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### COVER

Small producers are hands on. This photo, from the Coonawarra Jack winery which crushes less than 100 tonnes, sums it up perfectly. Jared Stringer, the assistant winemaker, was photographed by colleague Rachel Lees.

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There are more than 2000 Australian wine producers crushing less than 250 tonnes and more than 420 NZ producers who fall into the same category. In fact, the vast majority of producers across the Australian and New Zealand wine landscape (84%) crush less than 250 tonnes. And there is some excellent

wine being made by the small producers. We turn the spotlight on this section of the industry.

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The Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) celebrated its 60th birthday in late April. Such a milestone provides an opportunity to look back at the organisation's history as well as think about the future of research into grapegrowing and wine production.

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We've put a range of questions to industry leaders this month. They have reported back on the reasons for positivity and negativity and measured the achievements on 'big issues' across the past 12 months. We also asked them what keeps them up at night.

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This 28-year-old, who has seven generations of winemaking to lean on, has instead stepped out to create his own wine brand.

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