

THE WILD BUNCH

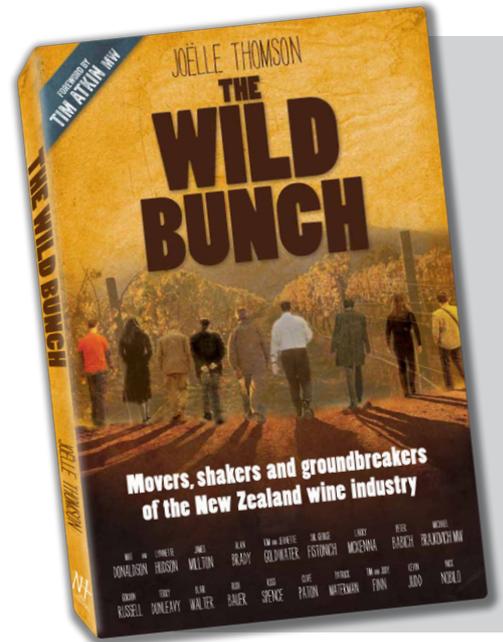
**Movers, shakers and groundbreakers
of the New Zealand wine industry**

By Joëlle Thomson

Foreword by Tim Atkin MW

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‘THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER WELL-WRITTEN OVERVIEWS OF THE KIWI WINE INDUSTRY, BUT NO ONE HAS SOUGHT TO TELL THIS EXTRAORDINARY TALE THROUGH THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE AT THE SHARP, OR RATHER STICKY, END: JOËLLE THOMSON’S MAGNIFICENT WILD BUNCH.’

— Tim Atkin MW from his foreword in *The Wild Bunch*

Wine writer, journalist, author, teacher and wine lover, Joëlle Thomson shares stories from the vineyards to the wine glass, in her new book ***The Wild Bunch: Movers, shakers and ground-breakers of the New Zealand wine industry.***

The 18 ‘quietly powerful individuals’ who are also ‘philosophers, modernists, scientists, hedonists and party animals’ – as she calls them – have revolutionised our burgeoning New Zealand industry and with each chapter she tells of their successes mixed with trials. Critically, these ‘movers’ and ‘shakers’ exhibit the perseverance, ingenuity and sheer dedication to making the best wine possible.

These people have pushed our wine industry forward tremendously over the past century – to a point where New Zealand is recognised as a leading force on the world stage – a hugely commendable feat given the youth of our industry.

Rather than compiling a line-up of the top wineries in New Zealand, Joëlle talks to the individuals behind the labels whose stories are worth telling: those who have grown and shaped the styles and tastes of the reds and whites on our tables. The ‘wild bunch’ range from those who have built wineries from scratch with little capital and the unsung industry heros, right through to third generation winemakers who continue to build on the audacious spirit of their grandparents.

‘WINE IS THE MOST EXCITING SUBJECT IN THE WORLD. WHY WOULDN’T YOU WANT TO READ MORE, TASTE MORE AND DRINK MORE WIDELY? IT’S JUST LIKE THIS MASSIVE PLATE OF CANDY OUT THERE WAITING TO BE ENJOYED. IT TOTALLY ROCKS MY WORLD.’

— Lynnette Hudson (of Pegasus Bay) in *The Wild Bunch*

To arrange an extract, interview with Joëlle or your local ‘mover’ and ‘shaker’ or for more information, please contact Amanda Robinson at New Holland Publishers: email arobinson@nhp.co.nz or phone 09 481 0444



Joëlle's confident and easy approach to wine and the high-achieving winemakers in *The Wild Bunch* is primarily, 'to make wine as deliciously interesting, stimulating and fun to read about, as the best ones are to drink'. And the book is an easy dip in for all of us foodies who enjoy a good glass of our country's best but also want to be challenged and inspired to try other recommended styles.

And critically relevant in the wake of the news of tonnes of grapes lost in this year's frosts, *The Wild Bunch* shares the winemakers' tales of adversity and their perseverance through the tricky seasons. The stories from Joëlle's 'wild bunch' offer inspiration to vineyard owners who now struggle to make a profit after establishing investment wineries during the wine-rush in the 90's.

Joëlle describes the characters pioneering biodynamic and organic winemaking and the early adopters not afraid to try new styles such as advocating the screw cap and spearheading the production of Pinot Noir in the world's southernmost wine-growing region, putting their fingers up to the critics in true Kiwi style after it had been pronounced that it couldn't be done.

The Wild Bunch peels off the label from the bottle: Joëlle's 'wildest' winemakers are the men and women who traipse the vineyards, drive the tractors and get their hands and feet dirty to pursue their passions to make bloody good wine – the winemakers worth popping a cork for.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joëlle Thomson is a leading New Zealand wine writer, whose first wine column appeared in *Capital Times* newspaper 1994, and whose weekly wine column now appears in *The Dominion Post* in Wellington; *Christchurch Press* and *Waikato Times*. She edits *Drinksbiz*, writes for *New Zealand Wine Grower* and teaches at the NZ School of Food & Wine. Joëlle has judged wine competitions in New Zealand and Australia, and is a member of the British-based Circle of Wine Writers. Her other books include *Celebrating New Zealand Wine* (New Holland 2004, a Montana Awards finalist and winner of a Gourmand Cookbook award), and the best-selling annual Wine Guide series (New Holland 1999–2005).

- A challenging exposé of the New Zealand wine industry through the eyes of some of its most experienced hands of today.
- Wine recommendations and predictions from a hand-picked selection of the industry's most trend-setting exponents.
- Highly regarded and trusted author of a decade's worth of wine guides and three other leading titles on New Zealand wine.
- Foreword by Tim Atkin, an award-winning wine writer and Master of Wine based in London.

**MAT DONALDSON AND
LYNNETTE HUDSON**
PEGASUS BAY,
WAIKATO NORTH CANTERBURY

NICK NOBILO
VINOPTIMA GISBORNE

GORDON RUSSELL
ESK VALLEY ESTATE HAWKE'S BAY

PETER BABICH MBE
BABICH WINES WEST AUCKLAND

ROSS SPENCE QSO
WINE PIONEER SAUVIGNON BLANC

**KIM AND JEANETTE
GOLDWATER**
WINE PIONEERS
WAIHEKE ISLAND

MICHAEL BRAJKOVICH MW
KUMEU RIVER WINES
WEST AUCKLAND

SIR GEORGE FISTONICH
VILLA MARIA ESTATE
SOUTH AUCKLAND

CLIVE PATON ONZM
ATA RANGI MARTINBOROUGH

LARRY MCKENNA
ESCARPMENT VINEYARD
MARTINBOROUGH

JAMES MILLTON MNZM
THE MILLTON VINEYARD
GISBORNE

RUDI BAUER
QUARTZ REEF CENTRAL OTAGO

TIM AND JUDY FINN
NEUDORF VINEYARDS NELSON

BLAIR WALTER
FELTON ROAD CENTRAL OTAGO

KEVIN JUDD
GREYWACKE MARLBOROUGH
(WITH IVAN SUTHERLAND MNZM
AND JAMES HEALY, DOG POINT
VINEYARD)

PATRICK MATERMAN
PERNOD RICARD NEW ZEALAND
MARLBOROUGH

ALAN BRADY MNZM
WINE PIONEER CENTRAL OTAGO

TERRY DUNLEAVY MBE
WINE VISIONARY AUCKLAND

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