

Meet Torlesse Wines

Kym Rayner:

Now, I would just like to tell you about some of the people that are involved in Torlesse Wines. My name is Kym Rayner; I am a Director in the company, I am also the Senior Winemaker, and I have my own vineyard, and I supply grapes to Torlesse Wines.

Another person that's been involved from the start is Andrew Tomlin. He is a shareholder and a Director in the company. He is a vineyard owner and is involved in the day-to-day business management of the company.

Dick Pharis is one of our Canadian shareholders. He has been involved from the ... from the start with the company. Dick's a vineyard owner, he's involved with our business management and he is also Export Director. Dick and his wife, Vivian, do a lot of work in the vineyards and visit New Zealand every year.

Torlesse Wines was established in 1991 in the Waipara Valley. The original Torlesse started some years earlier out at West Melton, and I did one vintage there in 1990; but I wasn't particularly keen on the West Melton region and had seen some wines from Waipara, so I was quite keen to move to the Waipara district.

When we moved, we did retain some of the original format of -- of the Torlesse label, which featured the Torlesse Mountains, and we retained that till the present time.

Another interesting fact is, two of the shareholders that were involved in the original Torlesse Wines became involved in the setup of the new Torlesse Wines that started in Waipara.

This interesting mix of people makes Torlesse quite unique, in that we have five different families involved from different backgrounds with different passions, although the common passion is obviously making good wine in Waipara. I think it's a nice touch having two overseas shareholders. Just by chance, they're both from Canada, and that also gives us a nice entry into the Canadian market.

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