



Local winemaker breathes new life into landmark Clare Valley winery.

From cellarhand to owner.

In a deal signed recently winemaker Tim Adams together with his wife and business partner Pam Goldsack will be the new owners of the historic Leasingham winery and cellar door. Located in the township of Clare in South Australia's Clare Valley, the winery has a long and distinguished history.

Today's news marks a turning point for Tim Adams Wines. Established in 1987, the family owned and operated business is located just south of the township of Clare and is adjacent to the popular Riesling Trail. The 1,500 tonne winery, office complex and busy cellar door will continue to operate as Tim Adams Wines.

The former Leasingham winery will be the home of Tim Adams Contract Processing, a much needed facility in the Clare Valley wine region to service small producers and grape growers. In addition, the complex will become the new home of a range of wines made and sold for Variety SA, the Children's Charity. Tim and Pam have been staunch supporters for many years, donating profit from the sale of these wines directly to the charity.

"We feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to resurrect this beautiful and historic landmark property," said Tim, "I began my winemaking career at Leasingham under the tutorage of Mr Mick Knappstein, so this is more of a home-coming than new venture."

As a Clare Valley lad growing up among pioneering grape growers and winemakers it was no surprise that in his final year of school, Tim Adams eschewed studying in favour of writing to Clare Valley wineries seeking employment when he completed his schooling.

The recipient of one such letter was Mr Mick Knappstein at the Leasingham Wine Company, which led to Tim securing a position as winery cellarhand in 1975. A fortuitous beginning for Tim, who found himself mentored by a revered pioneer of the modern Australian wine industry. Mr Mick retired in 1985 after 57 years at the winery and in 1987 was awarded an Order of Australia for services to the wine industry.

With encouragement and financial assistance from Mr Mick, Tim undertook a Bachelor of Applied Science (Wine Science) at Charles Sturt University and began studying by correspondence. Graduating in 1981 Tim was by that time assistant winemaker and the

following year was appointed winemaker, responsible for day-to-day operation of the winery, which then employed as many as 60 people.

Tim and his wife Pam are confident the new venture and new range of wines, to be known as "Mr Mick's", will be embraced by locals and the broader wine community.

Contracts have been exchanged with Constellation Wines Australia and the sale is due to complete in late January, 2011.

Constellation Wines Australia president Troy Christensen, said it was great to see the winery going to someone who had such a strong connection.

"We know Tim is keen to get the place humming again and that will be a great thing for the local community," he said.

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