

## **Day 5: Thursday November 17**

### **Simply Sparkling. Report by Graeme Lofts**

This day was always going to be special, with tastings of some of Tasmania's best sparkling wines. We also had better weather and a new bus driver, Pat, who loves his wine and had to watch on jealously as his passengers enjoyed the day of tasting. He took it well though and added to the fun on the day.

Our first tasting experience was going to be very hard to follow, with a private tasting of four House of Arras sparkling wines. Our host, Cellar Door manager Will Doggett shared an amazing wealth of knowledge about Arras and sparkling wines in general, including the importance of geology and the role of Pinot Meunier in Champagne and other sparkling wines. Will was an outstanding host. We then ventured outdoors with Will to have a close look at the Pinot Meunier vines and enjoyed an unexpected tasting of the extraordinary Arras 2014 Rosé outside the winery.

Our next stop was the ivy-clad tasting room at Jansz Tasmania, where we were treated to a seated tasting along with a generous range of cheeses. Again, the wines were wonderful and the cheeses were delightful. The views of green rolling hills were also a treat.

Just 5 minutes away by coach was our venue for lunch and tasting, Nadine's at Pipers Brook. The grazing platters were both ample and delicious, best demonstrated by Don Hyatt's photos. As expected, the wines were also delicious. By the end of lunch our appetites were fully satisfied to the extent that the thought of more food at the next cellar door Clover Hill Wines was just a little scary.

The views at the Clover Hill cellar door were stunning as were the wines, which some described as second only to Arras on the day. Cellar Door Manager Ian White provided excellent commentary on the wines and kept everyone engaged after a very big day. The cakes and pastries were magnificent and tempted even those who thought they could eat no more.

Dinner was 'own choice and own expense' but our appetites weren't as hearty as they might have been due to the amount of food consumed during the day. The majority chose to dine in the Alpenrose Lakeside Bistro at the Tamar Valley resort while a few chose to snack in their rooms.

This day was certainly 'Simply Sparkling'.