

AMATEUR WINEMAKERS AND BREWERS CLUB OF ADELAIDE INC.



PATRON: KAAREN PALMER

Next Meeting: **Tuesday March 4th 2025 Newsletter**



When: Meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month from **8.00 pm start – 10:30pm finish (no early arrivals)**
Where: Clarence Park Community Centre, corner of East Ave & Canterbury Terrace, Black Forest.
How: Check out our website Adelaide Ferment: <http://awbca.org.au> for our Calendar and photos and lots of information

Please bring your wines/beers to share for others to taste and comment and discuss with others how you made them, problems you had, or where you purchased them from and price you paid etc...a great chance to chat about anything wine and beer (and food too if you wish).

Join us to taste our beers and wines and enjoy them with a small supper

Competitions & Supper this Month – March 2025

Beer Competition:

Sparkling Ale Coopers Kit Beer and / or Clone



Beer entries – please e-mail Sandy Matz or Murray Barber
Monday evening latest – please.

Wine Competition: Meads, Fruit, Vegetable, Herbal & Non-Grape Wines



(Judged: Greg Jackson)

Supper: Cheese & Fruit Platter



Organised by Frank & Walter

Diary Dates: Keep these dates free

1st Tuesday in month - Club meeting

NEXT MEETING or date to remember

- 4th March Meeting
- 1st April Meeting (before Easter)
- 6th May Meeting
- 18th May Apple Crush (week after Mother's Day)
- 4th June Meeting

Last Month:



Last month we were privileged to hear Warwick Billings speak about all things Cider. Warwick was kind enough to bring samples of some of his favourite ciders. Most were super delicious and some thought one of the bottled samples tasted rather funky. What a treat!

Questions from the members were answered expertly and it demonstrated just how much he didn't know about Cider.



Competition Winners for February 2025

Beer Results: Cider & Perry; (Geoff Mathews Trophy)

Judges: Warwick Billings (Cidermaker and Director at LOBO Juice and Cider)

Cider, Perry: 9 Entries

- 1st Peter Tilsley / Jerome Munchenberg /– Score 42.5 Points –Apple Cider 2023;
2nd Jane Boroky – Score 41.0 Points – Sparkling Apple Cider 2024.
3rd Jerome Munchenberg / Peter Tilsley – Score 40.5 Points – Apple Cider 2024;



Clos St Laurence...The pick of the crop...again.

St Laurence Wine Syndicates for 2025...What started out as a single winemaker (Michael L.) turned out to be three parties, two small parcels but sufficient and with the bulk (~400Kg) going to Michael's syndicate of 11 members. Peter T's syndicate had a resources clash and was unable to participate however, club members provided a good turn-out and had the crop picked in just a few hours – well done!



The pick was dry and the yield was down and 11 days earlier than last year. The quality better than expected considering the extended and elevated heat conditions plus the lack of rain. This year, some 600+ Kg of fruit was picked and it was ripe. Some vines, not many, had shown some exposure to stunted growth (perhaps from herbicide or other viral attacks). There was evidence of a second pollination late in the season as some rows

displayed underdeveloped bunches of grapes.

This year's grapes when compared to last year's crop (of 756Kg) was down nearly 20% in yield.

Michael has graciously provided the following wine-making statistics for the 2025 St Laurence Vintage:



Baumé: 14.7°, (some added water - lowered alcohol level)

Fruit Temp: 20.8C

pH 3.52 (before acid is added)

PMS Added: 60ppm SO₂ (2-day cold-soak / delayed start)

Yeast: BP725

Wine volume: 275L (Post pressing / SS Variable Capacity Tank)



Do you remember:

This time 5 years ago: Adelaide Hills wineries and vineyards were under fire:

Also, 6 years ago we were reporting: "In December 2018, the Australian Wine Research Institute hosted a webinar to present the Bureau of Meteorology Seasonal Outlook for the 2019 Vintage. At that Webinar Darren Ray, senior climatologist from the Bureau, stated the outlook "...we are in for a hot Australian summer" and it has lived up to that forecast, as we all now know and experienced.



The protracted and raised temperatures made for an earlier harvest in northern wine regions as compared to southern wine regions and as confirmed published by the Daily Wine News; the beginning of early harvests.

Barossa grape yields are expected to be below average this vintage."
Sound familiar?



You become highly respectful for people living off the land and carving out a living growing grapes.

South Australia dominates Top 250 Australian Wines of 2024

An original article published by GRACIE WALLACE

Multi-award-winning wine writer Tyson Stelzer has revealed his [Top 250 Australian Wines of 2024](#), with South Australia dominating the list by winning nine out of 14 categories. The awards came from renowned wine regions across the state including Coonawarra, Clare Valley, Eden Valley, Barossa, and McLaren Vale.

Coonawarra's Penfolds excelled, winning three categories, including [Wine of the Year](#) with the Penfolds Bin 180 Coonawarra Cabernet Shiraz 2021.

The judged categories included:

- Wine of the Year
- White Wine of the Year
- Red Wine of the Year
- Sparkling White of the Year
- Sparkling Red of the Year
- Riesling of the Year
- Chardonnay of the Year
- Other White of the Year
- Pinot Noir of the Year
- Grenache of the Year
- Cabernet Sauvignon of the Year
- Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz of the Year
- Shiraz of the Year
- Dessert & Fortified of the Year



Below are the South Australian wines that won in their respective categories:

Wine of the Year: [Penfolds Bin 180 Coonawarra Cabernet Shiraz 2021](#) (Coonawarra)

White Wine of the Year: [Grosset Polish Hill Riesling 2024](#) (Clare Valley)

Red Wine of the Year: [Penfolds Bin 180 Coonawarra Cabernet Shiraz 2021](#) (Coonawarra)

Riesling of the Year: [Grosset Polish Hill Riesling 2024](#) (Clare Valley)

Other White of the Year: [Yalumba The Virgilius Eden Valley Viognier 2022](#) (Eden Valley)

Grenache of the Year (tied at 96 points): [Thistledown Fool on the Hill Grenache 2022](#) (Eden Valley) and [Torbreck Les Amis 2021](#) (Barossa)

Cabernet Sauvignon of the Year: [Wynns Coonawarra Estate John Riddoch Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2021](#) (Coonawarra)

Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz of the Year: [Penfolds Bin 180 Coonawarra Cabernet Shiraz 2021](#) (Coonawarra)

Shiraz of the Year (tied at 98 points): [Chapel Hill The Vicar Shiraz 2021](#) (McLaren Vale), [Torbreck The Laird 2018](#) (Barossa Valley) and [Henschke Hill of Grace Shiraz Museum Release 2008](#) (Eden Valley) from South Australia (tied with [Clonakilla Shiraz Viognier 2023](#), [Mount Pleasant Old Hill 143-Year-Old Vines Hunter Valley Shiraz 2023](#) and [Mount Langi Ghiran Langi Shiraz 2021](#) from interstate)

Speaking on the list, Tyson Stelzer said: "Since I retired as editor of the Halliday Wine Companion in 2022, it has perhaps been the worst-kept secret that I continue to taste Australian wines incessantly. I publish reviews regularly in WBM and Barossa Mag, as I have done continuously now for almost 20 years.

"In response to popular demand, and as an opportunity to give something back to Australian winemakers and wine lovers at this time, it's my great pleasure to share my Top 250 Australian Wines of 2024, free for all to access, share, and reproduce. These represent the finest line-up of Australian wines I have ever tasted."