

Autumn Mulled Wine...

This is dead easy to make and tastes like Autumn in a glass. It's a lovely celebration of gorgeous spices like cloves, cinnamon and nutmeg.

If you've got your own favourite spices, then feel free to add those to the pot too. Let everything cook away and warm up gently so the flavours have time to mingle with the wine.

Leave your mulled wine ticking over on a really low heat and just ladle some into glasses as and when friends pop in.

✦ YOU WILL NEED:

- 2 mandarins
- peel of 1 lemon
- peel of 1 lime
- 250g caster sugar
- 6 whole cloves
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 3 fresh bay leaves
- 1 whole nutmeg
- 1 whole vanilla pod, halved
- 2 star anise
- 2 bottles of Chianti, or other Italian red wine

Peel large sections of peel from your mandarins, lemon and lime using a speed peeler. Put the sugar in a large saucepan over a medium heat, add the pieces of peel and squeeze in the mandarin juice. Add the cloves, cinnamon stick, bay leaves and about 10 to 12 gratings of nutmeg.



Throw in your halved vanilla pod and stir in just enough red wine to cover the sugar. Let this simmer until the sugar has completely dissolved into the red wine and then bring to the boil.

Keep on a rolling boil for about 4 to 5 minutes, or until you've got a beautiful thick syrup. The reason to do this first is to create a wonderful flavour base by really getting the sugar and spices to infuse and blend well with the wine. It's important to do make a syrup base first because it needs to be quite hot, and if you do this with both bottles of wine in there you'll burn off the alcohol.

When your syrup is ready turn the heat down to low and add your star anise and both bottles of wine. Gently heat the wine and after around 5 minutes, when it's warm and delicious, ladle it into glasses and serve. ✦



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NEWSLETTER 3 ✨ YOURshare

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of YOURshare!

Diversification is the Key

The media is buzzing with comments about what may be the future for residential property, if the Government takes steps to change the taxation regime surrounding this asset sector. Who really knows what the final outcome will be and exactly what impact it would have on property values.

However, it is probably fair to say the following:

- ✦ House prices are generally over valued relative to the rental return they generate
- ✦ Many investors in residential property are there more for the capital gain than the income flow and they enjoy the benefits of gearing plus tax deductions and the ability to offset losses against their personal income.
- ✦ If the profitability of residential property investing declines due to taxation changes, then the sector will possibly become a less desirable place to invest ones hard earned money and as a result, house appreciation may not be as great in the future as what it has been in the past- assuming that all other factors remain constant.
- ✦ If interest rates go up, the tax situation becomes less favourable for residential property investors and at the same time, they struggle to increase rents to compensate, then we could potentially be staring at a period of stagnant to low growth.

What does this mean for the residential property investor and is there a life lesson in this for us all?

A change in the tax treatment of residential property is not necessarily a bad thing (unless you are a highly geared property investor). There is ample evidence to suggest that the country would benefit, if more investment dollars went to the domestic share market rather than residential property.

House price appreciation in New Zealand has almost been a fairy tale – a situation where it is almost too good to be true. Somewhere along the line, we had to realise that the way property is treated here needs to come more into line with the rest of the world. Any taxation change should not automatically mean that an investor should sell their rental properties. Investors, by nature are long term in their thinking and property prices are sure to rise over time.

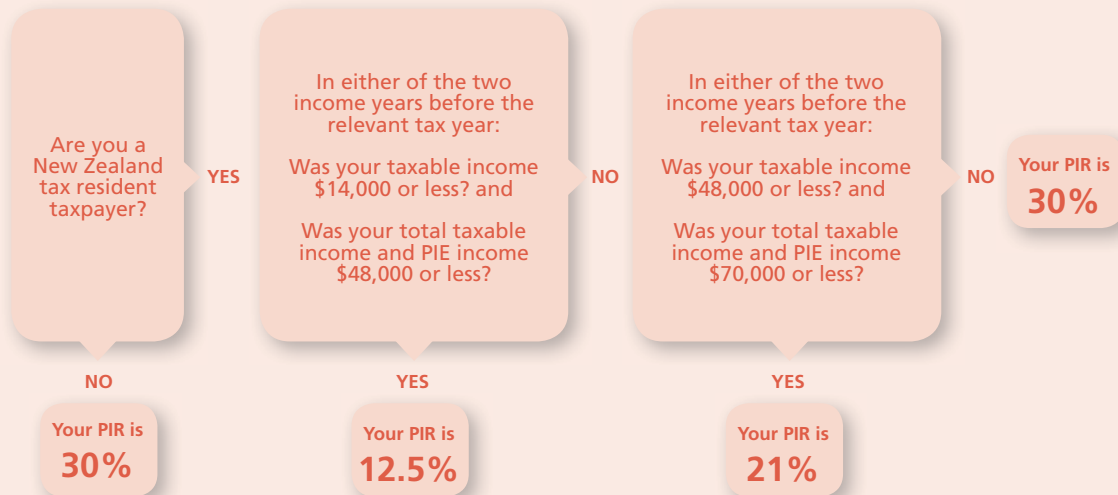
We need to spread our wealth amongst the various asset classes. If the taxation changes do come into effect, then there could be a gradual move of investment dollars towards the sharemarket. Combine this with the huge sums of money being invested annually via Kiwisaver, and it means that over the next decade, the sharemarket will become an increasingly more attractive place to invest. For confirmation of this, just look across the ditch at Australia. Compulsory superannuation has been a major factor in driving up the Australian sharemarket.

Talk to us about whether your investment portfolio and lifestyle assets are appropriately positioned to take advantage of the changing world in which we live. ✦

Update your PiR

From 1 April 2010, new Prescribed Investor Rates (PIR) will apply. It is in your financial interests to check to ensure we have your correct rate. Your PIR is the tax rate levied on your taxable income plus income earned from portfolio investment entities (PIEs) such as some New Zealand based unit trusts. Contact us with your correct PIR as at 31 March 2010. We do not want to see you paying more tax than necessary, or even worse, paying too little tax due to the wrong rate being supplied and you then incurring IRD shortfall penalties.

Calculate and check your PIR for year ending 31 March 2011



STRANGE...but true!

- 1 ✨ Men are six times more likely to be struck by lightning than women.
- 2 ✨ A person uses approximately 57 pieces of toilet paper every day.
- 3 ✨ Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.
- 4 ✨ More Monopoly money is printed in a year than real money is printed throughout the world.
- 5 ✨ Recycling one glass jar saves enough energy to watch TV for three hours.
- 6 ✨ A sneeze travels out of your mouth at over 100 miles per hour.
- 7 ✨ Fingernails grow nearly four times faster than toenails.
- 8 ✨ Every time you lick a stamp you're consuming 1/10 of a calorie.
- 9 ✨ The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows.

Family trusts -

DON'T FORGET THE ADMINISTRATION

Family trusts are a great asset protection and estate planning vehicle. Unfortunately, they are only as robust as the administration that goes into the annual operation of them. If you let the administration fall away, then the trust has the ability to become weakened and could potentially be attacked at the very time you most need its benefits.

Consider the following at the end of the financial year:

- Is the tax return under control?
- What about beneficiary distributions?
- Have we minuted all necessary transactions and passed suitable trustee resolutions?
- Have we filed our annual gifting statement and Deed of Forgiveness of Debt?
- Have we kept family trust monies totally separate from other monies?

If in doubt, give us a call and we can review your family trust administration with you. ✨

PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL **treasures!**

If you have ever had to evacuate your home quickly or had disaster strike your home (or know someone who has), you will appreciate the importance of protecting those precious items that insurance can't replace such as photos, important documents and memorabilia.

One day you might be forced to leave your home suddenly due to fire or flooding in the area and you only have time to grab a few personal items. What could you grab right now if you only had two minutes to leave the house? Here are some tips to ensure you can protect your most precious items should disaster strike:

TIP ✨ 1 Buy a small, fireproof and watertight safe in which to store precious jewellery, keys, pin numbers, originals of important documents, photographs, ornaments, memorabilia and treasured letters. These are available from most locksmiths.

TIP ✨ 2 Obtain a portable cardboard or plastic file box and keep copies of all key documents such as wills, powers of attorney, warranties, trust deeds, passports, birth certificates and insurance policy documents. This file box should be readily accessible so it can be grabbed quickly if necessary.

TIP ✨ 3 Open a safe deposit box at your bank. Keeping the most valuable of the valuable items off-site is often the most secure solution, but make sure you keep the key or combination somewhere safe and where you can easily and quickly find it.

TIP ✨ 4 Keep a current list of pin numbers, access codes and passwords, but ensure this is kept in a secure place such as your safe.

TIP ✨ 5 Store photos on CD or USB hard drives and keep these off-site. Files on your computer should be backed up (i.e. a copy of the data) onto a CD or DVD and periodically stored off-site.

TIP ✨ 6 For insurance purposes, keep updated inventories of all of your personal items including serial numbers, date of purchase and value.

If you follow these steps, it may make rebuilding your life after a disaster just that much easier. ✨

Kiwi Saver it's **STILL** a no-brainer...

Kiwisaver has been an outstanding success and has far exceeded the original expectations of the Government. Over 1 million New Zealanders have now signed up and are reaping the benefits that Kiwisaver provides.

The amazing thing is that this is only one in three of those who are eligible to join. What has happened to the other two million Kiwis and why have they not jumped at the chance of obtaining the Kiwisaver benefits? Is it apathy, skepticism or a misunderstanding of how Kiwisaver really operates?

If you are aged 64 years or under or know of those who are 64 years or under and are not in Kiwisaver, then spend a few minutes of your time talking to us about how Kiwisaver could be good for you and your friends.

The importance of a **Full Disclosure**

We all hate filling out forms, especially long ones that seem to ask endless questions about our personal situation. We tend to rush these and start to abbreviate our answers. However resist this temptation when filling out insurance application forms.

A good number of life insurance claims and income protection insurance claims are declined in New Zealand every year due to failure to fully disclose all the relevant medical details relating to the applicant. Insurers make their decision to provide insurance for you based upon the information you provide to them. The policy details clearly explain that you must disclose all relevant medical details and it is not up to you to decide what is relevant and what is not. That is the prerogative of the insurer.

Do not let yourself or someone you know become a future claim statistic. Take the time and fully and carefully complete any insurance application form. ✨