



A taste of Cowra

The roll call of Rothbury Estate, Wyndham Estate, Brokenwood Cricket Pitch have all used the lush ripe fruit of the region to create

their own highly successful wines. They will soon be joined by a host of quality small producers including Windowrie, Pig in the House, Swinging Bridge, Mulyan, Gardners Ground and Rosnay.

It is a diverse region and includes some successful large scale conventional growers yet 30% of the producers have organic vineyards. Chardonnay is the largest planting and offers rich honest flavour with minimum oak. The power, richness and intensity of verdelho are exceptional with a diverse range of styles including good vignier.

Shiraz varies from medium bodied to full bodied with most having blackberry with spice and black pepper aromas, whilst the ability of the local reds to improve with blending is highlighted by several producers.

Cowra and Canowindra should be on your hit list spending a few hours or a few days will be very worthwhile. There are central cellar doors in both towns. In Cowra "The Quarry" 02 6342 3650 or quarry@bigpond.net.au has 3 stars in Mietta's Best Restaurant

Guide. It is 5km south of Cowra on the Boorowa Road to Canberra and is the defacto cellar door for a number of small producers and offers an extensive range for tastings.

TASTE CANOWINDRA, 42

Ferguson St Canowindra, is home to 10 winery cellar doors as many wineries are not open every day to the public. Visit www.tastecanowindra.com.au or call 02 6344 2332. It is open 10.00am - 4.00pm 7 days a week for coffee and cake or lunch

WINDOWRIE is the grandfather winery of the district, The Mill at 6 Vaux Street Cowra has an extensive range of local delicacies. Verdelho at Windowrie is exceptional as is the full bodied Shiraz. The O'Dea family has been growing grapes here since 1988. visit www.windowrie.com.au or call 02 6341 4141 and is open 7 days a week from 11.00 am 5.00 pm

PIG IN THE HOUSE

www.piginthehouse.com.au Ph 0427 443 598 is available by appointment only and takes its name from the previous owners habit of running his pigs free range and their desire to sneak into the house when he wasn't looking. Certified organic in 2002 biodynamic, they have a full bodied shiraz and cabernet at the moment.

You have already consumed Cowra and Canowindra wines without knowing. Such has been the success of this district at supplying the big names with chardonnay, semillon, shiraz, merlot and cabernet.

WALLINGTON WINES are out of town near Canowindra and offer delicious blended "full flavoured full bodied reds" You must taste their Rockdell Shiraz Grenache Mourvèdre, a snip at \$25.00 which is richer and more complex and more south Australian in style due to the warm long growing season.

Visit www.wallingtonwines.com.au 02 6344 7153. By appointment only or contact Taste Canowindra

KALARI VINEYARD's cellar door is open Friday to Monday 10.00 am - 5.00 pm has nothing over \$15.00 per bottle and offers the most extensive range of verdelho in the region if not the country.

There are several organic/ biodynamic certified wineries such as ROSNAY, who are part of the movement to vibrant quality wine. www.rosnay.com.au ph 0263 443215 Cellar door by appointment. Their Triple Blend (cabernet, shiraz and merlot) is a medium bodied unoaked red which is truly delicious with

cranberry cabernet fruit that show how exciting the region can be for organic grape growing.

Another exceptional wine is Gardners Ground Shiraz made by Herb and Jenny Gardner at RIVERS ROAD organic farms. Visit www.gardnersground.com.au or call 02 6344 3135. You can visit by appointment or you can find their wines every day at Taste Canowindra,

Their 2008 Gardners Ground shiraz is really smart, quite special with its spicy black pepper aromas over blackberry flavours. It was awarded the Greg Johnston Trophy for the best red wine of the region in 2009 at the Cowra Wine Show.

Cowra is the real Australia with its pubs and clubs offering authentic Aussie culture and cuisine thanks to lots of small farms with their range of diverse produce. Belinda Green former Miss Australia is a local and loves this region-I know you also will!

STORY BY
ROB GEDES M.W.

Above left:
The Mill, Windowrie;
Above right:
Mulyan Winery.

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