

off the duck's back



LAKE BREEZE
LANGHORNE CREEK



BEST VALUE WINERY

“The value for money represented by Lake Breeze is nothing short of extraordinary.”

TYSON STELZER, CHIEF EDITOR HALLIDAY WINE COMPANION

We've had an amazing reaction to being named Australia's Best Value Winery by the Halliday Wine Companion Awards in August.

The amount of love that came our way from our valued customers and friends was overwhelming. Although many have voiced their concerns that the Lake Breeze secret is now out! Rest assured, we hope to be making great wine and offering great value for many years to come.

As it turned out when the Halliday photographer came I was the only one around, so I'm once again gracing the front page. However, we've managed

to squeeze smaller photos of my less photogenic brothers, Roger and Tim into this newsletter.

There is loads to talk about in the newsletter this summer, with a couple of brand new releases, our 2017 Blanc de Blancs sparkling and 2021 Nero d'Avola, plus much more.

Cheers,
Greg Follett
Middle aged model in waiting



Line 'em up, wine for wine and dollar for dollar and the value for money represented by Lake Breeze is nothing short of extraordinary: four wines under \$20 scoring 90–95 points and four wines under \$30 scoring 92–97 this year. Case closed. The Follett family is privileged to a deep history; the family has been tending its vines on the shores of Lake Alexandrina since the 1880s and picking up hundreds of trophies and gold medals in major wine shows across the country for decades.

The calibre of Lake Breeze Wines in the wider Australian wine landscape was reaffirmed by nominations for our final taste-off for both Cabernet Sauvignon of the Year and Cabernet and Family of the Year, pitted against wines of more than 17 times their price.

The Follett family are fabulous ambassadors for an off-neglected region and embody the heart and soul that we all love about Australian inemaking. It's a bonus that their wines also happen to represent the best value in the country.

Tyson Stelzer & Tony Love



the sparkling and the sicilian

Blanc de Blancs

Greg was able to utilise the very cool 2017 vintage to create our first Méthode Traditionelle sparkling wine. Selectively harvested from our 'Hill block' of chardonnay, which retains its natural acidity so well. The base wine was fermented and aged in both stainless steel and five year old French oak barriques, prior to bottle fermentation. Over three years on lees has added a layer of complexity and given the wine a lovely fine bead. An elegant style, showing both green apple and lemon zest characters. We think that's definitely worth celebrating!

Nero d'Avola

We are also hugely excited to release our first ever Nero d'Avola. For those of you unacquainted with the variety, it is the most widely planted variety on the island of Sicily and is fast emerging as a 'go to' alternative variety in Australia.

It's gaining popularity due to its ability to tolerate warm and dry conditions, along with its delicious drinkability. In 2018 we planted Nero d'Avola, or the 'black grape of Avola' at Lake Breeze. This wine is destined to become a lunchtime favourite at our restaurant due to its light to medium body, pretty floral and redcurrant aromas and juicy, yet savoury palate.



cabernet is king

The much-awaited **2019 Cabernet Sauvignon** has also been released in November. We've had a huge amount of interest in this wine since the Halliday results but have resisted the temptation to bring it out too early. Our most consistently awarded wine, including winning the Champion Wine of Langhorne Creek on six occasions. While it maintains that Langhorne Creek drinkability, this will age beautifully for another 20 years.

“ THE EPITOME OF SIGNATURE LANGHORNE CREEK CABERNET. THE QUALITY OF THE FRUIT IS EVIDENT FROM THE OUTSET. IT'S MATURED FOR 20 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK, 40% NEW, YET THIS IS SUBSERVIENT TO THE BLACK/BLUEBERRY AROMAS AND FLAVOURS, SOME REGIONAL DARK CHOC-MINT ADDING A TINY WHIFF BEHIND. EVERYTHING KNITS TOGETHER PERFECTLY, AND THE VARIETAL TANNIN STRUCTURES LIE IN EXACT TUNE WITH THE WHOLE. WHEN IT WORKS SO WELL, WINES LIKE THIS JUST COME ALIVE. ”

TONY LOVE

97 pts HALLIDAY
2022 WINE COMPANION

new releases

Fortunately, the 2021 season was much kinder to our 1932 plantings of grenache and the crop was the best we've had for quite a few years. This means a little more of our **2021 Old Vine Grenache** to go around. It's so fragrant and juicy and one of our cellar door favourites.

Greg has also been able to get the **2020 Section 54 Shiraz** into bottle in time for this newsletter, after the 2019 vintage sold out following its success. This is quintessential Langhorne Creek in a glass, straddling the line between cool and warm climate in style. It has a lovely fragrant bouquet of red and black fruits and delivers both richness and elegance.



The Drake 2014

70% Cabernet 30% Shiraz

With only 500 bottles made each release from the best two barrels of the entire vintage, we feel The Drake also represents exceptional value. At 7 years from vintage, the 2014 is starting to soften nicely but has the ability to cellar for another couple of decades yet. The cabernet at its core holds the wine together and gives it amazing length of flavour, while the shiraz adds a little extra stuffing in the middle. A cracking wine for a special occasion.

94 pts JAMES HALLIDAY
2021 WINE COMPANION





NICK RYAN - THE ADVERTISER

Great Wine Capitals SA Best of Wine Tourism Awards

"There will be significantly more expensive projects among the global winners, probably higher-flying architects too, but if great architecture is that which truly understands the landscape in which it sits – and if the best clients are those who know what the building needs to achieve – then few would hit the brief as successfully as the new Barrel Room at Langhorne Creek's Lake Breeze Wines.

Forebears of the Follett family have been farming in Langhorne Creek since the 1850s and growing grapes since the 1880s, so the current generation had a clear vision of what they wanted when embarking on a \$1.8 million building project intended to create a flexible function venue that seamlessly sat among the buildings and vineyards that already shaped the site.

The French talk often about terroir – the idea that great wine expresses the spirit of the place from which it comes – and this winning entry proves buildings can do the same. Stones were sourced from the nearby Monarto quarry, just as homes for Follett families have been done for years. The clever use of corrugated iron links the building with the dairy sheds that have been an integral part of the Follett farming story and almost 100 old wine barrels are used throughout the building as potent reminders guests are in one of the country's most-awarded wineries.

The judging panel loved these local links and responded favorably to the quiet sophistication of the place, noting this approach was entirely consistent with every other facet of the Lake Breeze experience.

This will be a valuable asset for the Langhorne Creek community and an added incentive for visitors to explore the region some insiders call, "Australian wine's secret weapon".

tourism award

We are thrilled to have won *The Great Wine Capitals SA Best of Wine Tourism award in Architecture and Landscape* for our new *Barrel Room* function space.

This is great recognition for the huge amount of time and effort Roger put in to bringing this project to life, and a terrific accolade not only for Lake Breeze, but for our architect (and cousin!), Trish Kwong and builder, Geoff Fairweather.

The Best of Wine Tourism Awards recognise the most outstanding wine tourism experiences in South Australia.

Above: David Basham MP presenting Roger Follett with the award.

Below: Chad, Renae, Jedd and Ashleigh.



Our event coordinators Ashleigh and Renae are doing an incredible job creating beautiful weddings in our Barrel Room, whilst also managing our busier than ever restaurant!

It's a shame that we've been unable to welcome 6000 guests onto our lawns for our *Handpicked Festival*, but we've decided it's the perfect opportunity to host a smaller event to showcase our beautiful venue. *Tunes on the Terrace* will be held on November 14 with live music and plenty of good wine. If you can't make it this time around, keep an eye out for future events.

VINEYARD REPORT

Once again there has been a bit of extreme weather across the state with some of our neighbours in the Adelaide Hills and Barossa suffering hail damage. Fortunately, we have been spared and despite a couple of isolated blocks experiencing some frost damage the vineyard is looking a treat at the moment.

A 'more normal' winter and spring has seen a good flood event across the old flood plain vineyard and decent rains have meant minimal irrigation use thus far. Bunch numbers are looking quite good, so we now keep our fingers crossed for nice November weather to enable us a successful flowering.



Tim Follett, vineyard manager.

eco vineyards

Tim's been busy planting native shrubs and grasses on specific sites on the property as part of the EcoVineyards program.

The EcoVineyard concept makes use of native insectary plants to create a biodiverse ecosystem in and around the vineyards.

The plan is for these plantings to become home to insect predators, which will in turn contribute towards biocontrol of vineyard pests and lead to the reduced use of chemicals.



bernoota + bongo's

We are proud to partner with Monarto Safari Park as part of the *Grapes for Good* initiative along with five other Langhorne Creek wineries.

Monarto Safari Park is the largest open-range zoo in the world and is only 30 minutes from Langhorne Creek.

We are sponsoring the Bongo, which are a critically endangered member of the antelope family, only found in Kenya.

Part proceeds from our Bernoota sold at cellar door will go towards this important conservation program.




langhorne creek photography competition


We're lucky to live in Langhorne Creek and appreciate it every day, but it's not until someone looks at the region through different eyes that some really stunning photographs come to light.


Naturally, there are some pretty good wine prizes and \$1,000 for the overall winner.

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



We've had an amazingly busy 18 months at cellar door with our supportive South Australians holidaying at home. It will be great to welcome our customers and friends from interstate back to Lake Breeze.

We wish you all a safe and very happy Christmas with your friends and families!

Warmest regards,
Robyn.

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LAKE BREEZE

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