
Winemaker: Matthew Pick



In technical terms Matthew Pick explains becoming a winemaker gives him the ability to manage production of grapes from the vineyard through to the bottle. He enjoys the challenge of being involved in this chain, every process requires superb management of the natural processes in order to maximise the quality of the wine we enjoy in the glass.

In terms of passion Matthew Pick loves Riesling, and that is why after years as an agricultural consultant he became a winemaker.

After all, as Matthew explains it, Riesling grapes are very delicate and if you pay careful attention to managing the production of Riesling grapes from the vineyard through into the winery you are rewarded with some of the most sublime wine possible.

A University of Adelaide graduate, Matthew has both a Graduate Diploma in Oenology and a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours).

Prior to becoming a winemaker Matthew managed a variety of agricultural based projects in Australia and the Middle East. During his ten years in winemaking Matthew has completed two vintages in Southern France, with the rest being made up throughout Australia's key wine making regions.

Before being the Riesling winemaker for Leo Buring Matthew worked with O'Leary Walker Wines in the Barossa Valley, Leasingham Wines in the Clare Valley and Richmond Grove Winery and Petaluma, each of these wineries is recognised for its Rieslings and this only fuelled Matthew's passion for the variety.

For Matthew being based in South Australia's Barossa Valley is perfect, it has access to the country's finest Riesling fruit from the Eden and Clare Valleys and Watervale. Fruit drawn from these regions, renowned for the quality of Riesling grapes, goes into Australia's premium Riesling only wine brand Leo Buring.

According to Matthew Riesling keeps winemakers living on the edge: "Riesling reflects the microclimate and captures the essence of each vintage's growing season. As a Winemaker you must be attentive at every stage, from pruning to bottling, to keep the wine on track".

"Riesling is always delicately balanced between reward and disaster. As a variety it is unforgiving, if you haven't covered everything off, it lets you know about it straight away and any blemish is there for every one to see...on the flipside if you get it right, Riesling's natural beauty is astounding...it keeps you on edge as a winemaker".

When he is not working Matthew has a variety of interests, some people may even call his interests more work. He recently became the proud owner of a Barossa Valley vineyard so now expects most of his spare time will be absorbed learning first-hand how disciplined you need to be to grow premium wine grapes. After this, if he has any time left he may be found having a hit of tennis, swinging a golf club, bodysurfing the break at nearby Boomer Beach, camping and bushwalking in the Northern Flinders Ranges or perhaps just reflecting on wine history as he samples Rieslings from around the world.