



Wynns Coonawarra Estate

Winemaker: Sue Hodder



One of Australia's best-known winemakers, Sue Hodder is the chief winemaker at Wynns Coonawarra Estate in South Australia's Coonawarra region.

Sue grew up and went to school in Alice Springs, near Uluru (Ayers Rock) in the centre of Australia's outback. Her journey from the 'red centre' to the red soil of Coonawarra has taken her to vineyards around Australia and the world.

Graduating in 1984 with a degree in Agricultural Science from Roseworthy Agricultural College (now part of the University of Adelaide), Sue started out in the viticultural side of the wine industry.

She began her career working for Penfolds in the Barossa Valley as a Grower Liaison Officer, assessing vineyards and developing their potential. Making detailed assessments of vines through the year, tasting and analysing maturing fruit and following up the resultant wines gave Sue an appreciation of the importance of the vineyard in quality wine production.

After a couple of years, Sue made what she sees as the logical move into winemaking but still believes the fundamental viticultural training was invaluable. She completed a Graduate Diploma in Winemaking at Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1988, and made sparkling wine for Seaview in the Barossa Valley and for Seppelt at Great Western in Victoria from 1989 to 1992.

Sue went to Wynns Coonawarra Estate for the 1993 vintage, fell in love with the winemaking region and has remained. In 1998 she took over the reins from former Chief Winemaker, Peter Douglas.

"I had the opportunity to learn about the Wynns wine styles from Peter, and I'm proud of the responsibility I have for maintaining the quality of a range of wines that represent Coonawarra as a region as much as they represent Wynns," she said. "I am the custodian of a great winemaking tradition."

Sue has worked in Margaret River in Western Australia and vintages in California and Bordeaux. She is a respected Regional and National wine show judge and admired by her peers for her commitment and attention to detail.