



Winners 2018



David Ridgway grew up in the small South-East community of Wolseley, South Australia. Fostering his interest in rural affairs, David travelled extensively and through connecting with other farming communities, developed his understanding of politics and community leadership.

As a young adult, David took over the family farm which had diversified into a large-scale horticultural operation. It was an experience which developed his understanding of business and exports. That business operation, along with the personal experience of raising a family in a rural community, reinforced David's connection to regional South Australia.

Intent on playing a positive role in strengthening South Australia's regional communities, David won a seat in the State's Legislative Council in 2002. He served in a variety of portfolio areas and from 2007 until 2018, was the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council and the Shadow Minister for several major portfolios such as Planning, Primary Industries and Tourism.

Following the March 2018 State Election, David was appointed Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment in Premier Steven Marshall's Ministry.

"Kangaroo Island offers some of the State's premier tourist attractions, as well as a growing menu of unique food and beverage experiences, both at restaurants as well as farm gates and cellar doors."

"My warmest congratulations to this year's winners and to all of those businesses on Kangaroo Island who work so hard to present a premium product and to grow their markets both on the island and abroad."

Hon David Ridgway MLC
Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
Member of the Legislative Council



Tony Nolan
Chairman
Kangaroo Island Food & Wine Association



Pierre Gregor
Chairman
Tourism Kangaroo Island

From the chairs

It is exciting and rewarding to see that the Kangaroo Island Food, Wine and Tourism Awards are now into their third consecutive year. We have continued to develop the nature of the Awards and incorporated additional categories that recognise operator excellence in the Island's food, wine and tourism industries.

Food and wine, the Farm Gate and Cellar Door experiences are inextricably linked to tourism and visitor expectations and satisfaction levels. There are numerous aims behind these awards. They include showcasing what the Island has to offer; provision of mentoring and feedback; and in particular, recognition of those who excel in these industries in the hope that it provides incentive for others to aspire to the same levels of professionalism and achievement. We - that is, the operator, the consumer and the Island's standing as a must-experience destination - can only benefit from initiatives such as this.

The Awards are the result of close collaboration between Tourism Kangaroo Island and the Kangaroo Island Food and Wine Association, and supported by the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island, government and non-government agencies and industry partners. There are significant synergies between our two associations. Outcomes such as these awards, the collaborative social media project and successful promotion of the Island's offerings at food, wine and tourism trade and consumer events, demonstrate what can be achieved when entities work together. In this regard, there is currently considerable work under way to lay the foundation for even stronger ties between these two sectors. The feeling is that our associations' visitor servicing, membership servicing and financial sustainability can only benefit from these closer ties.

Finally, congratulations to the finalists and especially the winners for their commitment to their businesses, commitment to the industry and community generally and their success in providing authentic premium produce and experiences.



Sincere thanks from Kangaroo Island Food and Wine Association and Tourism Kangaroo Island

To our sponsors



Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island



The Advertiser

SEALINK

WINESTATE



To our Judges, who without their patience and persistence, this would not have been possible.

To our Project team:

Megan Harvie - KI Food and Wine Association
Kylie Bamfield - Tourism KI
Shauna Black - KI Industry & Brand Alliance



The Awards

Kangaroo Island Food and Wine Association and Tourism Kangaroo Island are pleased to present the Winners of the 2018 Kangaroo Island Food, Wine and Tourism Awards.

Kangaroo Island Dining

Mercure Kangaroo Island Lodge - American River

Farm Gate Experience

Emu Ridge Eucalyptus - MacGillivray

Cellar Door Experience

Dudley Wines Cellar Door - Penneshaw

Unique Food & Beverage Experience

Table 88 - Stokes Bay

New Tourism Business

Wandering Souls Australia

Nature-Based Tourism Experience

Kangaroo Island Ocean Safari - Penneshaw

Best Value-Added Product

Kangaroo Island Free Range Eggs - Kingscote

Kangaroo Island Rising Star

Eliza Sheridan-Turner

KI Outstanding Contribution by an Individual

Craig Wickham

Kangaroo Island Wine of the Year

False Cape - 2015 The Captain Cabernet Sauvignon



Category Sponsor - The Kangaroo Island Industry and Brand Alliance's vision is to build a single, collaborative brand under which all of Kangaroo Island's products, experiences and businesses can work together to promote our region and grow regional prosperity. Congratulations to the Mercure Kangaroo Island Lodge, a proud venue which imbues the Brand Values in its products and services.



Kangaroo Island Dining

Mercure Kangaroo Island Lodge

Scenic Drive, American River

08 8553 7053

www.kilodge.com.au

Mercure Kangaroo Island Lodge, at American River, has backed up its award in this category last year, with the judge noting further improvement in several areas.

Waiting staff and pre-table service were singled out for particular mention and high scores were received in attention to detail.

"Service was very attentive and unobtrusive. I am aware that wait and cooking staff are a challenge in rural areas however the person covering the dining room coped well with almost 30 customers, practically single handed," the judge said.

"The wait staff contributed greatly to the overall satisfied feeling of the evening."

The venue was encouraged to sing the praises of local produce more loudly, with the judge noting that while there was good acknowledgement of Kangaroo Island Brand Values, there could have been more detail on the menu.

Mercure scored highly in its range of Kangaroo Island beverages available and the service and attention to this detail.

The Lodge is on the site of the first-ever guest house on the island, and visitors are often delighted to learn more about the history of the Lodge along with that of American River. The relaxed atmosphere, historic buildings and natural bushland setting overlooking the water all make for the success of Kangaroo Island Lodge. The judge noted the particular ambience and welcomed the coming "refresh" of the dining area.



Category Sponsor - On Kangaroo Island, there's a farm gate surprise around nearly every corner. That's one of the reasons we love bringing visitors to the island so they can see, taste and savour these wonderful experiences and go home with great memories. Over the past 29 years, SeaLink has enjoyed being involved in the growth of the farm-gate industry on Kangaroo Island and we are proud to bring visitors to their doorstep on our tours and our self-drive packages. We look forward to seeing continued growth and prosperity in the farm-gate industry and we are proud to sponsor this category.

SEALINK

KANGAROO ISLAND
2018
WINNER

FOOD WINE & TOURISM
AWARDS

Farm Gate Experience

Emu Ridge Eucalyptus

691 Willsons Road MacGillivray

08 8553 8228

www.emuridge.com.au

Emu Ridge Eucalyptus Distillery knows its market well and presents an authentic bush experience.

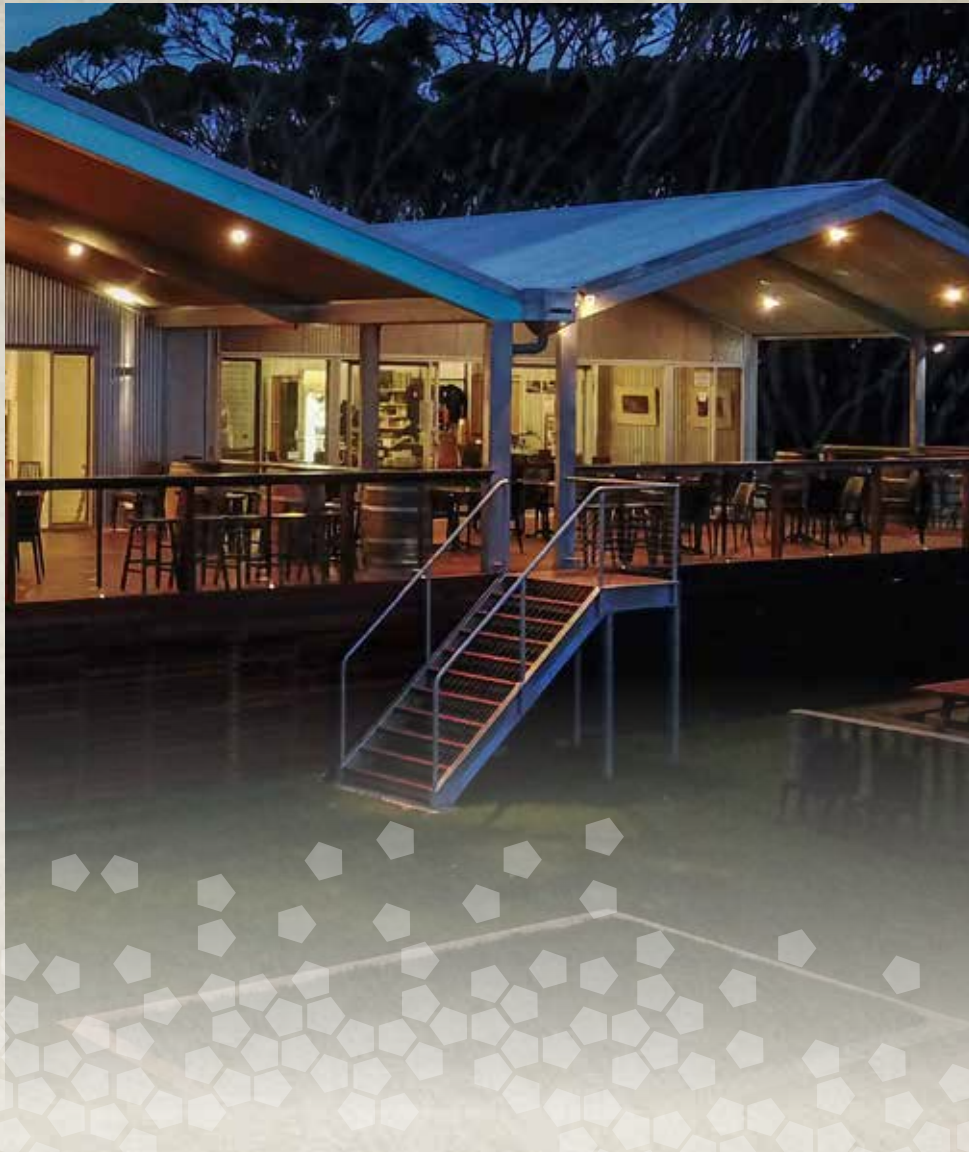
Judges again chose this destination as the best Farm Gate experience on Kangaroo Island, awarding the top mark - 10/10 - for its "exceptional welcome" and atmosphere.

Emu Ridge is the only commercial eucalyptus distillery in South Australia, a pioneer in sustainable tourism, and it became the first-ever farm gate on the island 27 years ago.

The judges said that this distinctly Kangaroo Island business provides a most comprehensive range of interesting products; that their DVD presentation works very well for visitors; and the availability of the DVD and printed items in many other languages was excellent. Staff and owners provided an excellent welcome and "a very good explanation of all products and services".

The business is working towards environmental sustainability, land management and re-vegetation, while producing 100 per cent pure eucalyptus oil from the Narrow Leaf Mallee (*Eucalyptus Cneorifolia*), which is only found on the island. There were "very good processes in place to conserve water and energy, also good full use of all by-product".

On-line subscribers are treated to regular newsletters and offers, so the farm gate experience continues long after visitors have returned to their homes. The business' online marketing strategy was also singled out for praise.



Office of the Commissioner for
Kangaroo Island



Category Sponsor - The Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island (OCKI) is proud to sponsor this award for Best Cellar Door experience. OCKI has worked with the beverages industry on the island for the past two years, introducing mainland venues to the wonderful array of KI beverages, achieving 36 new listings to date. We have also assisted by sponsoring the SA Wine Industry Development Scheme Project currently underway. We commend Dudley Wines cellar door to those wishing to enjoy KI wine and food in a relaxed and casual environment, well suited to families with children.



Cellar Door Experience

Dudley Wines Cellar Door

1153 Willoughby Road Penneshaw

08 8553 1333

www.dudleywines.com.au

Judges commended the Dudley Wines Cellar Door experience, awarding maximum points in several categories and good scores throughout the many judging criteria.

Dudley has backed up its award from last year in this same category.

Dudley Wines is considered a pioneer in the island's wine sector and was established in 1997 by a group of enthusiastic locals.

In 2010, Jeff and Val Howard took over the business with a vision to be a family owned and operated winery, producing 100 per cent Kangaroo Island product, handcrafted on the island. The wine maker is 5th generation islander Brodie Howard, their son, and with their daughters Kasha and Tamra, this family has created a premium wine and food experience on KI.

Judges commented on the prompt service and knowledgeable staff in the tasting area.

They also highlighted the "rural feel and outlook" and the wide range of Kangaroo Island products available for sale, including clothing.

Families were also welcome with judges awarding a 10/10 for the child friendliness. The sense of arrival was enhanced by easy parking, signage and a welcoming entrance.




2018
WINNER

Unique Food & Beverage Experience

Table 88

88 Deep Gully Track Stokes Bay

08 8559 2164

www.table88ki.com

Table 88 tapas bar and restaurant provides a less traditional, but increasingly popular 'share plate' style of dining. This gives people the opportunity to enjoy more local produce in a relaxed atmosphere. Located just 1km from Stokes Bay, with stunning views overlooking the bay, the venue is perfect for providing a Mediterranean feel and connection to the seafood offered on the menu.

The venue opened in October 2017, trading evenings from Monday to Thursday and longer days on Friday to Sunday including public holidays. The venue is closed over winter but for hire for private events.

Judges said the passion and enthusiasm of the owners – Stacey and Caleb – was obvious.

“Upon meeting the owners, there is evidence that they are kind, generous and care about the quality they are putting forward.”

Judges praised the innovative approach to food, which embraces a unique style for the island and incorporates a wide range of local produce.

Table 88 had also marketed well on its website with high-quality images, and through social media. It had formed links with other local operators which was benefiting tourists and other businesses.

Judges highlighted the venue as “a cool space” and praised efforts to make customers comfortable in all seasons. They also complimented the commitment to staff training.

Category Sponsor Tourism Kangaroo Island and TOMM - Historically food, beverage and dining offerings are an intrinsic and important component of any visit to countries around the world. It value-adds the tourism experience and Kangaroo Island is competing in this space. Not without its challenges in terms of supply and seasonality, Kangaroo Island nevertheless offers a broad range of sea and land-based produce which is enhanced by our reputation for authenticity, purity and quality. The chefs and beverage producers on the island are professional and innovative and this award seeks to recognise the unique food and beverage experiences that result from the marriage of local produce, vision and imagination. Tourism Kangaroo Island is proud to host this Award.





The Advertiser

Category Sponsor - The Advertiser is South Australia's number one news source, reaching more than 1.2 million South Australians each month. We are excited to announce the winner of Kangaroo Island's best New Tourism Business and wish them every success in the future. Each week our team of dedicated journalists delivers the best of South Australia's food, wine and tourism sectors to our readers, providing a taste of what to get out there and try.



New Tourism Business

Wandering Souls Australia

www.wanderingsouls.com.au

Wandering Souls Australia is not just another tourism business on Kangaroo Island; it offers a unique new service unlike anything on the Island. Its pop-up glamping (glamorous camping) and events service has been available since January 6 2018, and Wandering Souls has developed a distinct range of online bookable, glamping tent styles.

Judges were particularly impressed by the business planning, digital marketing and "solid philosophy that is aligned with the KI brand and ethos".

A comprehensive website "which is informative, simple to use and great attention paid to imagery and user-friendly applications" was a highlight.

The website was designed and built by Wandering Souls chief executive officer Alec Hall to provide a simple, clearly defined and user friendly 'three-step' process for customers to book their glamping experience from anywhere in the world, at a time of their convenience: book a tent style; book a campsite; book transport.

With Kangaroo Island being well regarded as a world-class, nature-based tourism destination, Wandering Souls Australia was devised to bring families and friends together to experience nature, in an affordable way, while promoting sustainable tourism, and further promoting the island as one of Australia's must-do destinations.

"This was clearly thought out and all the business modelling had been completed prior to launch and it's obvious there is a clear direction for the brand and the current business proposition, demonstrated by a strong vision and ability to make decisions congruent with the direction," the judges said.



Category Sponsor - Kangaroo Island has rapidly become known for its fine food producers, developing a reputation for passionate growers and premium produce. At Southern Ocean Lodge a dedicated culinary philosophy was developed prior to its opening more than a decade ago, to embrace this unique local culture, emphasising fresh seasonal ingredients from island producers while at the same time drawing on South Australia's wider reputation as a source of artisan food and wine. For guests, this ensures a real 'sense of place' at every dining occasion. Southern Ocean Lodge is privileged to act as ambassador for the region's produce and for a growing number of local suppliers and small businesses, providing an increasing support to the local economy. Southern Ocean Lodge is proud to sponsor this Award and we offer our warm congratulations to the winner.



Kangaroo Island Rising Star

Eliza Sheridan-Turner

Even at her tender age, Eliza Sheridan has many years of experience in tourism and hospitality. As a part-owner of Emu Bay Lavender Farm, Eliza is bringing all that experience to bear and is keen to learn more.

Eliza has worked at the Queenscliffe Hotel, Ozone Hotel, Rabbitt Warren Bakery and Kangaroo Island Spirits, as well as Lake Breeze Wines cellar door and Appleseed Café in Strathalbyn.

Since finishing Year 12 in 2014, she has completed certificates in business administration, food processing, tourism and hospitality.

As the winner of this award, Eliza will spend one week working at Southern Ocean Lodge.

In her application, Eliza said she was very interested in experiencing, first hand, a five-star KI hospitality business.

"I intend to work long-term in the hospitality/tourism sector and I have the aptitude for learning and the drive to develop my skills.

"I am passionate about menu planning, the preparation and delivery of food, as well as broader aspects of creating a highly regarded, professionally managed business such as Southern Ocean Lodge."

One of her referees said Eliza was the epitome of customer service.

"Her enthusiasm and commitment to the Island and its products shines through in everything she does. Nothing is too much trouble for Eliza and I have observed how her warm and engaging manner resonates with visitors and locals alike, making their experiences of the Island enjoyable and memorable."

"Coupled with these qualities is Eliza's sound understanding of business, product knowledge and development and promotion."

"Since taking over Emu Bay Lavender Farm, Eliza has contributed to the expansion of its menu and beverage range, introduced new tour group products (tastings and tours) and promoted and established the Lavender Farm as an Events venue."



Category Sponsor - The South Australian Government, tourism industry and stakeholders are committed to establishing the State as a growing tourism destination choice for international and domestic travellers. Kangaroo Island is an icon in the Australian tourism landscape and with 40 per cent of the island covered by native vegetation, Kangaroo Island's wildlife and wild places are as good as it gets. 'Nature Like Nowhere Else. Activating Nature-based Tourism in South Australia' is the State Government's plan to activate opportunities for industry growth by co-investing to create experiences like nowhere else, creating an environment where tourism businesses can flourish, and driving tourism demand.



Nature-Based Tourism Experience

Kangaroo Island Ocean Safari

PO Box 351 Penneshaw 5222

0419 772 175

www.kangarooislandoceansafari.com.au

Kangaroo Island Ocean Safari (KIOS) scored the maximum points in more than half of the 20 categories scored by judges.

KIOS operates daily from Penneshaw and highlights some of the island's most magnificent ancient coastline as well as viewing marine wildlife including dolphins, seals, eagles, whales (seasonal), and an abundance of bird-life. Judges described the experience as "outstanding".

The marine tour is conducted from a surveyed 12-seater vessel. This vessel provides not only comfort for guests but a true outdoor nature experience. KIOS's responsiveness to customers through Trip Advisor feedback, maintenance of its website and being contactable at all hours were also noted by the judges.

KIOS has expanded the business to cater for the growing cruise ship market, with the purchase of eight buses that are now used for all cruise ships visiting the island. The bus tours provide cruise ship guests with the opportunity to have an authentic KI experience with guides who have extensive local knowledge and value their ability to offer a professional tourism service.

KIOS operates every day of the year (weather pending), including Christmas Day. The business has grown from a two-person team to employing 15 casual workers on the Dudley Peninsula, including two skippers, one general manager, one finance officer and 11 bus drivers.

Judges were impressed by the professional presentation of the operators Tony and Sandy Coppins and how they complemented each other: "Tony demonstrated a high standard of skill in selling their product, whereas Sandy understood the importance of implementing systems to sell product."

"Clearly both Tony and Sandy understand their business with a keen eye to create new opportunities based on their capacity and needs of the market.

"Tony and Sandy provide commitment to open all year round with their various business opportunities, commitment to deliver ocean safari all year, supporting other operators to deliver their product and collaborating with other providers."



Category Sponsor - Regional Express is proud to be supporting the 2018 Kangaroo Island Food, Wine and Tourism Awards. As a regional airline, we are committed to giving back to the regional communities by supporting events that recognise the achievements in the regions where we operate. Kangaroo Island is a premier tourism destination offering exceptional experiences in food and wine these awards allow the best to be recognised for their hard work and achievements.



Best Value-Added Product

Kangaroo Island Free Range Eggs

Kingscote

08 8553 9097

www.kieeggs.com.au

"Sweet and full-flavoured, no salt and pepper required!"

One of Kangaroo Island's best known and loved products has been awarded in this category, with high praise from the judging panel.

Kangaroo Island Free Range Eggs is a family owned and operated business where 60,000 pastured full-beaked hens range on the farm at no more than 750 hens to the hectare. There are 60 chicken sheds that are fully mobile so they can be easily moved to fresh pasture.

The hens eat a natural diet supplemented by a mixture of grains that are grown, harvested and mixed on the farm. Maremma stock guardian dogs live with the hens on the farm, the dogs watch over and protect the hens from predators such as eagles and feral cats.


Tom and Fiona Fryar started the business back in 1992, they now have the next generation of their family involved in the business and have 20 local employees. The eggs are distributed on Island and to Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney on a weekly basis.

Judges noted the consistent colour, consistency of size and excellent quality of the eggs. Excellent freshness and storage had enabled Kangaroo Island Free Range Eggs to take good advantage of its point of difference. It was supplying many mainland outlets and also moving into mainstream supermarkets with a new marketing deal. The simple and informative packaging was rated highly and the QR code on the packaging provided excellent consumer information.

Across the production elements, Kangaroo Island Free Range Eggs scored very highly – amassing 73 of a possible 80 points.



Category Sponsor - The Islander has been at the forefront of Kangaroo Island news and opinion since 1967, and is a trusted, respected voice in the community. Kangaroo Island is at the forefront of producing excellent produce from our unique and pristine environment that we love to share with the rest of the world. Awards such as this acknowledge hard work, passion, focus, determination, and a striving for excellence. The Islander is proud to sponsor this Award, and we offer our warm congratulations to Craig Wickham.

The  Islander



2018 WINNER **KI Outstanding Contribution by an Individual**

Craig Wickham

Craig Wickham is synonymous with Kangaroo Island. If there ever was a human embodiment of Brand Kangaroo Island, it is Craig.

Over 20 years, Craig and his wife Janet have built their business – Exceptional Kangaroo Island – into a world-class, award-winning touring experience. Craig has a strong focus on excellence, service and professionalism while offering unique and personalized experiences. His extraordinary success in business has been, in part, due to his international marketing program and his personal ability to form strong networks within the industry. Many credit him with doing more than any other individual to promote United States visitation to the Island.

However, Craig has never seen his business in isolation and has worked in every aspect to mentor others, take leadership roles at Government and Industry levels, and to foster and promote the Island. An individual of great integrity, drive and certainty, Craig is not shy of pounding the boot leather on countless forays to market our Island and its attributes for the benefit of all operators.

He worked diligently to have Kangaroo Island recognised with National Landscape status and was the sponsor of the “Open All Year” project, which has resulted in a significant shift in the Island’s offerings, messaging and business skills.

Craig has been Deputy Mayor of Kangaroo Island; chair of the Kangaroo Island Development Assessment Panel; founding board member of the Kangaroo Island Futures Authority; chair of the Commissioner’s Local Advisory Board on Native Vegetation; and, a board member of the Kangaroo Island Industry and Brand Alliance.

In all of these complex and time-consuming roles he brings wise counsel and a considered approach, always focusing on the best outcome for stakeholders.

Craig continues to inspire and support others, to promote all things Kangaroo Island and to seek excellence in everything he does.



Category Sponsor - Winestate Magazine. Winestate is proud to have just celebrated its 40th year of publication, making it Australasia's oldest and most respected wine magazine. While it is predominantly a supporter of South Australian wines it has a much wider scope and interest, yet at its core it is still South Australian, with its head office in Adelaide and a majority of judgings also done there. It is pleasing to see that South Australian wine and fine food products have now been recognised with wine and other alcoholic products being the biggest income earner for the state, not to mention the great employment it offers to small regional centres. Kangaroo Island too is well on the way to greater recognition and success. Winestate is a champion of small wineries and 80 per cent of our recommendations include them. Winestate currently judges close to 10,000 wines in Australia and New Zealand.

WINESTATE
MAGAZINE



Kangaroo Island Wine of the Year

False Cape - 2015 The Captain Cabernet Sauvignon

1054 Willson River Road Dudley East

08 8553 1140

www.lakebreeze.com.au

The False Cape vineyard was established in 1999 by the Follett family of Langhorne Creek, who have had a long association with Kangaroo Island. Together with Jamie and Julie Helyar, who manage the vineyard, they have embarked upon a journey to produce some of the best quality and value wines on the island.

False Cape is part of a treacherous piece of coastline on the rugged southern coast of Kangaroo Island. This feature, which is often mistaken for the nearby Cape Hart, is the nearest coastal landmark to the 30-acre Kangaroo Island vineyard.

The site selected for the vineyard is on the Dudley Peninsula between Penneshaw and Cape Willoughby. It has two main soil types, with the north-facing slope containing pure terra rossa soil over limestone and the river flat with fertile dark alluvial soils. Native vegetation has been retained and surrounds the vineyard, providing a natural habitat for the prolific wildlife of the area.

The Wine

'The Captain' refers to Captain Matthew Flinders who charted much of the Australian coastline before stumbling across the island in 1802. Captain Flinders named the island after the large number of native kangaroos he saw on landing.

Cabernet Sauvignon seems to thrive on Kangaroo Island and at this early stage of vineyard development appears to be the superior variety for the Island. The slow, even ripening influenced by the cooling sea breezes coupled with terra rossa soils produces wines of great character but also some finesse.

After harvest, 80 per cent of the grapes spent 7-8 days in open static fermenters with 20 per cent spending a further two weeks on skins to gain further depth and complexity. This was followed by maturation in new and second-use French oak barrels for 20 months.

This Cabernet Sauvignon exhibits characters of blackcurrant and mulberry with wonderful depth of fruit, subtle oak and an elegant structure. With careful cellaring this wine will age gracefully over the next eight to 10 years.





#eatdrinkKI
#authenticKI
#kangarooisland

eatdrinkki.com.au
tourkangarooisland.com.au
authentickangarooisland.com.au

