

Zest hosted by Bellvale wines report

Wine Guild Victoria's return to the Zest Restaurant at the Glen Waverley campus of Holmesglen TAFE for a Winemaker's Dinner on Wednesday May 3, 2017 was a resounding success. The Bellvale wines presented by John Ellis, the food prepared and served by Holmesglen TAFE Hospitality students were exceptionally well received by our Members and Guests.

The atmosphere at Zest was warm and full of healthy discussion, with an audience of 47 in addition to our guest winemaker John Ellis and his wife Athena. It's worth noting that the total *retail* value of the wines provided was \$1,848 or approximately \$38 per person. The few bottles not consumed were added to the Guild cellar. Whichever way you look at it, the function was great value for our members and their guests.

The following report was provided by Michael Hince, wine writer, broadcaster and historian.

I thought the food, wines and company at the Wine Guild Victoria Zest Winemaker's Dinner were excellent and am going to have John Ellis on a future episode of my radio program *Heard it Through the Grapevine*.

His Bellvale Pinot Grigio 2016 was a perfect aperitif, crunchy, well-weighted with a touch of apple and Nashi pear, a lively acid and a clean, dry finish. The two 2013 pinots served with main course were interesting. The Quercus with its fruit-forward, rich, rounded, dark cherry, dusty, meaty texture and integrated tannins was eminently drinkable. The darker Stony Block with its assertive back palate started to reveal itself on second and third tasting drunk young, hence will come into its own with bottle age.

As for the food, my chicken & ham terrine with tarragon mayonnaise was top-notch as was the slow-cooked beef brisket. Dessert is often where a kitchen fails, but not so with the chocolate brownie, sea salt & olive oil Panko crunch. It was sweet yet not saturated with too much sugar.

My compliments go to Tony Fritzlaff, who coordinated the kitchen and front-of-house and Emad Akhnoukh, who kept a close watch on the students throughout the evening.

Amanda and I will certainly be returning to Zest.

Michael Hince

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