



The April Grapegrower & Winemaker cover highlights our annual feature revealing Australia's Top 20 Wine Companies and the Best of New Zealand.

### REGULARS

- 8 What's online
- 8 In this issue
- 11 Winetitles Insights
- 45 R&D at Work
- 66 Ask the AWRI
- 92 Producer profile: Shannon Sutherland
- 93 Calendar
- 94 Marketplace classifieds



### SPECIAL FEATURES

- 20 TOP 20: Overview
- 22 TOP 20: State of the Industry
- 25 TOP 20: Australia's largest wine companies
- 39 The Best of New Zealand

### NEWS

- 12 Wine regions still assessing bushfire impact
- 13 Coronavirus leads to closure of cellar door
- 14 World's largest wine blockchain trial underway in Clare Valley
- 15 Tasmanian estate opens \$7 million winery inspired by Bordeaux
- 16 Tamburlaine expansion feeds rising pool of organic wine producers
- 17 International briefs
- 18 MY VIEW Challenge and opportunity: Rabobank senior wine analyst Hayden Higgins

### GRAPEGROWING

- 49 Project GAIA: your vineyard's eye in the sky
- 54 New shoots: regrowth and recovery after bushfire devastation
- 57 FEATURE Strategic planning for climate change
- 59 First crush makes history for Eyre Peninsula
- 60 Young Guns: Brothers in wine



#### WINEMAKING

- 68 FEATURE Is KPA the magic bullet for tartrate instability in wines?
- 71 FEATURE The effects of enzyme and tannin applications on red wine
- 78 Behind the Top Drops: Tyrrell's Vat 1 Semillon

#### BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

- 82 FEATURE Minimising workplace hazards
- 83 FEATURE: Bushfires prompt call for wine businesses to re-examine their insurance policies
- 84 Robotics and automation: the future of grape and wine production?
- 88 Succession to the third generation

#### SALES & MARKETING

- 90 Australian wine brands first to market with leading Chinese wine app



Hans Mick Editor

As we enter April, a number of substantial challenges confront the Australian and New Zealand wine industries.

As this month's *Grapegrower & Winemaker* goes to press, the Winetitles Media team have been challenged in covering the extensive direct and indirect losses that grapegrowers and winemakers have experienced from Australia's summer bushfires, especially from smoke taint, which is still being quantified.

Responses from our video coverage of fire affected vigneronns and their predicaments have been humbling.

We urge all governments – at state and federal levels – to respond quickly, including some form of non-impact fire damage payments for producers and regions affected.

With the onset of the COVID-19 virus, the industry is also coming to grips with a range of potentially serious consequences including loss of events, patronage of pubs, clubs and restaurants, and continuing regional tourism uncertainty.

While the effects of the virus may not have an immediate impact on production and off market sales, wine exports have plummeted as the world responds to the pandemic with border closures. Wine Australia CEO Andreas Clark has told *G&W* that, "it is clear that the impact on global economies will be significant; how that will translate through to individual sectors such as wine is difficult to determine".

Meanwhile, Australian Grape & Wine chief executive Tony Battaglione commented that, "COVID-19 will

get worse before it gets better and we must understand that this will provide considerable profitability pressure on grapegrowers and winemakers". (Their full commentary is included in our annual 'State of the Industry' report that starts on page 22.)

As the industry's major media, Winetitles has initiated proactive staffing and supplier procedures to maintain its publishing capabilities and communication expectations of our readers and advertisers.

We are conscious of our role in delivering news and information during coming months in a timely fashion, to support wine business continuity as the situation unfolds via our print and digital journals, *DailyWineNews* and website [Winetitles.com.au](http://Winetitles.com.au)

Reader feedback and information is particularly vital during such periods and we welcome this to share in support of the grape and wine community.

Our coverage this month includes updates on the bushfire aftermath. We spoke to producers in the Adelaide Hills who have been left with the difficult task of rebuilding their shattered businesses (page 54), while we also examine a call for producers to re-evaluate their insurance policies in the wake of the fires (page 83).

Starting on page 20, you'll also find our exclusive annual feature detailing the year that was for Australia's Top 20 wine companies as well as New Zealand's largest wine producers.