



The May *Grapegrower & Winemaker* cover features prepping for pruning as 2020 vintage concludes.

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Hans Mick Editor

The wine industry remains ‘Open for Business’ despite the obvious challenges in operating during COVID-19’s ‘new normal’. Of course, our first thoughts are with those who have been directly affected by this terrible virus, as well as those frontline workers who’ve kept the rest of us healthy and fed as lockdown restrictions continue. Those of us in the grape and wine sector have also been kept pretty busy of late – with fruit to harvest and preparations underway for the new vintage.

To emphasise that wine businesses are pushing ahead with the job at hand, despite the obstacles, this issue of the *Grapegrower & Winemaker* is our first to include a special ‘Overcoming COVID-19’ feature, revealing the innovative ways that wine businesses are adapting to the times. Via social media, we asked you to tell us how you were changing up the way you do things and you responded well. You can read more from page 20.

On the subject of COVID-19, this month we also feature articles detailing the measures producers are taking to reach their customers. Online sales have surged and many businesses are taking advantage of the opportunities this provides for direct sales to customers who are still eager to purchase wine, even though the doors of restaurants, hotels, bars and cafes remain shut. Wine e-commerce practitioner Richard Owens shares his ‘top tips’ to grow and maintain wine sales via the web (page 78), while WineDepot founder and CEO Dean Taylor provides his unique take on the resilience of the industry in the face of the pandemic (page 80).

Of course, as already noted, there’s plenty else happening across our vineyards and wineries as the 2020 season continues. For grapegrowers, this issue includes features on efforts

to produce greater resilience in vines to counter such factors as disease, heat and water stress (page 27), as well as trellising (page 32) and pruning (page 34). Libby Tassie and Prue Henschke provide an overview of South Australia Vine Improvement Association’s germplasm, ‘A short history of Australia’s planting material’ (page 29), while Beth Bicknell and Dylan Grigg share their experiences with the Spanish variety Tempranillo in an Australian context (page 44).

In Winemaking this month, associate editor Sonya Logan examines Industry 4.0, also known as the ‘Fourth Industrial Revolution’, and what its benefits are to Australian wineries (page 54). Meanwhile, AWRI senior engineer Simon Nordestgaard presents the first in his three-part series on wine industry technology, its adoption and the opportunities it offers (page 58). Journalist Samuel Squire spoke to our ‘Young Gun’ for May, winemaker and self-described ‘grapekeeper’ Alyson Tanenbaum, from Vinteloper in the Adelaide Hills (page 65). Our ‘Behind the Top Drops’ column features the highly-regarded Clonakilla Shiraz Viognier from the Canberra region (page 68), while in Business & Technology, we find out about efforts to reduce energy consumption and costs at Clare Valley’s Mitchell Wines (page 74).

With an industry-wide code of conduct still being developed, barrister-at-law, mediator and arbitrator (and adviser to the Federal Government on earlier codes for other industries), Derek M. Minus, shares his thoughts on the way forward for dispute resolution in the wine sector (page 17).

Stay safe and enjoy the read!