

In the beginning...



20 years later...





Reillys
CLARE VALLEY

~ **PRESS RELEASE** ~

Reillys Wines celebrates 20 years in 2014

The team at Reillys Wines is proud to be celebrating our 20th vintage in 2014.

The past 20 years have seen us grow and flourish into a globally successful company while retaining our roots as a South Australian family owned and operated business.

With a background in pharmacy and medicine, owner and winemaker Justin Ardill saw an opportunity to indulge his passion for wine by purchasing a small parcel of 12 acres of vineyards in Watervale in 1993. Along with these vineyards, he and wife Julie purchased a humble cottage to be their cellar door and winery on the main street of Mintaro known simply as Reilly's Cottage. It is this building and its 1856 owner Hugh Reilly that inspired the wine label 'Reillys Wines'.

Beginning in 1994 with 10T of fruit, our first wines were created. Of this, 3.6T of Old Bushvine Grenache was crushed, open fermented and basket pressed by hand by Justin and Julie on the verandah of Reillys Cottage. The first vintage yielded 300 dozen of each of Riesling, Shiraz and Old Bushvine Grenache.

Today Reillys Cottage is heritage listed and operates as our Cellar Door and Restaurant exuding the charm and allure of its rich history.

In 2000 when wine production outgrew Reillys Cottage, our winery at Leasingham was built housing state of the art winemaking equipment. This step took us into a new and exciting phase of Reillys growth.

Over the years, Justin and Julie purchased and planted more vineyards and sourced premium fruit from local growers in the Watervale and Leasingham areas.

Our estate grown Leasingham and Watervale vineyards are characterised by rich red loam over deep limestone. Expert management by our viticulturalist Rob Smyth ensures the vineyards are low yielding but produce intensely flavoured berries resulting in regionally distinct, fruit driven wines.

Our winemaking philosophy is to produce premium wines from our Clare Valley vineyards with limited winemaking intervention, allowing this quality fruit to truly shine.

In 2014 we are looking to crush close to 500T of fruit producing 17 varietals across 7 brands totalling almost 40 individual product SKUs.

Justin Ardill, whilst being a highly regarded cardiologist at Flinders Medical Centre, remains the winemaker for all our reds and oversees the white wine making which is now produced off site due to space constraints at our Leasingham winery.

Reillys wines have a strong export market ranging from Canada to China with a well-established domestic market throughout Australia through many independent liquor outlets.

Reillys Cellar Door and Restaurant is open for wine tastings 7 days from 10am-4pm and offers a finely tuned wine and food matched lunch menu featuring locally sourced produce and freshly harvested fruit, vegetables and herbs from our own gardens. Situated alongside one of our Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards, visitors are welcome to collect a brochure and wander along our Vineyard Walk to learn more about our winemaking and history.

Visitors to Reillys are also welcome to extend their stay by checking into our heritage B&B cottages located an easy stroll behind our Cellar Door. These cottages have a unique history of their own dating back to the discovery of the now famous Mintaro slate. The cottages once served as both the slate manager's private residence and the pay office for the mine workers but are now fully renovated and equipped for a leisurely overnight or weekend country retreat.

Over the years Reillys has enjoyed wide recognition for producing quality wines and has received numerous medals and awards. Some of our latest accolades include;

2006 RCV 'The Dancer' Cabernet Sauvignon

BLUE-GOLD AWARD and TOP 100 WINES at 2011 Sydney International Wine Competition

2010 Dry Land Tempranillo (first release)

KARL SEPPELT AO TROPHY FOR BEST OTHER VARIETAL RED at 2011 Royal Adelaide Wine Show

2010 Watervale Riesling

TOP GOLD MEDAL at 2011 Canberra International Riesling Challenge

2006 Watervale Riesling

GOLD MEDAL at 2013 Canberra International Riesling Challenge

For more information about our wines, winemaker or history, please contact Marketing & PR Executive Emma Purvis on 0417 353 505 or emma@reillyswines.com.au.