

off the duck's back



LAKE BREEZE
LANGHORNE CREEK



WEATHERING VINTAGE 2023

The 2023 vintage definitely had its challenges but the good news is whilst my hair became greyer, the wines in bottle, barrel and tank are looking amazing.

The photo above reflects the family nature of our business and the 'one in, all in' mindset at this time of year.

Three generations of Follett's and a few of our best employees feature above during our vermentino hand pick.

This photo doesn't even include all the family who helped out, with brother Roger and nephew Jordan rushing off to the coffee machine, Mum leaving early to get morning tea and Robyn taking the photo.

Listening to Ken regale stories of the time in the 1970's when he threw 7 tonne of Palomino grapes from bucket to bin in less than three hours inspired all of us!

Since our last newsletter life has been a bit of a whirlwind, starting with the once in 50 year storm we experienced on our Handpicked Festival day. 65 mm in a couple of hours certainly put a dampener on things to say the least! A lot of physical and emotional energy has already been spent here, so I'll move on, except to say the festival will be back better than ever this November.

With over 20 weddings since last spring our events team, similar to our vintage team, have finally been able to take a collective breath now that winter is upon us.

Visitation to our cellar door and restaurant is as strong as ever with more people discovering Langhorne Creek for the first time. For the rest of you who discovered Langhorne Creek years ago, it's well worth reacquainting yourself with some Lake Breeze hospitality, as we have a new menu, new chefs and of course, new wines to be tasted. It sometimes feels like the only thing getting older is the winemaker!

Cheers,
Greg Follett
Winemaker

L-R: Tim Follett, Greg Follett, Ken Follett, Jedd Rothe, Chris Mugford, Annabel Follett, Ronan Thomson, Dionne Follett, Chad Rothe, Tom Follett.

marvellous malbec

Our annual wine show and luncheon once again brought together the wonderful people and wines of the district.

In another successful day for Lake Breeze, we came away with three awards. Firstly, our new release **2021 Malbec** picked up a trophy for the **Best Malbec** of show. It is only just beginning to hit its straps with some brooding dark fruit and enticing aromatics of violets, mulberry and exotic spices.

The aging potential of our cabernet was once again illustrated with our **2015 Cabernet Sauvignon** being awarded the **Best Museum Trophy**.

Also recognised was our **2022 Rosato** winning the award for **Best White/Rosé/Sparkling Wine**. Grenache is such a terrific base for rosé and it doesn't hurt when a large chunk is sourced from 90 year old vines.

Whilst on the subject of grenache, our **2022 Old Vine Grenache** snagged a gold medal at the Langhorne Creek Wine Show with its lifted bouquet and drinkability seducing the judges.

The first of the new releases from this vintage include our fresh and spritzly **2023 Moscato**. Whilst Moscato isn't everyone's cup of tea, it seems we can't produce enough of this wine at the moment.

Also fresh into bottle, is our **2023 Vermentino**. It's hard to believe this is actually the 12th vintage we've produced of this alternative variety. It is such an exuberant wine showing fresh citrus and oyster shell characters and has developed a great following.

Bottled in January and released this month, the **2022 Reserve Chardonnay** is a terrific follow up to the 2021 vintage, which sold out in record time. We've been singing the praises of Australian chardonnay for years now and whilst it's taken some wine drinkers a little while to catch on, it is definitely the flavour of the month right now.

The much anticipated **2020 Arthur's Reserve** is also available now. This blend of cabernet sauvignon 90%, malbec 7% and petit verdot 3% recently starred in its class at the 2022 Royal Adelaide Wine Show winning the **top gold medal**.



VINTAGE REPORT

My first vintage at Lake Breeze was in 1992 and since that time Mother Nature has thrown us her fair share of obstacles.

The 2023 vintage will go down as not only one of the latest on record, but also one of the weirdest. I've never spent as much time on my phone looking at weather apps as I have this vintage.

A third La Niña event in a row made for a much cooler and wetter spring followed by a cool summer and autumn with small rain events that certainly kept us on our toes.

Fortunately, we dodged some of the bigger rain events and whilst the weather made for some stressful and bloody busy periods, we were able to harvest everything when flavour ripe and the wines are looking exciting.

The average crop levels coupled with a long slow ripening have produced wines that are super aromatic and bursting with flavour.

My son, Tom joined us for vintage after finishing his university degree and did a great job. However, it was fairly obvious that he would have preferred to be in the great outdoors rather than cooped up washing barrels, presses and crushers.

Unfortunately, towards the end of vintage he suffered a concussion at football, and I had to bring in the 'medi-sub' Jedd from the vineyard. He has been a valuable asset, but little did he know two weeks in the winery would turn into six, with our cellar hand of 15 years, Chad on paternity leave. He and his wife Louise have welcomed a son, Henry, into the world - a baby brother for Esther.

Greg Follett



Grapes for Good tasting trail

We are proud of our continued partnership with Monarto Safari Park as part of the Grapes for Good initiative.

On the back of winning an international tourism award for this collaboration, we have recently launched our **Grapes for Good Tasting Trail**.

This unique experience includes a tasting plate paired with our featured Grapes for Good wines at each of our six Langhorne Creek wineries, along with an entry voucher to Monarto Safari Park.

Proceeds from each bottle of our **Bernoota** help to support the conservation program for the Eastern Bongo.

Isaac, pictured above, calls Monarto Safari park home. The Bongo is considered to be critically endangered, with only 150 estimated to remain in the wild.



living legends

In what was a huge day for the Follett family, Ken, Marlene, Tim and cousin Randall were all inducted into the Great Southern Football Association's Hall of Fame for their contributions as players, coaches, trainers and administrators.

Over 1000 goals, 4 Mail Medals and nearly 1500 games between them only scratches the surface of their achievements. (Marlene thinks she's strapped over 2000 ankles!)

Unfortunately, Ken and Marlene missed the presentation at the gala event at Adelaide Oval because Ken was celebrating his 80th birthday in one of the biggest family celebrations we've ever witnessed at Lake Breeze.

cooking up a storm

We welcome Ben McRae to the Lake Breeze kitchen team. His resumé reads like a gastronomic adventure from London, Auckland, Japan, Vietnam, Bangkok, Indonesia and the Caribbean to Langhorne Creek!

Ben started with us early in the new year and his passion for Asian cuisine is becoming more evident in our new Lake Breeze menu.

He is capably supported by Stuart and together they make a formidable team.

Click [here](#) to see a sneak peek of our new menu.





EVENTS

Cellar Treasures

Aug 11-20, 2023

Museum Weekend

Langhorne Creek cellar doors
Sat, Aug 12 + Sun, Aug 13

Handpicked Festival

Lake Breeze Wines
Sat, Nov 11, 2023



Keep your cellar stocked with our Lake Breeze wines. Join our **Duck Club** to have a case delivered to your door each March and September.

Our Duck Club selections represent a **20% saving**, and you'll also receive a 10% discount on wine throughout the year and on your stay at The Creek Cottage bed and breakfast.

Call us or join up on our [website](#).

Visit our website to keep up to date with our news and events.

www.lakebreeze.com.au

www.thecreekcottage.com.au

www.alicesbedandbreakfast.com.au

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@gregfollett

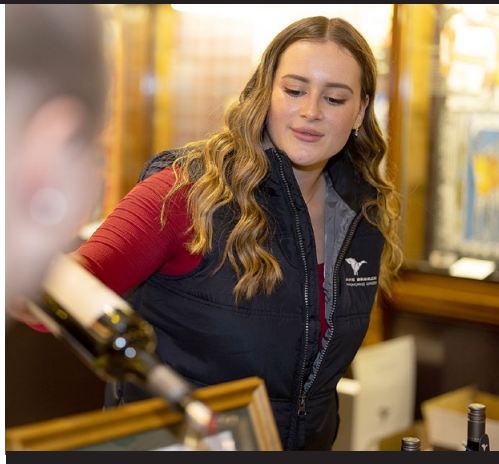
a taste of wine history

Adelaide's stunning Mortlock Library was host to 'A Taste of Wine History', as part of South Australia's History Festival.

This was a great initiative by the South Australian wine industry to utilise this beautiful building. The historic element was not lost on us, with the first Follett's arriving in SA in 1839.

A select group of wineries were on hand to pour wines with Tilly flying the flag for Lake Breeze.

It was no surprise our Old Vine Grenache, from vines planted in 1932, was a standout.



Keep an eye out for our email newsletters, **The Duck's Guts** and on our social media for all the latest happenings and newest releases.

Warmest regards,
Robyn.

PRIVACY STATEMENT YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE PRIVACY OF YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO US AT LAKE BREEZE. WE REQUIRE YOUR DETAILS FOR OUR MAILING LIST AND ORDERS ONLY. THIS INFORMATION WILL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE. CREDIT CARD DETAILS ARE USED FOR PROCESSING MAIL ORDERS ONLY. IF YOU WISH TO REMOVE OR CHANGE ANY OF YOUR DETAILS, PLEASE ADVISE US AT ANY TIME.

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