



Media Release
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Wirra Wirra welcomes Paul Smith (the winemaker) to the team

McLaren Vale winery Wirra Wirra is delighted to announce the addition of talented winemaker, Paul Smith to their award-winning winemaking team, commencing beginning of August.

Working with Senior Winemaker, Samantha Connew, Paul joins Wirra Wirra from Knappstein Wines in the Clare Valley, where he was Senior Winemaker/Manager.

Paul brings with him a wealth of winemaking skill and knowledge. On completing his Agricultural Science & Honours degree at Roseworthy, and Post Graduate Studies in winemaking, Paul started out in 1998 as a cellar hand at Knappstein. One year in, and Brian Croser offered Paul a position at Petaluma, where for three years he developed his skills across cool climate wine styles and varieties, in particular, riesling.

This education continued under Jeffery Grosset where he was assistant winemaker at Grosset Wines in the Clare Valley, before returning to Knappstein to work alongside Andrew Hardy. In 2004 he was appointed Senior Winemaker and Manager for Knappstein.

Paul comments: "This is an amazing opportunity for me to explore the nuances and complexities of a world class wine region like McLaren Vale. I bring an absolute commitment and dedication to producing world class wines that reflect their regional character.

"I look forward to embracing the passion and culture of Wirra Wirra and working with Sam and her team."

Samantha Connew is equally thrilled: "We're very excited to be bringing someone as talented and experienced as Paul onboard, presenting an opportunity to add depth and breadth to the team. In particular, we're looking forward to utilising Paul's white wine credentials to kick some goals and help match the momentum and success we've built with our reds."

Another addition is the creation of a new Assistant Winemaker role. Recent graduate, James Rouse will make up the third member of the team. Samantha comments: "Not wanting to rest on our winemaking laurels, we're keen to build on last year's success and James will be an important component to further strengthening the team. We are also conscious of continuing the Wirra Wirra tradition of encouraging and mentoring young winemakers by giving them a 'foot in the door' opportunity".

For further information, please contact:

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Wirra Wirra is an aboriginal name meaning "amongst the gums". The winery was established in 1893 by Robert Strangways Wigley (RSW). In 1969 the winery, by then virtually a derelict building and the surrounding seven acres were bought by cousins Greg and Roger Trott and the Wirra Wirra renaissance had begun. Today Wirra Wirra Vineyards is one of Australia's leading wineries with a reputation for intense, beautifully crafted red wines and expressive and fine whites. The Wirra Wirra ironstone cellars in McLaren Vale also features the Angelus – a $\frac{3}{4}$ tonne bell that is rung to signal the start of each vintage in the region and also to celebrate other noteworthy events. www.wirrawirra.com.