



Wirra Wirra's Prodigal Son Returns

December 2009

As the AFL draft frenzy draws to a close, McLaren Vale winery Wirra Wirra has pulled off a recruiting coup with the signing of highly regarded local winemaker and reigning McLaren Vale "Bushing King", Paul Carpenter.

It is a happy homecoming for Paul, who worked at the winery until 2004 before heading off to make his mark down the road at Hardy's Tintara Winery where he became Senior Winemaker in 2005, adding Site Manager to his responsibilities in 2007. In his role as Winemaker, Paul will work with Wirra Wirra Senior Winemaker Paul Smith, creating a formidable combination of talent and experience.

Wirra Wirra Managing Director Andrew Kay said he was thrilled with the new combination. "It's the winemaking equivalent of having Jonathan Brown and Fevola running around up forward," said Kay. "Paul's understanding of the region and his skills as a winemaker will make him a great asset to our business".

Carpenter joins just prior to vintage 2010 as Wirra Wirra reshapes its winemaking team following the departure of long serving Senior Winemaker Samantha Connew. During his five years at Hardy's Tintara, Paul has overseen some outstanding wine show successes, highlighted by two Max Schubert Trophy's for Best Red Wine of Show at the Royal Adelaide Wine Show in 2007 and 2008 and Best Wine of Show at the 2007 Royal Adelaide Wine Show and the National Wine Show Canberra 2008.

Most recently, Paul was crowned 2009 McLaren Vale Bushing King – winemaker of the Best Wine of Show at the Winegrapes Australia McLaren Vale Wine Show and also named as a finalist for Winestate magazine Winemaker of the Year for 2009.

Carpenter is excited about his return. "I have fond memories of my time at Wirra Wirra and feel right at home with the culture, the people and the history of the place," he said. "Smithy [Paul Smith] and I share the same desire to make the best possible wines we can. It's a nice fit and I can't wait to be reunited with the tribe".

Paul commences work at Wirra Wirra on 18 January, 2010.

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