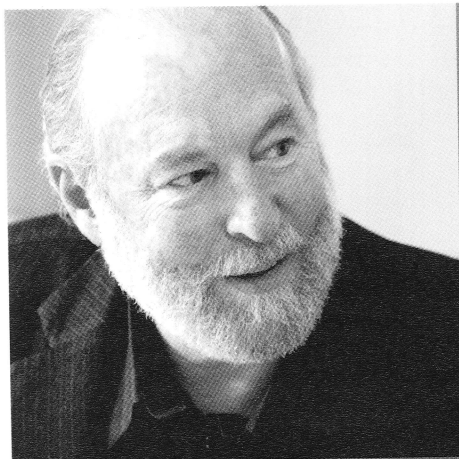


on the 2ha and will, this year, harvest their first vintage from the last lot of vines to be planted on site in 2009.

Bell Hills was the only vineyard that New Zealand wine critics Bob Campbell MW and Jane Skilton MW shared in their Favourite Five lists, both noting the dedication and unique focus behind some outstanding wines.



FAVOURITE FIVE

Denis Gastin is managing director of Instate Pty Ltd. He has extensive wine-related interests, including writing for wine and liquor publications in Japan, Korea and *The Oxford Companion to Wine*, *The World Atlas of Wine* and *Wine Report*. "I'm impressed by wineries that are going beyond the norm, like those committed to reinvigorating their history, the ones setting new benchmarks in styles and varieties, or pioneering new regional identities," he said.

David Franz

Dave Lehmann is nothing if not creative. He has bound the strenuous skills of viticulture and winemaking with entertainment and fun: the colourful and amusing packaging says it all! The initial step was to make the most of Barossa's traditional varietal strengths (Riesling, Semillon, Shiraz) and

"The benefits of being small allows you to focus on the small details, and gives you a connectivity to the product that is truly unique... we work hard but that connection is a luxury not offered to those really big companies," Veldhuizen said.

A friend once told Veldhuizen "when the going gets tough machine up"... and

Cabernet, drawing on some of the best fruit grown in the region, including from the Lehmann family vineyards. Now, he is breaking new ground with tiny but very impressive batches of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from Adelaide Hills fruit.

Bloodwood

Stephen and Rhonda Doyle were the first to grow grapes and make wine commercially in Orange, 30 years ago. They paved the way for the 40-plus wineries that have followed them, making Orange one of Australia's most exciting new wine frontiers. They use birds rather than sprays to control pests and move with the rhythms of nature – on some of the earth's oldest soils. The feature varieties are Riesling, Chardonnay, Malbec (for rosé), Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Cobaw Ridge

Macedon is one of the first regional names you think of when it comes to Pinot Noir and Chardonnay - both still and sparkling. Alan and Nellie Cooper, at Cobaw Ridge, on their isolated vineyard on the northern slopes of the Ranges, have harnessed nature (certified organic) to help define these styles, and have moved impressively beyond this with a luscious Lagrein that stuns even seasoned international palates and a stand-out Syrah/Viognier. They have just been accredited by the France-based Renaissance des Appellations as meeting the exacting viticulture standards they see as necessary to appropriately reflect terroir – or sense of place.

it's proved a useful philosophy at Bell Hill Vineyards.

"We couldn't afford the latest whiz-bang gadgets when we first started, but as we've gone forward the decision to buy the new model small-size tractor and the latest air-assisted sprayer has allowed us to leap forward in terms of labour costs, quality and disease management." ■

Sittella

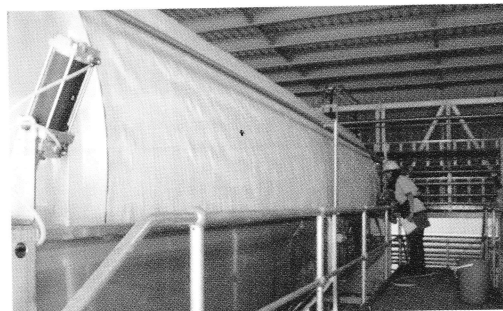
The Berns family has done a great deal in a short time frame to freshen up the fading image of the Swan Valley staple varieties: Chenin Blanc, Verdelho and Shiraz. In addition to an impressive dry wine line-up from these varieties, Verdelho is forefront again in both a fortified and a (cane cut) dessert wine format; Shiraz is featured in a Tawny. They chose Chenin Blanc to launch their impressive sparkling range, now partnered with a straight Chardonnay version, a traditional Pinot Noir/Chardonnay version, and there is a Shiraz version in the pipeline. New frontiers are being pioneered for the region with varieties such as Petit Verdot and Tempranillo.

Taminick Cellars

The Booth family has contributed an important chapter to Australia's wine history during its 100 years at Taminick and has been adding new dimensions as it progresses from the third to the fourth generation at the helm. The Shiraz, Trebbiano and some Cabernet Sauvignon vines planted in 1919 still provide the core of the current range. Progressively Muscat, Chardonnay, Merlot and Durif have been added to provide new dimensions. Taminick has always been known for its fortified wines and its big, long-living reds and this remains so. But contemporary practices have added subtle edges to aromas and structure, while still delivering all of the unique local terroir.

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