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Angove's new multimillion-dollar 'wine experience' will boost McLaren Vale's wine tourism offering

Thursday, 3rd November, 2011

One of South Australia's premier wine tourism regions is about to receive a boost with the opening of Angove Family Winemakers multi-million dollar cellar door in December 2011.

The 125 year old family winery has come a full circle - from humble beginnings in the late 1800s in Tea Tree Gully at the foot of the Adelaide Hills to their new state of the art tasting room, cellar door and boutique function facility on Chalk Hill Road, McLaren Vale, overlooking their Warboys Vineyard.

Designed by JBG Architecture, one of Australia's leading winery and cellar door architects, the building is a sensitive blend of old and new.

The western end of the building is traditional Old Adelaide bluestone and is a replica of the original Brightlands cellar where founder Dr WT Angove made his first wines. The remainder of the building is contemporary floor to ceiling glass ensuring the beautiful Warboys vineyard is the hero.

Fifth generation winemaker, Richard Angove, has been heavily involved in the new project.

"The vineyard is spectacular and only a stone's throw from the town centre of McLaren Vale," Richard said. "From the terrace, guests will be literally sitting in the middle of the vineyard with panoramic 180 degree views of the stunning McLaren Vale vista."

The bench tops, tables and wood work in the new cellar door have been crafted from stunning recycled jarrah from the family winery's 100 year old storage vats, that are no longer suitable for premium wine production.

"It is great to re-use this amazing timber which has lasted the test of time and has so much historical significance to us as Australian winemakers," said Richard.

"Our aim is to provide a place where people can come and experience all the things McLaren Vale has to offer. Great wine, great food, enviable lifestyle and hospitality and a superb environment combining country and coast. We've created a destination that will immerse visitors in the ultimate McLaren Vale experience and offer much more than your standard cellar door."

The wine experience doesn't stop at customised tastings. Inside, a traditional cellar door bar and private tasting room will cater for small functions and groups. A luxurious lounge area with an open fire will offer single origin, free trade organic coffee and regional food tasting plates.

There will also be a pizza oven for casual dining, a full outdoor kitchen area for boutique functions and members events and there are plans to establish an interpretive vineyard walk as well as develop a picnic area amongst the vines.

In conjunction with the opening of the cellar door, Angove Family Winemakers will be releasing nine new wines spread across three ranges.

"We have been quietly working hard on our McLaren Vale portfolio in the winery over the last ten years," Richard said.

"Our cellar door launch will include a super premium range of three single vineyard wines from the Warboys Vineyard: a 100% varietal Grenache, 100% Shiraz and a Shiraz-Grenache blend.sa.

"To complement these, there will be a regional McLaren Vale range featuring Shiraz, Cabernet, Chardonnay and a blend of Grenache-Shiraz-Mourvedre - all varieties that McLaren Vale does very well.

"Then to complete the Cellar Door Range some of the company's great old fortified stocks will be blended into a Rare Tawny and a Grand Tawny.

"It is an extremely exciting time for the business.

"We have made some of our best wines ever, including the recently released Medhyk Shiraz. We strongly believe McLaren Vale is the best region in Australia for winemaking as well as wine tourism.

"It has so much to offer and we aim to be a significant part of its future."

Angove Family Winemakers McLaren Vale Cellar Door is located on Chalk Hill Road, McLaren Vale and will open in January 2012.

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