

Imbibe

KIRSTEN RØDSGAARD-MATHIESEN finds some sassy wine labels, a bubbly with a difference and a big day out for beer lovers



A beery good day out

New Zealand's hoppiest celebration of the Kiwi craft beer industry is on Saturday 26 January in Hagley Park, Christchurch, from 11am to 6.30pm. Along with all the amazing beer from 40 breweries, the Great Kiwi Beer Festival will also feature cider, wine, coffee, soft drinks, a huge array of food vendors and live music. There are workshops, seminars and cooking demos. Make sure you take cash and ID. Tickets from \$38.90, greatkiwibeerfestival.co.nz.



Party sparkler

For six years Mission Estate winery in Hawke's Bay has been making a sparkling wine called Fête (meaning party in French). It's made from pinot gris and chardonnay – not the pinot noir, pinot meunier or solely chardonnay grapes that champagne-style wines are usually made from. The latest vintage is a fresh bubbly with lots of apple aroma and a hint of citrus – great for summer barbecues. \$20 nationwide. missionestate.co.nz.



Small but perfect

Collaboration Wines' Julianne (Julz) Brogden's first baby has arrived – and so has her latest vintage. It's a stellar small batch of wines you should cellar and drink when they have some age on them. Julz, a winemaker for 23 years, works with a small group of growers in Hawke's Bay and specialises in chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon and Bordeaux red blends. Wines start at \$27 online and in fine wine shops. collaborationwines.co.nz.



NEW WORLD GOLD WINNERS

Funky labels stand out among the top 50 wines in the New World Wine Awards, especially the Central Otago Madam Sass 2018 pinot rosé and the 2016 Australian red blend Mo Sisters, a mix of merlot, shiraz and cabernet sauvignon. Both won gold and are delightful everyday drinkers in the \$15-25 range.

COME TO CROMWELL

Cromwell's Heritage Precinct is hosting its annual Food and Wine Festival in the garden of McNulty House on 5 January. On the edge of Lake Dunstan, local musicians will perform while food and wine are enjoyed in a family-friendly atmosphere between 3pm and 8pm. Tickets are \$20 at the gate or from Cromwell i-site.



COLOURFUL NEW IDENTITY

Five new Identity wines from Brancott Estate celebrate Marlborough's distinct grape vibrancy. Winemaker Patrick Materman says the wines let "the individual personalities of each grape variety shine through". And the solid block colours of the labels catch the eye. At liquor retailers and supermarkets, \$21.99.