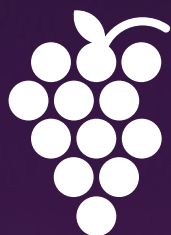


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The Drop In

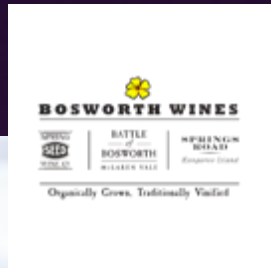
Reds Edition:

The Rise of Alternative Varieties

Fri 4 July 2025

Producer Guide





BATTLE OF BOSWORTH WINES

Battle of Bosworth make organically grown and certified wines from our family-owned vineyards in McLaren Vale.

The Battle of Bosworth range embodies tradition, showcasing the depth and complexity of McLaren Vale terroir, resulting in elegant reds and full-bodied whites.

> VISIT WEBSITE



BONDAR WINES

Bondar is a family wine company making wines from McLaren vale and the Adelaide Hills. Home is the iconic Rayner Vineyard, which lies on the border of the Blewitt Springs and Seaview sub-regions of McLaren Vale. Bondar's vision is to make wines that are lighter, brighter, more savoury, structured and intriguing. Different.

In the years since it began Bondar has been highly awarded, including most recently being shortlisted in 2024 as one of the Top 9 winemakers in Australia by the James Halliday Wine Companion.

While Bondar's main focus is on making modern styles of traditional varieties (Grenache, Shiraz, Chardonnay), they also make a range of small batch, alternative varieties from McLaren Vale. These stay true to the house philosophy of texture, vibrancy, and elegance. Fiano, Monastrell, Nero and Sagrantino are the key players, paying homage to the Italian heritage of the region and the Mediterranean climate it enjoys.

> VISIT WEBSITE



**Brash
Higgins**



BRASH HIGGINS

Brash Higgins farm and produce organic and minimal intervention wines using both natural and traditional techniques. We seek to capture the essence of McLaren Vale's sun and soil, the elusive characters of the fruit, and the whims of our own restless muse.

> VISIT WEBSITE



CHALK HILL
McLAREN VALE



CHALK HILL WINES

Chalk Hill Wines is a family-owned winery with over 185 years of grape growing heritage in McLaren Vale. Established in 1839 by John Harvey, a pioneer of Australia's wine industry, the Harvey family has continued its winemaking legacy for six generations.

Today, Chalk Hill is McLaren Vale's most visited winery, welcoming over 100,000 guests annually. Recognised as a Top Five Red Star Winery by James Halliday every year since 2007, Chalk Hill has also won Best Wine of Show at the McLaren Vale Wine Show (2020 & 2023) and the Best Grenache Trophy at the 2024 National Wine Show of Australia for its Alpha Crucis Old Vine Grenache.

> VISIT WEBSITE




CORIOLE
McLAREN VALE



CORIOLE VINEYARDS

Coriole Vineyards is situated in the undulating hills of the McLaren Vale wine region in South Australia, just within sight of the sea. Coriole was founded by Hugh and Molly Lloyd in the 1960s, and is still owned and managed by the Lloyd family today.

Shiraz is the great tradition of McLaren Vale going back over 150 years, and is the major variety planted on the estate. Alongside shiraz, cabernet, grenache and chenin blanc, Coriole produces alternative varieties such as piquepoul, nero d'avola, montepulciano and negroamaro. Coriole has been a pioneer of Italian varieties since 1985, with the oldest sangiovese and fiano vineyards in Australia.

> VISIT WEBSITE



**Coulter
Wines.**



COULTER WINES

Coulter wines is a small batch wine producer with a focus on cleanliness and purity, minimal intervention helps preserve volatile aroma compounds and “body” within their wine.

Fruit is sourced from premium growers in the Adelaide Hills, Barossa Valley and Riverland, being picked and crushed in the same day.

All Coulter red wines are basket pressed post ferment and gravity fed. Wines spend a limited time in barrel and are released within 6 months of production to retain their bright and vibrant fruitfulness.

> VISIT WEBSITE



GEORGE'S FOLLY

It was a rather unconventional entrée into the Wine industry for George, Jodie and their family when after years of holidaying on the beautiful Fleurieu Peninsula and being very passionate about food and wine, George come home one day and announced that he had purchased a vineyard at Currency Creek, rather than the holiday house Jodie had desired! With no experience in viticulture, it was quite the baptism of fire when very soon after settlement, the first vintage was upon them. Since then and with 11 vintages under their belt, the family has well and truly adapted and affectionately call said vineyard “George’s Folly” which has also since become their wine label.

With a love of both French and Italian wines, they grafted their Riesling patch to several alternative grape varietals including Roussanne, Sauvignon Gris, Nero d’Avola, Montepulciano, Gamay, Primativo and Saperavi and started making wines using these varietals. Whilst they didn’t end up with their dream holiday house and relaxing lifestyle, they have thrown themselves into learning everything they can about the industry and enjoy drinking and sharing wines under the “George’s Folly” label. Tonight, they have chosen to put their Montepulciano, Nero d’Avola, blend of Montepulciano and Nero d’Avola and their most recent wine, a Gamay, on for tasting.

> VISIT WEBSITE



HASTWELL & LIGHTFOOT

Hastwell & Lightfoot was started in 1988 by Mark & Wendy Hastwell and their mates Martin and Jill Lightfoot (retired). Together, these two families planted the first Hastwell & Lightfoot vineyards in the deep sandy slopes of Foggo Road.

Now under the leadership of the Hastwell family's second generation, the family oversees forty acres of certified sustainable vineyard and four acres of olive trees.

Beyond crafting McLaren Vale icons like Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Grenache, they've been pioneers in producing wines from alternative grape varieties native to Spain and Italy for more than twenty years. The team is passionate about varieties that are well-suited to the growing conditions in McLaren vale (e.g., Fiano, Vermentino, Tempranillo, Barbera, and more) and therefore more sustainable overall.

Guided by a focus on precision, Winemaker James Hastwell strives to produce bright, fruit-forward wines with lively acidity, smooth tannins and judicious use of oak that showcase the premium McLaren Vale grapes grown on the sandy slopes of their vineyard. These attributes yield fresh and vibrant wines that pair exceptionally well with food.

> VISIT WEBSITE



HEARTLAND 



HEARTLAND WINES

At Heartland we talk lovingly of our vines and soil, of our hard work and attention to detail and of the time taken in barrel and bottle to make the wines we offer. But what does it all mean? What is it all for? The end result is all that matters. It is that moment when you open a bottle of Heartland and discover all those sensations we have strived to include. It is the moment when the aromas, the texture and the flavours combine to fill your senses so you can taste it from where you are. Savouring the IT that we are all so passionate about.

> VISIT WEBSITE



HOFFMANN FAMILY VINEYARDS

The Hoffmann family are renowned specialists in premium Shiraz, with the first vines planted in the 1880s. Today, they own and manage over 150 hectares of vineyards in the Northern Barossa sub-region.

While Shiraz is their flagship variety, the Hoffmann's also grow exceptional Mataro (Mourvèdre), Grenache, and Cabernet Sauvignon, along with small parcels of White Frontignac, Nebbiolo, Sangiovese, Durif, Cabernet Franc, Touriga, Carignan, Malbec, Lagrein, and Zinfandel.

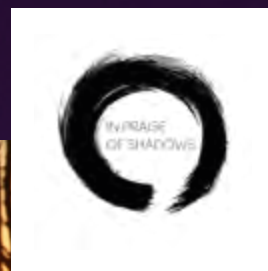
> VISIT WEBSITE



HUGO WINES

Hugo Wines is a sixth-generation, family-owned and operated winery located in the McLaren Vale Wine Region. Our vineyard, positioned on one of the higher sites in McLaren Vale, produces elegant wines with texture and complexity. We focus primarily on single vineyard wines that tell the unique story of our special corner of McLaren Vale. Today, the vineyard is led by fifth-generation vigneron Will Hugo, who brings fresh ideas and new varieties while honouring the traditions of those who came before him.

> VISIT WEBSITE



IN PRAISE OF SHADOWS

Nestled in the vineyards of McLaren Vale, In Praise of Shadows sees itself as a custodian, not just a creator. We are curators of experience—storytellers inspired by the interplay of light and shadow. Named in homage to Junichiro Tanizaki's iconic essay, our brand embraces beauty in the understated, the imperfect, and the timeless. Our winemaking blends centuries-old traditions with cutting-edge innovation, resulting in wines that are both profoundly classic and strikingly modern.

Each bottle is a story—a dance of tradition and innovation, inviting you to slow down and savour life's subtler pleasures. Our wines are shaped by the soil, climate, and seasons, crafted not for boldness' sake but for balance, complexity, and reflection.

We are deeply rooted in McLaren Vale through partnerships with multi-generational vineyard families. Sustainability is our cornerstone. The land is nurtured through regenerative agriculture, water conservation, minimal intervention, and energy-efficient systems.

Many of our vineyards are certified organic or biodynamic; nearly all are registered with Sustainable Winegrowing Australia. Sustainability is not just a practice—it's a promise.

> VISIT WEBSITE



Kalleske
BAROSSA VALLEY



KALLESKE WINES

Kalleske is a family-owned winery and vineyard from the Barossa Valley producing handcrafted, estate grown, certified organic and biodynamic wines of individuality and excellence. The Kalleske family have been sustainably farming and growing grapes on the estate since 1853 and today, genuine sustainability and careful environmental practices continue to be at the core of our Kalleske farming, grape growing and winemaking.

“Winemaking in the Barossa Valley is dominated by the noble and traditional varieties of Shiraz, Cabernet and Grenache and whilst it’s gratifying to make wine from these stalwart grapes, it’s really fun to play and explore alternative varieties. Two decades ago, Dad & Kym diversified the vineyard with plantings of Tempranillo, Zinfandel, Petit Verdot and Durif, as a winemaker it’s been satisfying adding these to our range, not only for me crafting them, but also for our customers drinking them.” – Troy Kalleske, Winemaker

> VISIT WEBSITE



KIMBOLTON



KIMBOLTON WINES

Kimbolton Wines are owned and operated by fifth-generation siblings Nicole & Brad. Each wine is sourced from individual vineyard sites to showcase their unique regional characters. Kimbolton produce a range of award-winning classic varieties but also pride themselves on showcasing award-winning alternative varieties from their vineyards in Langhorne Creek. Whilst Langhorne Creek is considered one of Australia's oldest wine regions, Kimbolton is dedicated to breathing new life into the traditional wine experience.

> VISIT WEBSITE



LiNO 
RAMBLE



LINO RAMBLE WINES

Flying the flag for future proof varieties. Celebrating the unique Mediterranean/Australian character of McLaren Vale we carefully select varieties from single vineyard sites focussing on sustainability, intrigue and above all else, drinkability. The wines are hand-made with an emphasis on fruit character being the star of the show, texture is king and the winemaking “fingerprint” kept to a minimum.

> VISIT WEBSITE



MINISTRY
OF CLOUDS



MINISTRY OF CLOUDS WINES

Shaped by our global perspective working with some of the wine world's greatest producers for a shared 30 plus years, Ministry of Clouds was founded in 2012 with the sole goal of crafting wines with gastronomy in mind.

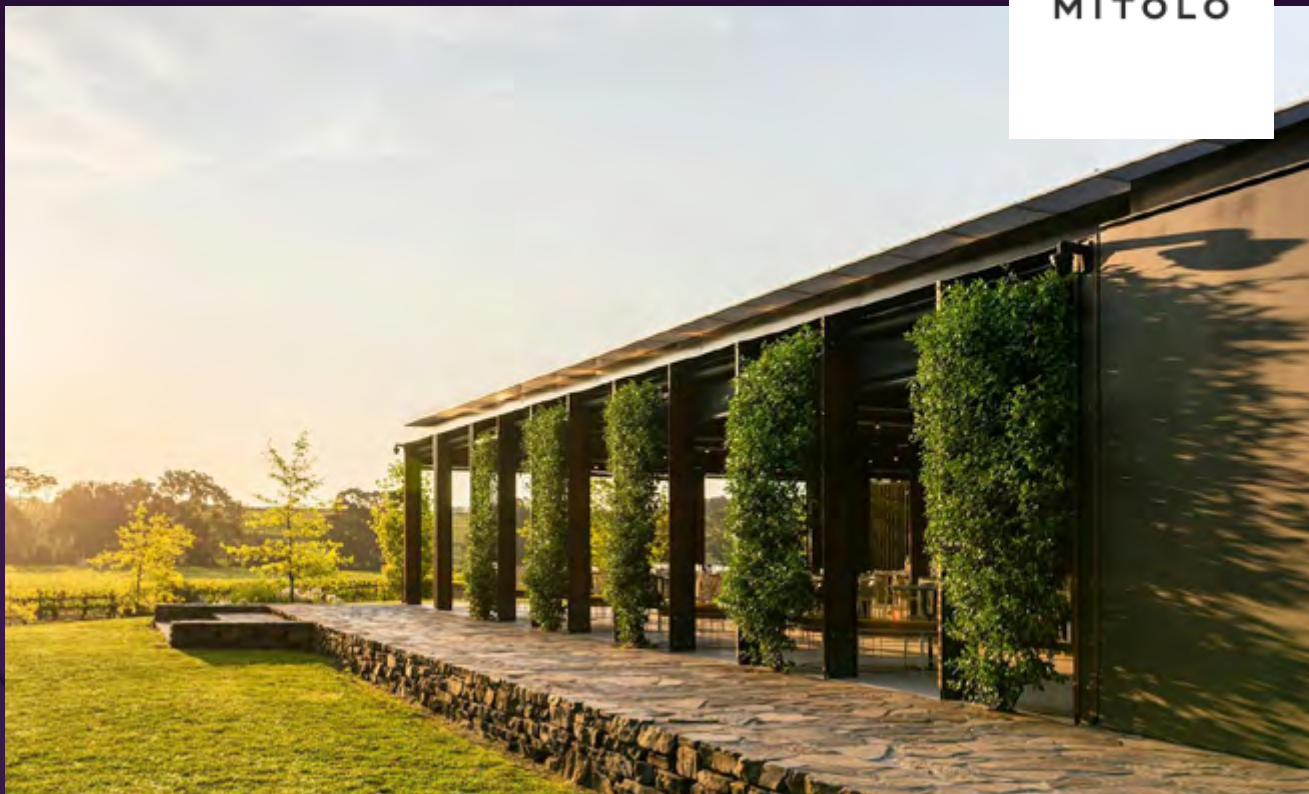
Transparency, elegance, recognition of site, with an emphasis on both growing and making sustainably, we produce thoroughly modern but distinctively classic wines from the ancient vines and geology of our home in McLaren Vale. McLaren Vale is our winemaking heartland; home to our winery and 11 hectare vineyard, "The Chase", and in addition from our conception, we have celebrated a suite of esteemed old vine vineyards some more than 100 years of age.

Both our winery and vineyard is certified with Sustainable Winegrowing Australia, and in addition we work with both organic and regeneratively managed sites.

> VISIT WEBSITE



MITOLO



MITOLO WINES

The essence of Mitolo Wines can be traced back centuries through generations of agriculturists and viticulturalists. Hailing from Italy's Abruzzo region, the Mitolo family migrated to Australia in the 1950s with a hardworking ethos and a strong connection to the land. Embodying the motto of Abruzzo – forte e gentile or strong and gentle – Mitolo's proud Italian-Australian heritage is engrained in its endeavour to craft remarkable wines of character and elegance.

In 2000, Mitolo made its first Shiraz, and two years later its first Cabernet Sauvignon. Since that time, Mitolo has championed these two varieties with fruit from some of McLaren Vale's finest vineyards. Whilst building its reputation for premium Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon offerings, Mitolo expanded its range to include several Italian varieties paying homage to the family's roots.

In 2017, Mitolo Wines opened its McLaren Vale Cellar Door and Osteria. Surrounded by vineyards, set on Turrapparri Creek, and overlooking the Mount Lofty Ranges, the unmatched serenity is open to be enjoyed by all.

> VISIT WEBSITE



MORDRELLE
WINES

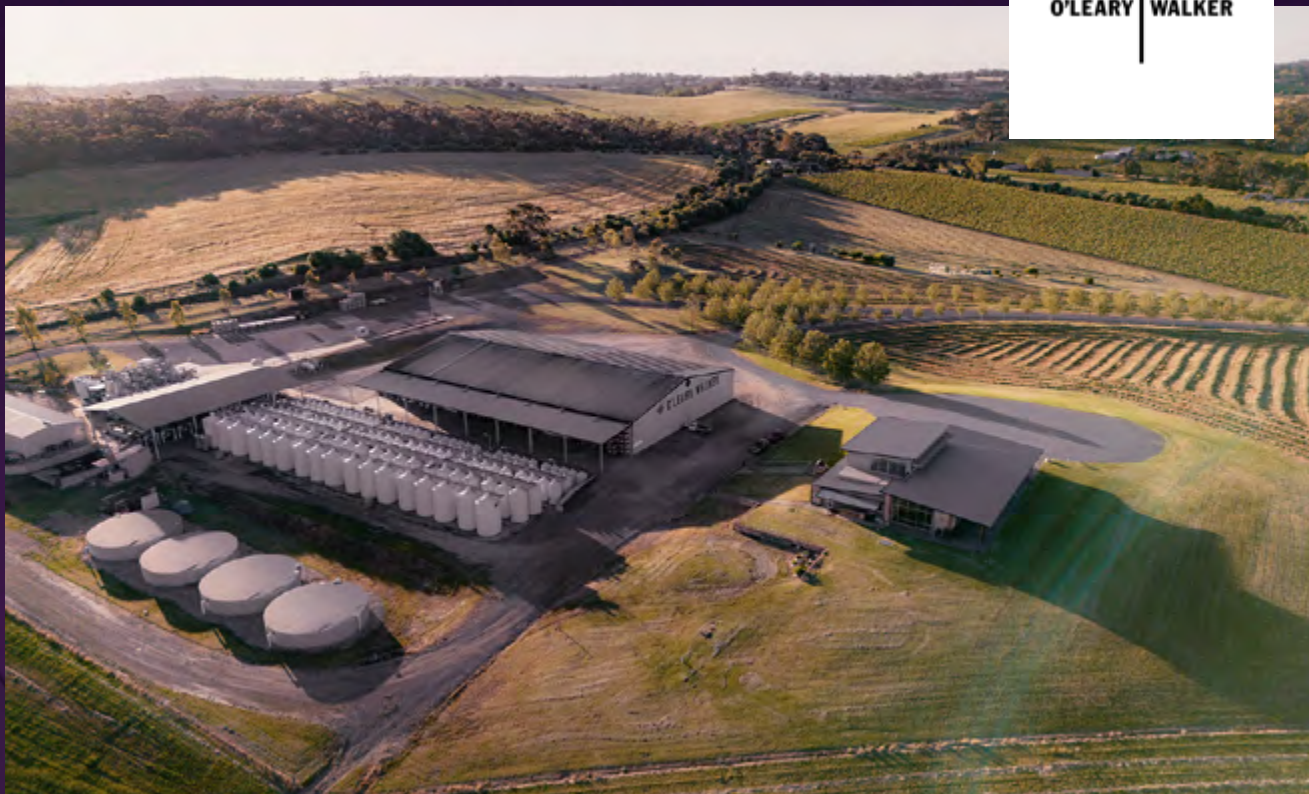


MORDRELLE WINES

Established in 2010 and based in Hahndorf in the beautiful Adelaide Hills, Mordrelle Wines is a family owned boutique wine producer.

Winemaker Martin Moran, his wife Michelle and her family David and Jane Dreckow are proud to present our handcrafted wines: Bottle-fermented and disgorged on demand Sparkling Blanc de Blancs and Apple Ciders; Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc; Pinot Noir, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Barbera, Tempranillo, and Rose.

> VISIT WEBSITE



O'LEARY WALKER WINES

O'Leary Walker Wines (OWW) was founded in 2000 by winemakers (and best friends) – Nick Walker and David O'Leary. Joining David and Nick on our winemaking team is Jack Walker (Nick's son and fourth generation winemaker).

OWW is known for celebrating the best of South Australia's grape-growing regions. We draw on the highest quality fruit varieties that excel in these varied viticultural climates. Our Clare Valley Rieslings and Shiraz's are world class, and our international reputation has been earned through consistent quality over many decades.

OWW has its cellar door in the heart of the Clare Valley overlooking the beautiful Watervale region, which features a restaurant that offers an elevated menu which reflects the seasonality of ingredients from across our fruitful state. Led by head chef BJ, our restaurant was recognised as one of South Australia's top restaurants.

> VISIT WEBSITE



OLIVER'S TARANGA VINEYARDS

Six generations of stubborn, competitive growers and one equally spirited winemaker – that's the Oliver family.

Living smack bang in the middle of McLaren Vale, the family flourish on producing perfect parcels of fruit on their 100 hectare 'Taranga' property.

Their collection of small batch, handcrafted, Oliver's Taranga wines speak of both the variety and vintage, capturing a time and place, while continuing to document the family's ongoing 185 year relationship with the land.

> VISIT WEBSITE



PIKES



PIKES WINES

Pikes Wines is grounded by family. From brothers to sons, since 1984 when the Pike family first stepped foot on Polish Hill River soil and decided to make wine together.

Our site is unique, with tough acidic soils overlaying an ancient Slate formation, which has lay beneath Polish Hill River for over 650 million years.

Our house style is elegant and refined, yet generous and approachable, A style that has been forged over many years by geology and geography, viticultural learnings, and a hands-off winemaking approach.

A style that celebrates this incredible place we call home.

> VISIT WEBSITE



RICCA TERRA



RICCA TERRA

Ricca Terra is made up of ten individual vineyards located in Barmera, South Australia.

In total, the vineyards occupy 70 hectares of land, which were originally farmed by returned soldiers from the first and second World Wars. Aligning climatic conditions with grape varieties that allow for sustainable farming and the crafting of premium wines is the core philosophy that drives Ricca Terra's vision of creating one of Australia's great vineyards.

> VISIT WEBSITE



SMIDGE
WINES



SMIDGE WINES

At Smidge, we stand with the innovators and pioneers of industry - those who pursue their passions with purpose. Led by acclaimed winemaker Matt Wenk, whose early love of flavour and balance was nurtured in his Spanish grandmother's kitchen, we bring that same care and curiosity to every bottle we craft today.

From the outset, our focus has remained on quality, sustainability, and precision. Overseeing every step from berry to bottle, we craft small-batch, barrel-select wines of character and depth from select parcels of fruit grown in Australia's most notable and respected regions.

Smidge, a nod to topping up the glass with just a little, reflects our artisanal, hands-on approach. Honouring nature, our vineyards, growers, and customers, every wine we produce must pass a simple yet demanding test: It must be something we're genuinely proud of, distinctly memorable, and unmistakably enjoyable.

> VISIT WEBSITE



THE ISLANDER
estate vineyards



THE ISLANDER ESTATE VINEYARDS

Discover Kangaroo Island Wine, Australia's most surprising wine region.

The Islander Estate Vineyards brings together two vastly different worlds. The history, heritage and finesse of Bordeaux. And one of Australia's newest, most remote and untamed wine regions - Kangaroo Island. These two are blended together by Bordeaux winemaker Jacques Lurton to create unique, elegant, cool-climate wines that stand amongst Australia's best.

> VISIT WEBSITE



T
I
N
A



T.I.N.A (THIS IS NOT ALCOHOL)

T.I.N.A is a labour of love for beverage fanatics Christina and Imogen (who are also cousins).

Chrissie and Imogen spent 2 years developing the first T.I.N.A prototype, until the official launch in 2021. T.I.N.A is the natural evolution of both cousins' love of, and expertise in beverages. Both bringing different skills sets to the table, together they complement each other perfectly.

All ingredients for T.I.N.A are thoughtfully sourced. All research, experimentation and recipes are developed in house by T.I.N.A. over many months and years.

> VISIT WEBSITE



**UNICO
ZELO**



UNICO ZELO

Unico Zelo focuses on varieties that can withstand the harsh and arid climate that is unique to our land - particularly in South Australia, the hottest driest state in the hottest driest country in the world. Putting our ethos to the test, we work with varieties like Fiano and Nero d'Avola from the Riverland, which use an average of 8 times less water than the average vineyard in the region. We work with these varieties among others across great sites in South Australia, such as the Clare Valley and our home in the Adelaide Hills.

> VISIT WEBSITE



VARNEY WINES

Varney Wines launched in 2019, but the story began over a decade earlier with a 'tonne for fun' – winemaker Alan Varney's opportunity to craft his own style from distinguished McLaren Vale and Adelaide Hills vineyards. After years working for respected wineries both in Australia and internationally, this passion project evolved into a small family-run brand.

In 2015, the family purchased a derelict property featuring an 1870s limestone barn, transforming it into an environmentally sensitive winery and tasting room. Located at the Gateway to McLaren Vale, it has become an iconic destination.

Drawing on traditional winemaking fundamentals, international experience, and a commitment to sustainability, Alan explores alternate varietals alongside established ones. The result is a portfolio that beautifully balances heritage and evolution – offering wines from vineyards with over 70 years of history plus exciting new varietals for adventurous wine enthusiasts to discover.

> VISIT WEBSITE



WANGOLINA

The Wangolina story begins in the 1880s when the Goode family laid down its roots in the seaside town of Kingston.

Wangolina has approximately 11.5ha of vines owned and farmed by our winemaker Anita Goode, with guidance from her father John. Varieties planted include not only traditional varieties of Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Semillon, but also Grüner Veltliner, Malvasia Istriana, Verdicchio and Aligote. The introduction of new varieties is not only for Anita's winemaking experiments, but also for future planning regarding climate change and the decompression of vintage. Finding varieties that suit our climate will lower vineyard inputs and thrive with minimal intervention, which aligns with our values and ethos.

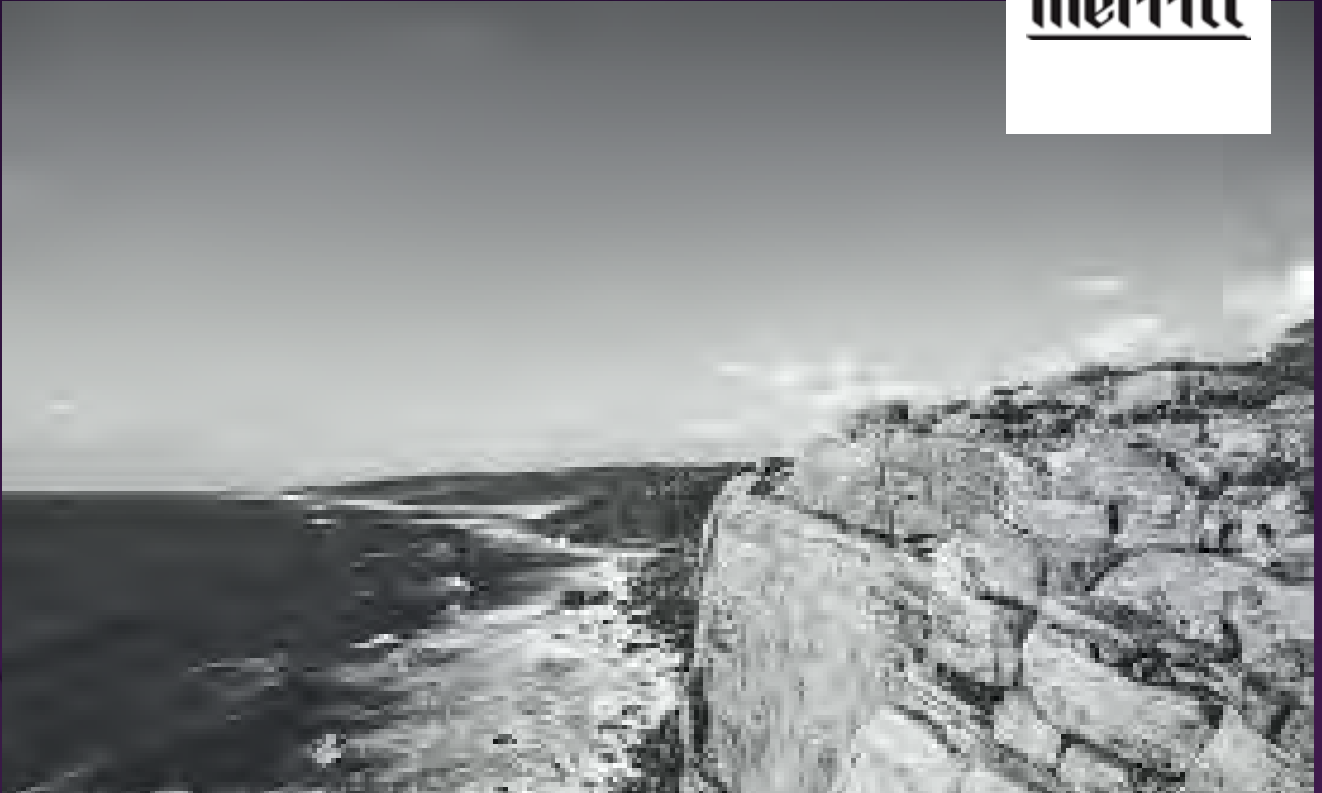
Wangolina is currently a member of and is in the process of working towards sustainability certification with Sustainable Winegrowers Australia.

Anita's focus is to make wines that speak to the variety, that are clean and have play and vibrance. Our range is fresh, easy drinking and diverse, designed for the modern wine drinker.

> VISIT WEBSITE



WINES OF
merritt



WINES OF MERRITT

Wines of Merritt is an artisanal, family-owned and operated winemaker, named after Nick's grandmother Kathleen Vivienne Merritt. As an only child, when she became married, there were no more Merritts, so this label honours her name and the family's farming heritage.

The aim is to make wines that reflect their place and the season in which the grapes matured. From the first vintage in 2017 their winemaking has been about a light touch, using wild yeast, time on lees, avoiding fining and filtering; being true to texture.

> VISIT WEBSITE



WORLD'S
APART
&
WINES



WORLD'S APART WINES

Artisan wines made from the best vineyards in South Australia

We set out in 2017 with a pretty simple goal: to make beautiful, delicious wine.

We work with a small handful of grape growing families in McLaren Vale, Eden Valley and our home in the lush, green, cool climate of the Adelaide Hills.

We ferment, age, blend and bottle our wines with minimal intervention, just love and careful attentiveness. Grapes are grown sustainably, with minimal or no irrigation, no herbicides or insecticides. Earlier picking leads to lighter wines with lower alcohol and a feeling of freshness.

Sustainability, accessibility and ethical business practices are the core pillars of our small family winery.

Our wines are not made to impress with power but are made to be enjoyed at noisy tables with the people you love, alongside delicious food.

We hope the wines bring joy to you, your friends and your family x

Louis and Hannah

> VISIT WEBSITE



NATIONAL WINE CENTRE ONLINE STORE

Browse through our hand-selected, curated selection of our lesser-known producers and bottles you won't find at your local. With wines from different regions across Australia, there is something for every palate, delivered straight to your door.

> VISIT WEBSITE

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