



EDITION #19

DISCOVER OUR BEST-KEPT SECRETS

OCTOBER 2023

TASTE THE FUTURE: WINES FROM SUSTAINABLE ROOTS



AS I WALK THROUGH OUR HISTORIC Great Western vineyards it's hard not to feel a deep connection to the land. Having nurtured these vines for over five generations, sustainability isn't just a trend for us; it's a way of life that continues to be refined. My family has adapted and evolved many of our practices over time. It's not a revolution, but the little things count. Our pride in this journey is immense, and the small steps lead to profound change. Here are some of the initiatives we've been putting in place for a greener future:

Sustainable Winegrowers Australia Membership: Committed to upholding the highest standards in our vineyards we're actively working through this Australian certification process.

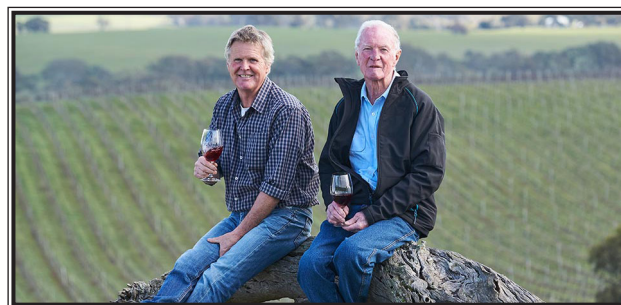
Solar Power: We've taken a giant leap towards renewable energy by installing over 900 solar panels across our Congongella and Sugarloaf Creek vineyard locations. We're also eagerly awaiting the arrival of a large storage battery that will power up to 90% of our winery.

Electric Forklifts: Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, we've acquired one electric forklift and plan to purchase a second one.

Recycling Initiatives: We've introduced soft plastic recycling for all pallet wraps and are finding innovative ways to recycle branded cartons by reusing them with new vintages or transforming them into a cardboard "bubble wrap" alternative for shipping wine.

Water Conservation: Our Sugarloaf Creek vineyard benefits from recycled water via the pipeline from Ararat, ensuring responsible water use during the hot summer months. Additionally, our new targeted spray program has significantly reduced chemical and water usage and diesel consumption.

Natural Land Management: We're working with nature by incorporating wild grasses into our vineyard management practices retaining soil moisture naturally, reducing the need for soil stripping and mulching.



As we navigate the ever-changing landscape of the wine industry and try to mitigate the impact of climate change, our dedication to preserving the environment remains steadfast, ensuring that the legacy we pass down is one of stewardship, progress, and sustainability. The journey continues to evolve as new technology and information is added to our toolkit. Cheers to a greener future!

Ben Thomson
Managing Director and 5th Generation Vigneron

FEATURED WINES



2023 GREAT WESTERN RIESLING

A medley of apricot, peach, guava and lemon sorbet dance around on the palate. An unmistakable intensity throughout that is balanced with green apple acidity. A dry style with great intensity. The perfect match with fresh seafood.



2021 WHITE GRAVELS HILL SHIRAZ

Produced from the Concongella Vineyard, the geology and soils of the White Gravels Hill are markedly different from the sites directly around the cellars. A delightfully spicy and aromatic wine. A different style of shiraz to discover.



2019 HAMILL SHIRAZ

The name Hamill tells a multigeneration story of the Thomson family, a nod to Emily Grace Hamill. This exceptional shiraz is produced from our Sugarloaf Creek vineyard. Hints of cherry and plum are apparent in the front palate. Whole bunch spice creates complexity through the mid-palate and finishes with chewy chocolate tannins.



2019 SPARKLING SHIRAZ

The sparkling shiraz style is synonymous with Great Western and has been made in the region since the early 1900s. Fresh and vibrant. Intense dark cherry fruit flavours, raisins, glazed fruitcake. The perfect accompaniment to celebrate Christmas.

OUR TALENTED TEAM: GEORGIA AND JACOB



Whilst honouring the traditions of those who have gone before them, there's a fresh new take on winemaking at Best's. We welcome our new winemaking duo - Jacob Parton and Georgia Mehlhopt. Jacob has been leading our winemaking team for some time now and is no stranger to our vineyards, processes and winemaking philosophy, having started at Best's in 2021.

He is now joined by Georgia who has a Law degree, a Master of Business and a Post Graduate Diploma of Oenology and Viticulture. Originally from New Zealand, Georgia is incredibly accomplished for her years, having been awarded the Tonnellerie de Mercurey North Canterbury Young Winemaker of the Year in 2022. We're excited to see what impact this dynamic pair will have on our wines over the coming vintages.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO SIMON FENNEL



Last year we announced the return of Simon Fennell to our winemaking team. Unfortunately, shortly after returning to Best's, Simon was diagnosed with cancer. He has since undergone surgery and chemotherapy and fortunately is now in remission. However, due

to the intense treatments, Simon's palate has been compromised and he chose not to return to the role of Senior Winemaker. We're grateful for all that Simon contributed whilst at Best's. Please join us in wishing Simon all the best in his continued recovery and future endeavours.

BEST'S RECIPES



Tempura & Riesling

A DELICATE BALANCE OF FLAVOUR

Tempura, a popular Japanese culinary delicacy, has a rich history dating back to the late 16th century. Tempura's origins are somewhat contentious, but it is widely believed to have been introduced to Japan by Portuguese missionaries during the 1600s as an alternative to eating meat during Lent. Initially, it was primarily used to cook fish and vegetables, and over time, it evolved into a celebrated dish in Japanese cuisine and served with a range of different vegetables, seafood and noodles. What we love is how well it matches with our Great Western Riesling.

The synergy between tempura and riesling-style wines is a culinary pairing that has gained popularity over recent years. The crisp acidity and fruity notes of riesling serve as a perfect foil to the rich, fried elements of tempura, cutting through the oiliness and cleansing the palate between bites. Moreover, the slight sweetness in some riesling wines can harmonise with the delicate sweetness of certain tempura ingredients like shrimp or sweet potato, enhancing the overall dining experience.

Tempura is relatively simple to make, with a few basic ingredients required to make the batter. Scan the QR code to get the recipe or visit www.bestswines.com/blog/.

SCAN TO READ THE TEMPURA RECIPE



Meet the
BEST'S TEAM



GEORGIA MEHLHOPT
Assistant Winemaker

Born in Auckland New Zealand, Georgia grew up near Christchurch. Home schooled, with a passion for learning she continued to study into a tertiary level. The vibrant overachiever now holds a Bachelor of Law, a Master of Business, and a Postgraduate Diploma of Viticulture and Oenology. After a memorable family trip to Europe, Georgia embarked on an incredible journey, walking the 800km Camino de Santiago trail through France and Spain. Along the way, she explored renowned wine regions like Rioja, Galicia, and Navarra, finding refuge from the scorching sun amongst the vineyards. Engaging in conversations with viticulturists, winemakers, and laborers, Georgia discovered her calling in the wine industry. Since then, she has gained valuable experience working in Central Otago and North Canterbury, NZ. The Grampians, known for their natural beauty and opportunities for hiking and outdoor adventures, have now become her new home.

Favourite Best's wine? Bin No 0. Shiraz.



DAVE VOIGT
Vineyard Team

Born in Nhill in Western Victoria, Dave grew up on a farm and then after some international travel through America ended up in Stawell. With a love of the outdoors, he began working in vineyards over a decade ago, which led him to Best's. Precision viticulture is in his blood, working on the land to improve the crop and ensure that the quality is top notch! A master of the tools and anything mechanical, Dave loves tinkering with his old VWs and campervan in his shed before venturing out to the outdoors with his partner and six children.

Favourite Best's Wine? Hard to choose between Great Western Cabernet or Hamill Shiraz.

EMBRACE THE MAGIC OF: BLANC DE NOIR


Pop the cork, there's something new to celebrate. While red grapes like pinot noir and pinot meunier are commonly used to make sparkling wines and Champagne, it's not often you see a white sparkling wine made from shiraz. But our winemaking team has been busy experimenting to create a unique and delicious sparkling wine that's full of freshness and vibrancy. You won't want to miss this innovative and utterly delicious new addition to the Best's sparkling range.

HOW DO WE MAKE THIS SPECIAL SPARKLING?



With fruit sourced from our Sugarloaf Creek Vineyard, this new Blanc de Noir is picked towards the end of the ripening period. A section of the vine foliage is removed to let the sun work its magic on the grapes. By harvesting the grapes earlier than you would for a red wine, we preserve acidity and flavour.

Next, we meticulously handpick the grapes and gently press them to extract the beautiful juice, without any colour from the red wine skins. The juice is then cold soaked in stainless steel and aged in old French oak puncheons for three months before undergoing malolactic fermentation. Finally, the wine is turned into bubbles and ready for your celebrations.

Treat yourself to this exquisite Blanc de Noir sparkling - guaranteed to delight your taste buds. ~~There's only a small parcel available, so~~ it's a wine that will remain another  our best kept secrets. **Available from late October 2023.**

A HISTORY OF MAKING WHITE WINE FROM RED GRAPES

Whilst our upcoming Blanc de Noir wine may be something new, it's not the first time we've made a white wine from red grapes. In fact, it was our first Winemaker, Trevor Mast who used his experience working with riesling to make a white wine from excess shiraz back in the late 70s. It was a time somewhat different to today, and part of the dynamism of the industry was trying to work out what wine lovers wanted to drink as they moved on from fortified wines. Trevor was the picture of perseverance, vigorous, and enthusiastic about his craft and determined to make a mark. In those days we were able to call the white wine he made "Chablis" given it was all the trend of its time. Nowadays that term is only able to be used on labels where the wines are sourced from that specific appellation of Burgundy, France.



Image: Trevor Mast

IN THE PRESS



2019 Thomson Family Shiraz

"Exclusively the fruits of Henry Best's original 1968 plantings, the complexity and texture exemplified here are something to behold. Silky, mineral-fine tannins weave seamlessly through a universe of perfect dark berry fruits and impeccable violet fragrance, graced with an air of exotic spice and incense."

97 points.

Tyson Stelzer, WBM Wine Magazine, March 2023



2021 Great Western Cabernet Sauvignon

"Deep ruby red colour. Blackberry, bramble and bay leaf all fill the aromatic senses. Medium weight, graphite notes add contrast to the sweet berry fruit whilst a herbal layer fills towards the finish. Tannins are supple and very approachable, making this medium bodied red a real crowd pleaser. Drink now to 2035."

Stuart Knox, The Real Review March 2023

The Cellar Door Podcast



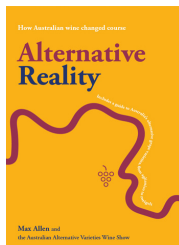
Ben and Nicole Thomson sat down with Tom at the Cellar Door Podcast to tell the family tales, history and vineyard secrets. Put on your headphones and take a listen as you go about your travels. It's a cracker of an edition!

SCAN TO
LISTEN NOW



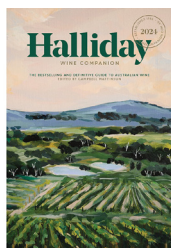
WINE DOWN WITH SOME HOLIDAY READING

Want to immerse yourself in the world of Australian wine? Look no further! We've rounded up the latest and most captivating wine books that you need to get your hands on. Expand your knowledge and indulge your senses with these must-have reads for any wine lover.



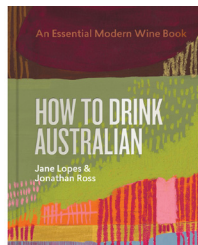
ALTERNATIVE REALITY – HOW AUSTRALIAN WINE CHANGED COURSE

Max Allen and the Australian Alternative Varieties Wine Show celebrate the 21st Birthday of the show in Northwest Victoria, evaluating their journey through a unique lens. From exciting new grape varieties to unique styles and up-and-coming winemakers, this book offers a fresh perspective on Australia's diverse wine scene. With over 150 different grape varieties grown Down Under, get ready for a conversation-starting read that will change your wine game.



2024 HALLIDAY WINE COMPANION

Known by many as the Bible of Australian Wine – an outstanding collection of 8,000 wine reviews from over 3,500 wineries. Expertly edited by Campbell Mattinson, this is the ultimate guide to the wines of Australia.



HOW TO DRINK AUSTRALIAN

Jane Lopes and Jonathan Ross provide a fresh and thought-provoking perspective on how to drink Australian wine through the eyes of two leading sommeliers and importers of Australian Wine to the US. With inside knowledge of some of the smaller producers and delving into our local and regional history, they embark on a journey of discovery. Includes some insightful local commentary from Kavita Faiella, Mike Bennie, Hannah Day and bespoke illustrations by Martin von Wyss.



THE AUSTRALIAN ARK

Master of Wine Andrew Caillard delves into the history of Australian wines dating back to 1788, in a thoughtful and evoking collection spanning three editions. Beautifully illustrated weaving in work from leading brands and labels, this is a tale of the pioneers of the Australian wine industry that will spark debate well into the future. Available November 2023



SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING AUSTRALIA

SUSTAINABLE WINE-GROWING AUSTRALIA

Australian wineries and grape growers are stepping up their efforts to go green with Sustainable Winegrowing Australia certification. This industry-led program ensures that best practices are followed, and knowledge is shared. With over 1,000 members, including 583 certified ones, the wine industry here in Australia is taking a bold step towards a sustainable future.

This initiative is a collaboration between Wine Australia, the Australian Wine Research Institute, and Australian Grape and Wine. The aim is for Australian wine to be recognized as world-class in terms of sustainability, and to showcase our environmental, social, and governance (ESG) credentials globally.

Best's Wines is currently working towards certification. While we have always strived to find more sustainable practices, this industry-first trust mark is backed by a rigorous third-party certification process managed by Freshcare. It evaluates our water usage, biodiversity, energy consumption, waste management, and land and soil conservation just to name a few.



NEW WINE CLUB - BEST OF THE BEST:



We've released a new Icon Wine Club for those who prefer to only receive our most iconic wines like Bin No 0. Shiraz or our Old Vine Pinot Meunier. Intrigued? Visit our website for more information.



Raise Your Glass to a Wine Adventure

There's never been a better time to visit the Grampians region. You'll find the most up-to-date wine tasting experiences on our website as well as a number of suggested itineraries, packed full of adventure. Book your visit and spend some time with our knowledgeable Cellar Door team as they take you through a wine adventure or Pick a Platter cheese board and enjoy it on the lawns whilst overlooking our historic vineyards.



Christmas Cut-Off Dates

Don't miss out on your wine deliveries for the festive season.

With delivery delays across Australia, get in early to avoid disappointment. Order before:

3rd December: NSW, ACT, QLD, WA, SA, TAS, NT.

10th December: VIC.



Looking for that weekend escape from Melbourne? The beautiful Grampians (Gariwerd) must be on your bucket list to explore. Awaken your senses to new possibilities as you embark on scenic

hikes, dive into the rich local indigenous culture, and indulge in mouth-watering meals at delightful restaurants and cafés. It's time to make your escape come to life the Grampians way.

SCAN TO SEE UPCOMING EVENTS



THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Looking for the perfect gift for your colleagues, clients, or loved ones? We've got you covered! Whether it's local Grampians produce, an older vintage wine or a gift box with their favourite selection, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Get in touch with our Brand Manager Lucy Black at lucy.black@bestswines.com for more information.



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CONTACT US

111 Best's Road, Great Western, Victoria, 3374, Australia

P: (03) 5356 2250 F: (03) 5356 2430 E: info@bestswines.com W: bestswines.com