 2010**

*"The 2010 Chardonnay McCrea Vineyard is laced with lovely precision and class. White flowers, crushed rocks, yellow stone fruits and apricots emerge from this pretty, expressive Chardonnay. The McCrea is one of the more open 2010s here today. Its essential understated elegance comes through in spades. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2018. It is always a pleasure to visit with Steve Kistler and his partner Mark Bixler. The 2011s and 2010s are excellent across the board, although I currently have a preference for the 2011s. Vintage 2011 is shaping up beautifully, for both the Chardonnays and Pinots. As was the case throughout the region, the season was cool and slow to develop. The 2011s were picked at lower sugars than is the norm here, but very much in keeping with the personality of the year. Steve Kistler commented that a poor set in 2011 resulted in their lowest crop loads in years. Like a lot of his colleagues, Kistler noted that the experiences of 2010 had a huge positive impact on how he responded to similar challenges in 2011. The 2010 Chardonnays are beautiful across the board. Although solid, the 2010 Pinots aren't quite at the level of the superb 2009s and I expect, ultimately, the 2011s. It was a tough vintage for the Pinots. Yields were mercilessly low. Sadly, there is no Cuvee Elizabeth, as the little fruit that came in went into the Kistler Vineyard bottling."* 93 pts, WA

### **Pierre Yves Colin Morey Chassagne Montrachet Champs Gains 2010**

*"...pretty, round & harmonious... a level of textural finesse and sheer elegance that is missing from some of the other more approachable wines. A pretty, spiced note lingers on the finish."* 92 pts, WA

