



## SUMMER 2004-2005

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### Beat the heat and visit the hills this summer

Over 10,000 sq. feet of display space in Beechworth's beautiful old Gold Office and historic Bank of NSW building await your inspection. With it's large walled garden we can offer you even more antiques to browse through.

We have filled our huge garden to capacity ready for the summer holidays, with as many examples of these beautiful garden ornaments, sculptures, fountains, benches and marble topped tables, as possible. Summer is here and

the great outdoors are here to be enjoyed. Our exclusively imported cast iron "Paris" streetlamps have, already been a huge success with only a few left.

Our cast iron sculptures include; dogs, frogs, deer, cupids rabbits, chickens, roosters etc. Other statues are also selling fast as well as gorgeous urns, pots and Coalbrookdale style one, two and three tier fountains. New Wire work benches and gazebos are affordable as well as looking great.

To complete the "Silly Season" festivities we have on offer a very fine French Cherrywood refectory table to seat 12 with a classic Biedermeier set of matching dining chairs. All beautifully polished with that unmistakable golden honey glow of old European cherrywood.

Our New website is being constructed for ease of use. Find us at : [www.antiquesandwine.com](http://www.antiquesandwine.com)

Find out more.....

• **Now in stock are:**

- Cast iron canon from \$89 each
- 18th Century Crystal Chandelier
- French Table lustres
- Rare biedermeier furniture
- Watergilt antique mirrors
- Marble column floor lamps
- Dining tables
- Bedside cabinets
- Sets of chairs
- Wine glasses
- Glazed urns
- Jewellery
- French 18th. Cent . Dresser
- Glazed oak corner cabinets

### Movements and investments

The housing market has slowed down and some of our clients are now looking to invest in serious antiques.

Having successfully sold my own house in Melbourne recently I became more aware of the various aspects of some Real estate agents' unsavory tactics towards vendors. A recent wine tasting dinner

held at the Beechworth Wine Centre, revealed that other clients are also been dealt the "hard to sell" card on prime real estate offerings.

Advice to potential sellers is as follows. If you don't have to sell then stay where you are for the next two years. We will see no great changes in interest rates, especially

with high oil prices and low American dollar. We may even see a reduction next year by 0.5% to stimulate any sluggishness in the economy. However Australia's economy is predicted to continue to grow at around 3% for the next two years. Sound like hard work!

With stability in mind, for all,

our present government will try to tie our economy closer to that of Asia. Hong Kong is booming again with a growth in residential real estate values by 26% in the last year. But like every investment, buying the best will hedge against the downturns. So invest carefully for the future. It will reward you.

# Giaconda delivers shocking news!



Beechworth Wine Centre 1860's

Wine lovers everywhere are still reeling from the shock announcement by Rick Kinzbrunner, wine-maker of Giaconda.

This noble vigneron has always been fussy about making only the best. His vineyard's high quality control and personal attention to every detail is well known amongst wine lovers. The Giaconda wines are an expression of this and Rick has decided that due to the Beechworth

drought and subsequent bushfires in 2003 that the only wine made from this vintage will be the Cabernet Sauvignon.

Being a late ripening grape variety it has escaped the effects of smoke taint and highly drought stressed vines.

*There will be no 2003 Giaconda Chardonnay.*

Ricks wines could be called "excellence in a bottle".

Don't despair we do have a couple of bottles left for personal shoppers. They won't last as the demand is high for this super premium wine. Call 03 5728 1855 for details.



Beechworth Wine Centre 1950's

***Vintage Direct*** have taken on the fantastic Prahova Valley Reds at only ***\$186.00*** a dozen.

You may recall from our last newsletter, that we have imported a quantity of wine from The Olde World, i.e. Europe.

Well we now have the second shipment unloaded and it is selling fast.

Prahova Valley wines are great value for money

Choose from the elegant old world burgundy style Pinot Noir 1999, Old World Bordeaux style Merlot 2000 or the savoury old world Tuscan style Feteasca Neagra 2000.

Limited quantity left so don't be disappointed if you miss out.

*Travel to Europe without the jetlag!*

***We take telephone orders too!***

Call : 03 5728 1855



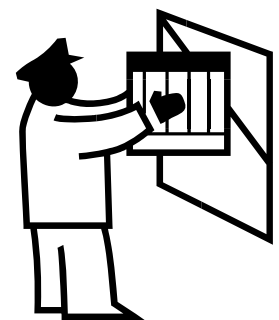
Beechworth Wine Centre 1980's

## We will still deliver.

Customers who cannot make the easy 3 hour trip from Melbourne, 4.5 hour trip from Canberra or 6.5 hour trip from Sydney are reminded that we can ship your wine orders by Post. We can also have larger items delivered to your door via courier, and for a minimal charge we can have your cast iron garden furniture and ornaments delivered personally.

So please feel free to contact us by phone on 03 5728 1855, or you can fax us on 03 57281844 or you can send an email to us at: [empirecompany@bigpond.com](mailto:empirecompany@bigpond.com).

We have shipped goods to Hong Kong, Paris, Frankfurt, Boston, Stockholm, Berlin, New Orleans, etc, as well as local and interstate. So don't be shy give us a try!



## Changes in the streets of Beechworth

New and exciting eateries are a real delight for your next visit. Here's a sample to get your taste-buds tingling

**Warden's Hotel** has reopened with a sophisticated wine list. Chef from the Milawa Cheese Factory restaurant, Michael Ryan, has teamed up with Rocco and Lisa, the new owners of Warden's Food and Wine. Phone 03 5728 1377 for more details.

The ever popular **Green Shed Bistro** offers mini pizzas, juicy large eye fillet pepper steaks and naughty Crème Brûlée. (great match to that Evans Family Rutherglen Muscat you tasted at the BWC.) Phone 03 5728 2360 for more details.

**Gigi's** new chef is really impressing the crowds. On the menu are Roasted Duck with pear, apple and witlof salad, rosemary potatoes and red currant graze. Great with a glass or two of Fighting Gully Road Pinot Noir. (available from BWC at only \$31.75 or indulge in a Giaconda Pinot Noir 2002 at \$110.) Phone Gigi's on : 03 5728 2575 for more details.

Now open in Stanley is "**The Galloping Goat**". A restaurant and function centre with the most spectacular décor. (Yes we did help a little with this). Chef Michel Renoux, (see previous news letter), will be applying his full Gallic talents. Enjoy a chilled glass of rose on the Tuscan terrace. Phone 03 5728 6777 for details.

Specialist Asian restaurateur Pamela Charity of Bowral's famous "**That Noodle Place**" was delighted when she and

her sister stayed with us recently. My generous wife Zita treated Pam and Thelma to a true Chinese banquet, including one of her many signature dishes: *Steamed spicy fish*. Pam caught up with old friends Brian and Darlene Archer with their new L.J. Hooker realty in Beechworth (03 57281076). Guests tasted local Chardonnays including Giaconda and Savaterre. Vintage Spanish reds accompanied the luscious local Milawa cheeses. French Champagne started and finished the evening of course.

Pam was so delighted that she asked Zita for her recipe, which is now available for all to try at "That Noodle Place" 279 Bong Bong Street, Bowral, NSW. For reservations please phone (02) 4861 6930. Say hi from Oliver and Zita.

## Opera in the Alps 2005

The Opera in the Alps will be held on the 22nd January 2005.

The location is the same as previous events, at La Trobe University (formerly Mayday Hills Historic Complex).

This year we will see artists such as Marina Prior and David Hobson with Tommy Tycho conducting a big 50 member Orchestra.

Highlights will be La Traviata, The merry Widow, Pirates of Penzance, Phantom of the Opera etc.

Marina Prior has not appeared in Beechworth before but her talents have shone in previous outdoor events.

"I've heard that it is a great event and I'm really looking forward to it". Ms. Prior said. "There is something inherently Australian about that

way of entertaining, where you sit out in the beautiful area and enjoy great food, great wine and music and it's all Australian made"

Of course the opera will be held at sunset with the magic of the parklands at Beechworth's La Trobe university campus as a backdrop.

Planted over 100 years ago Mayday Hills was the first sanatorium of its kind.

Built and landscaped in the 1860's it became the first mental hospital in Australia where it encouraged the recovery of patients to partake of the calming and restorative influences of nature's beauty. Today these established gardens still enchant and with the opera in 2005 in progress they will even more so. Tickets available through Ticketek on 132849.

## Chinese Consul General opens Centre

The Chinese Consul General Jiang Hua Xiao will officially open the Beechworth Chinese Cultural Centre. The Chinese Protectors Office in the "Beechworth Historic Precinct" was built to serve as a policing office for Chinese gold field workers. Some of these lost their lives when on the 4th July 1857 about 100 jealous European miners rioted looting and destroying the Chinese camps in Victoria's worst race riots.

Another tourist attraction to

Beechworth of great cultural significance, this centre endeavours to convey the very real hardships endured by the thousands of Chinese peasants who worked the fields in hope of a better life for their families. With all the discrimination, violence, physical segregation and cultural alienation their future appeared bleak. They hoped to find enough gold to send back to their families in China in order for them to have a fortunate life. This hope was greater than their despair.

Many died on the fields and are buried in the Beechworth Cemetery, some nameless, some with their town of origin as a marker.

For more information phone 03 5728 2866 or call in at 100 Ford Street, Beechworth, Victoria 3747

***Your gold coin donation for wine tastings at BWC will help to fund the installation of the Tea House Pavilion in the Chinese Gardens***

Beechworth Wine Centre  
87 Ford Street  
Beechworth Victoria 3747  
Australia

## Beechworth Harvest Festival 2005

Harvest Festival 2005 activities are now being planned.

This is one festival we thoroughly encourage everyone to enjoy. The various gourmet stalls will enchant your tastebuds. To compliment these there will also be various local vigneronns offering their finest wines for tastings.

For more information phone the Beechworth Tourist information office to arrange for accommodation etc. Phone 57283233 or visit the Old Town hall, Ford Street Beechworth for more details.

Phone: 0357 281855

Fax: 0357 281844

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[empirecompany@bigpond.com](mailto:empirecompany@bigpond.com)

*Quality and integrity  
delivered*

## Beechworth Gaol develops this year.

The recent sale of the historic Beechworth gaol, built in the 1860's of massive granite stone blocks and until recently fully operational, has been sold a Melbourne based development company.

The tendering process had to take into consideration the possibility of each tenders' job creation schemes as well as general impacts on the community. The Melbourne based developer has proposed to make the 100 prison cells into premium local wine storage facilities. That would hold more wine than we produce in Beechworth. The old Governors residence will become up market accommodation and craft markets will be held within the walls. The Gaol once held Ned Kelly, and as such this important aspect has been ignored by the decision makers. The opportunity for a real state prisons museum could be a far greater drawer card for Beechworth, similar to Tasmania's Port Arthur Complex. This decision was made in the light of our local council tendering out the management of the Beechworth Historic Precinct to private enterprise. Once this happens we may well see the likes of fast food chains and theme park venues appear in Beechworth.

Further residential development outside the old Gaol granite walls will also have a great impact on our environment. Let's hope that the powers that be can be influenced to save our very visible historic surroundings. Inappropriate development and commercialisation should not be acceptable trade offs just to create a few jobs. Beechworth is still the best preserved town of the 19th century in Victoria, if not Australia. Lets keep it that way!

## Website development.

Apart from our current web exposure at:

[www.beechworth.com](http://www.beechworth.com)

we are also found at :

<http://www.antiq-art.com.au/gallery/dealers/empire/dealer.htm>

In the near future we will have our own dedicated website for antiques and wine at:

[www.antiquesandwine.com](http://www.antiquesandwine.com)

This will give many of you an opportunity to inspect our rare and unique shop via the internet and be able to order on line if you so desire, of course personal shopping will never be replaced by the electronic age. And the real life experience is always more rewarding.

*I take this opportunity again to wish everyone a healthy happy and prosperous New Year, be it Western or Chinese.*

*Yours Sincerely*



*Oliver von Wilpert*

*director of*

*The Beechworth Wine Centre*