

*Best's*  
GREAT WESTERN  
EST 1866

# CONGELLA CHRONICLE

EDITION #23

DISCOVER OUR BEST-KEPT SECRETS

OCTOBER 2025



## OUR EVERYDAY HERO: BEST'S BIN NO. 1 TURNS 21

**O**UR EVERYDAY HERO HAS OFFICIALLY come of age. We're celebrating 21 vintages of our most popular wine, Best's Bin No.1 Shiraz. What began as a vision in 2000 has evolved into a beautiful medium-bodied shiraz that embodies everything we love about making wine here at Best's Great Western.

Twenty-one years might seem modest for a winery with our history. So why celebrate? We're incredibly proud of what Bin No. 1 represents. Over two decades, this wine has been refined in the hands of remarkable winemakers—Hamish Seabrook, Adam Wadewitz, Justin Purser and now Jacob Parton – each adding their personal touch

while staying true to what the wine represents.

It's the wine that often introduces wine lovers to our flavoursome regional style here in Great Western. Not the big and bold shiraz that they expect, but one more elegant and refined.

The most memorable moment in Bin No. 1's journey occurred in 2012, when our 2011 vintage won the Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy for the best young red wine at the 2012 Melbourne Royal Wine Show. Now, more than a decade later, that style remains true and our commitment to making an affordable, flavoursome shiraz is more focused than ever.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In the same wine show that our Bin No. 1 won the prestigious Jimmy Watson, we were also awarded the Trevor Mast Memorial Trophy for the Best Shiraz in show. That year we also won the Fine Wine Partners Trophy at 2013 Macquarie Group Sydney Royal Wine Show for Best Wine at Capital City Wine Show. What a vintage 2011 Bin No. 1 Shiraz turned out to be!

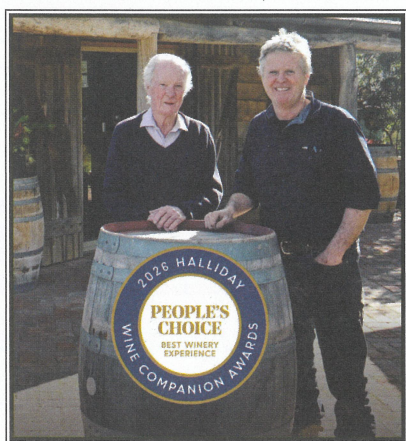


## BEST'S IN THE NEWS



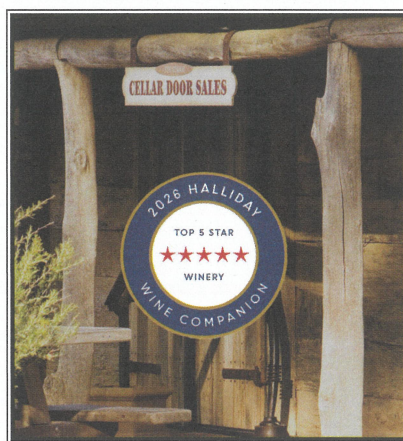
### HALLIDAY PEOPLE'S CHOICE TOP 10

With over 10,000 votes cast, we were thrilled to be named in the Top 10 "Best Winery Experiences" in this year's Halliday Wine Companion People's Choice Award. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Cellar Door and who voted for us! It's just another reason to come and visit.



### TOP 5-STAR RATING

We're proud to have received "Top 5-star" rating for our winery in the latest 2026 Halliday Wine Companion awards. This is awarded to wineries generally acknowledged to have had a long track record of excellence, typically having held a 5-star rating continuously for 10 years – truly the best of the best.



### MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB'S WINERY OF THE YEAR

The Melbourne Cricket Club hosts wineries throughout the year at their prestigious MCC Long Wine and Food Society. We were most humbled to be recently named their 2025 Winery of the Year.



## WINES FOR THE WARMER WEATHER

**T**HE SEASONALITY OF drinking wine is part of its charm. As temperatures rise, summer presents the perfect opportunity to explore different styles. Here are our top tips for your seasonal wine journey.

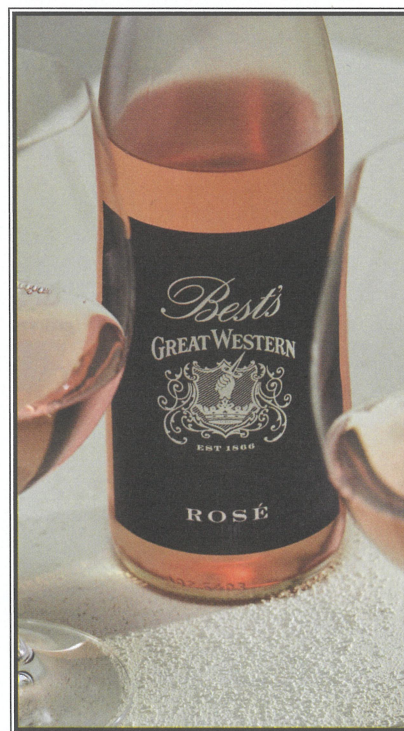
**Lighter styled reds** – Our Shiraz is already renowned for its elegant, medium-bodied style rather than the heavy reds found elsewhere in Australia. For something truly different, explore our Young Vine Pinot Meunier or Dolcetto.

**Sparkling** – The celebratory season calls for bubbles! Pop the cork on our Sparkling Shiraz, C.M.T Méthode Traditionnelle, or Blanc de Noir – each one guaranteed to elevate any gathering.

**Riesling** – This variety has shed its outdated reputation and is experiencing a well-deserved renaissance! We're as celebrated for our Riesling as our Shiraz, offering multiple styles that pair beautifully with food. Chill it down and embrace summer's flavours.

**Rosé** – In the South of France, Rosé outsells white wine. The dry Provençal style has arrived in Australia – crisp, sophisticated, and perfect for entertaining. Make your statement with a glass of Rosé.

Whatever your selection – share with us what you're drinking and tag @bestswines on social media – our winemakers in particular love seeing you enjoy the fruits of their labour!



## BEST'S RECIPES



## ROSÉ SORBET

SERVES: 2-3

This delicious sorbet is a refreshing way to enjoy our Rosé. Perfect for a palate cleanser or a cool-down treat, served in a small bowl when gathering with friends.

## INGREDIENTS

125 grams sugar

 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup water

250mls Best's Great Western Rosé

Grated rind and strained juice of one lemon

Grated rind and strained juice of one orange

1 egg white

## METHOD

1. Combine sugar and water stir over medium heat till sugar dissolved bring to boil and simmer for a few minutes cool
2. Add wine, fruit juices and rind to syrup then make up to 500 mls with water.
3. Add egg white and beat just to mix
4. Pour into freezer trays and refrigerate till half frozen
5. Place in chilled bowl and beat till thick and light refreeze till firm.
6. Scoop and serve in chilled glassware with a sprig of mint.

*Adapted from a wine sorbet recipe featured in The Epicurian*

## Best's on Pour OUT AND ABOUT

Hamish Thomson spends considerable time along the Great Ocean Road in Victoria working with restaurants that stock our wines. Here are a few local finds.



**IPSOS RESTAURANT & BAR**  
*Lorne, VIC*

Known for its refined yet authentic take on traditional Greek food this is a restaurant to add to your list. A fabulous family business - think local produce, shared tables and delicious seasonal dishes.

[www.ipsosrestaurant.com.au](http://www.ipsosrestaurant.com.au)



**MERNE AT LIGHTHOUSE**  
*Drysdale VIC*

Book in for a fond farewell to this picturesque dining experience, which has been a local institution for over a decade. They will close when their lease expires at the end of January 2026, so book in for one of their seasonal menus whilst you take in the views of the olive trees.

[www.merne.com.au](http://www.merne.com.au)



## WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT OLD VINES?

**YOU'VE** PROBABLY heard winemakers rave about old vines. But why all the fuss? As grapevines age, they yield less fruit, but what they produce is pure magic – intensely concentrated and of exceptional quality. The result? Smaller quantities, but wine that's truly liquid gold!

In the late 1800s, a bug called phylloxera (which attacks grape roots) wiped out many of France's vineyards, including countless old vines. Fortunately, cuttings were sent to places like Australia, where wineries like Best's Great Western are now home to some of the world's oldest Dolcetto, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier, and Shiraz vines. The wines from these historic vineyards are rich with beautifully concentrated flavours – a taste of history in every sip.

While Europe was originally home to many of the world's oldest vines, the phylloxera outbreak in the 1800s decimated many of these vineyards. This means that the cuttings sent to Australia are now among some of the oldest in the world.

What makes these Australian old vine sites truly special is not just their age, but their genetic significance. They represent living libraries of pre-phylloxera material that survived when their European counterparts perished. Each vintage from these ancient vines offers a direct connection to the earliest days of Australian winemaking, when pioneering families planted cuttings with hope and determination, never knowing they were creating treasures that would become among the world's most precious viticultural resources.

### WINES

TO TRY



#### 2024 OLD VINE PINOT MEUNIER

Made from the original 1868 plantings of Pinot Meunier this is an iconic wine.



#### 2025 GREAT WESTERN ROSÉ

This Rosé is best enjoyed chilled. Dry and delicious and perfect for summer.



#### 2023 NURSERY BLOCK DRY RED

A field blend of red varietals, handpicked from our 1868 Concongella vineyard plantings.



#### 2023 CONCONGELLA BLANC

A full bodied field blend of white varietals, handpicked from our 1868 Concongella vineyard plantings.

There's Good,  
There's Better  
and there's

*Best's*



Taste for yourself at our cellar door.  
Open daily 10am-5pm 1 kilometre off  
the Western Highway, just west of Great Western.  
Tel (05) 5356 2250 email: [best@bestconnect.com.au](mailto:best@bestconnect.com.au)  
FIVE GENERATIONS OF FINE AUSTRALIAN WINES

### Remember these old Best's advertisements?

Our Matriarch, Chris Thomson, is the creative one in the family, including being responsible for Best's marketing for many years. Along with friend Jane Flowers, they used to craft some of our older local advertisements. Does anyone remember these?

Life's too short  
to drink  
anything  
but the

*Best's*

A Warm Welcome Awaits You to Taste Our  
Fine Australian Wines at our Cellar Door,  
1 Kilometre off Highway 8, Stawell side  
of Great Western. Telephone 05 5356 2250

## BEST'S IS A CERTIFIED MEMBER OF SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING AUSTRALIA

As custodians of some of Victoria's most iconic vineyards, responsible stewardship of our land remains paramount. Through ongoing initiatives to reduce our environmental footprint, we're proud to announce that Best's is now a certified member of Sustainable Winegrowing Australia.

Sustainable Winegrowing Australia represents the nation's leading program for grapegrowers and winemakers committed to demonstrating and continuously

improving sustainability across their operations. The program adopts a comprehensive approach encompassing environmental, social, and economic aspects of vineyard and winery management, while fostering stronger relationships between growers, wineries, and their regions.

This certification marks another significant step forward in protecting our future and the vineyards we cherish.



### IN THE PRESS



#### 2024 Great Western Riesling

The Halliday 2026 Guide saw some great reviews for our wines, the 2024 Riesling scoring particularly well!

*"A stunner of a Riesling! Best's produce one of Victoria's best and most underrated Rieslings. It shines here in a cool year with the kind of delicacy that the grape does well, in white flowers and apple blossom, lively lime citrus, lemon drop and talc. Fine edged in acidity and naturally ebullient in its youth, it's going to last and last. Finishes with a lifted, lemon pastille note. Delish."*  
Jeni Port

**Rating 96 points**

## UV-C TRIALS IN OUR VINEYARDS

The evolution of viticulture technology continues to unlock new efficiencies across the industry. We remain committed to embracing innovative methodologies that enhance our practices and elevate wine quality, exemplified by the UV-C Light Trials we've conducted with Wine Australia at our Sugarloaf Creek Vineyard in Great Western.

The Vertex UV™ UVEX system harnesses UV-C light technology to target plant pathogens including powdery mildew, downy mildew, and other fungal diseases. While the Vertex UV™ trials are still in early stages, the results show genuine promise for the future of sustainable vineyard management.



### Viv Thomson chats to Huon Hooke - the Real Review

Grab a glass of wine and listen in as our Chairman Viv Thomson OAM chats to wine critic Huon Hooke about our history and the importance of our Thomson Family Shiraz.



## VISIT US IN THE GRAMPIANS

It's a beautiful time of year to plan a trip to the Grampians. There's plenty happening in our Cellar Door over the next few months – here's some dates for your diary.

### OKTOBERBEST FESTIVAL SUNDAY OCTOBER 26TH



Join us for the inaugural OktoberBEST festival! Celebrate great wine, local craft beer and produce as we celebrate the community spirit.

- Award-winning craft brewery Paper Scissors Rock from Halls Gap
- Great Western Granary are baking sourdough pretzels
- Our local Great Western Football Netball club are going to fire up the barbeque with Pyrenees Premium cuts
- Coffee and cake from Garden Lake café.
- Marcus Thomson and his band 'The Doodads' will perform live from 12pm
- Market stalls and face painting

### WE HAVE SET THE TABLE. JOIN US FOR DINNER? SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15TH



The Thomson family and our Cellar door team are delighted to host the Stables dinner, an exclusive dining experience at Best's Wines. In collaboration with local talent Jody and Co Catering, we're presenting a carefully curated three-course menu, expertly paired with a selection of our finest wines.

An intimate evening in our Cellar Door. Plan a trip and come for dinner.

SCAN TO SEE ALL UPCOMING EVENTS AT BEST'S AND THE GRAMPIANS AREA



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### CONTACT US

111 Best's Road, Great Western, Victoria, 3374, Australia  
P: (03) 5356 2250 E: info@bestswines.com W: bestswines.com