



MAVERICK

Hand-crafted Barossa Wines



5 star winery: James Halliday Australian Wine Companion



..... The Maverick Vision

South Australia is the centre of Australia's wine industry, producing over 60% of Australian wines. At its heart lies the Barossa, considered the top Australian premium wine producing area and ranked as one of the world's great wine regions.

The Barossa brings together a 170 year old European wine culture and tradition and the very best of Australian terroirs and viticultural/winemaking skills.

The juxtaposition of the cool climate, higher altitude Eden Valley and the warm climate, lower-lying Barossa Valley allows a unique combination of different wine varieties and wine styles. It is home to some of the world's finest Riesling and Shiraz.

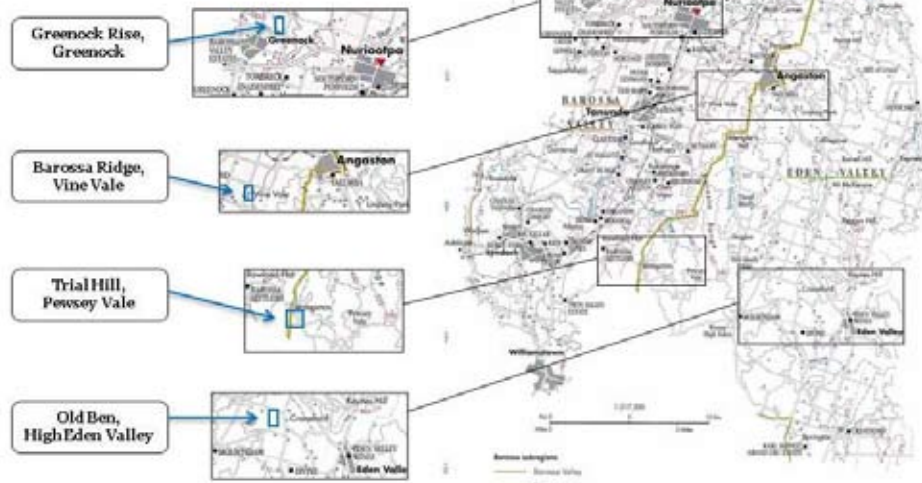


Maverick has been fortunate enough to be able to acquire a carefully selected group of top terroirs from across the Barossa Valley and Eden Valley, which in our opinion give the optimum expression of the diversity and complexity of the Barossa.

Over the last few years, Maverick wines have become distributed in the leading hotels, restaurants and specialist independent wine shops in the world's leading cities, and have secured uniformly high acclaim from the international wine press, trade and consumer. However, at the heart of our success lies our magnificent vineyards, of which we are honoured to be the grateful custodians.

..... The Maverick Terroirs

The Maverick Vineyards



The Barossa wine region is broadly divided into two halves – the warm climate Barossa Valley settled in the early 1840’s by the original Lutheran immigrants from Silesia, and the cool climate Eden Valley which was historically the preserve of British-origin land owners. The two sub-regions are quite distinct in terms of their history, climate, soil type and ultimate wine style.

Maverick owns 100 acres of premium vineyard situated in 4 of the very best Barossa “appellations” – in the rolling hills of the Eden Valley, Pewsey Vale (the oldest cool climate vineyard region of Australia) and High Eden Valley (where our 100 year old vineyard is truly iconic); in the Barossa Valley, Greenock (considered the home of the very top Barossa Valley Shiraz) and Moorooroo in Vine Vale (with its wind-blown sandy soil a truly stand-alone micro-terroir).

Due to the absence in the Barossa of phylloxera, many of Maverick’s vineyards are of significant age – Maverick has Riesling vines from the 1860’s, bush vine Grenache vines planted in 1895, and many micro-terroir jewels planted to Shiraz which are over 100 years old.

The Barossa’s unparalleled diversity both as regards terroirs and traditional European vine clones has allowed Maverick to produce outstanding wines which best express both – indeed, understanding the concept of “terroir” is fundamental to understanding the philosophy, viticultural practice and success of Maverick.

Maverick’s Trial Hill vineyard in Pewsey Vale is the closest vineyard to Pewsey Vale Peak – the highest point of the Barossa, with its distinctive flat-topped stone pine tree (known locally as the “monkey nut tree”), which overlooks the whole of the Barossa. We have accordingly taken this tree as our logo, symbolising as it does the spirit of Maverick!



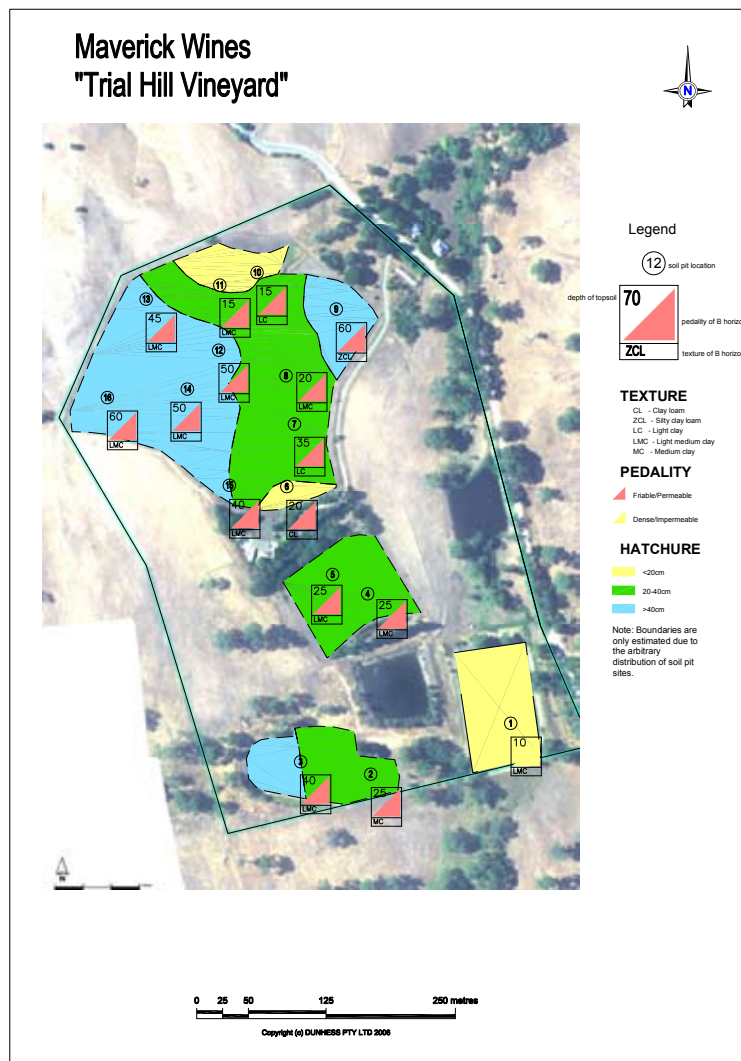


Maverick's Trial Hill Vineyard



Trial Hill is a stand-alone vineyard in Pewsey Vale (the oldest cool climate vineyard region of Australia, first planted by Joseph Gilbert in 1847). It is situated on South-facing slopes on the South Western edge of Eden Valley, with an altitude of between 448 metres to 480 metres above sea level. The growing season temperatures are very close to those experienced in

Burgundy and the Rhone Valley, but the climate produces more sunshine hours, less summer rain (annual total is 600mm, mostly received in winter) and lower relative humidities. This unique combination allows maximisation of flavour profiles and minimal disease issues. The lack of summer rainfall means the canapé is well balanced, and the vines are “made to suffer” – this in turn allows maximum root development and nitrogen/microbial uptake, and the optimum fruit for the wine.



The vineyard comprises many unique micro-terroirs. Our 1.8 hectare Riesling vineyard has “grey brown skeletal soils” which are strongly acidic, rich in mica, and contain small rock particles in shallow soil. Our Shiraz vineyard is red brown earth formed mainly from marble and calcsilicate rock, with underlying water-retentive red clay, covered with recent deposits of acidic grey micaceous fine sandy loams: collectively this is known as the “Trial Hill Soil Combination”. Our Chardonnay and Grenache vineyards are best described as a “Peak Soil Combination”, combining quartzites and tiny mica schists on an overlay of deep clay.

A total of 20 acres has been planted to vines, mostly in 1971 with the Chardonnay dating from 1985.

This perfect amphitheatre vineyard site is perched on the very cusp of the Eden Valley GI, and has stunning views of the Barossa Valley, over 100 metres below.

Maverick's Barossa Ridge Vineyard



This vineyard is in Vine Vale, Moorooroo, situated against the Eastern foothills in the central Barossa Valley, and was first planted in the 1840's. Both the vineyard and the settlers' house (built by the Klix family in the 1840's) are thought to be among the oldest in the Barossa. There is still a row of Riesling planted in the 1860's, and the fig tree in the courtyard is a local treasure dating from at least the 1880's.

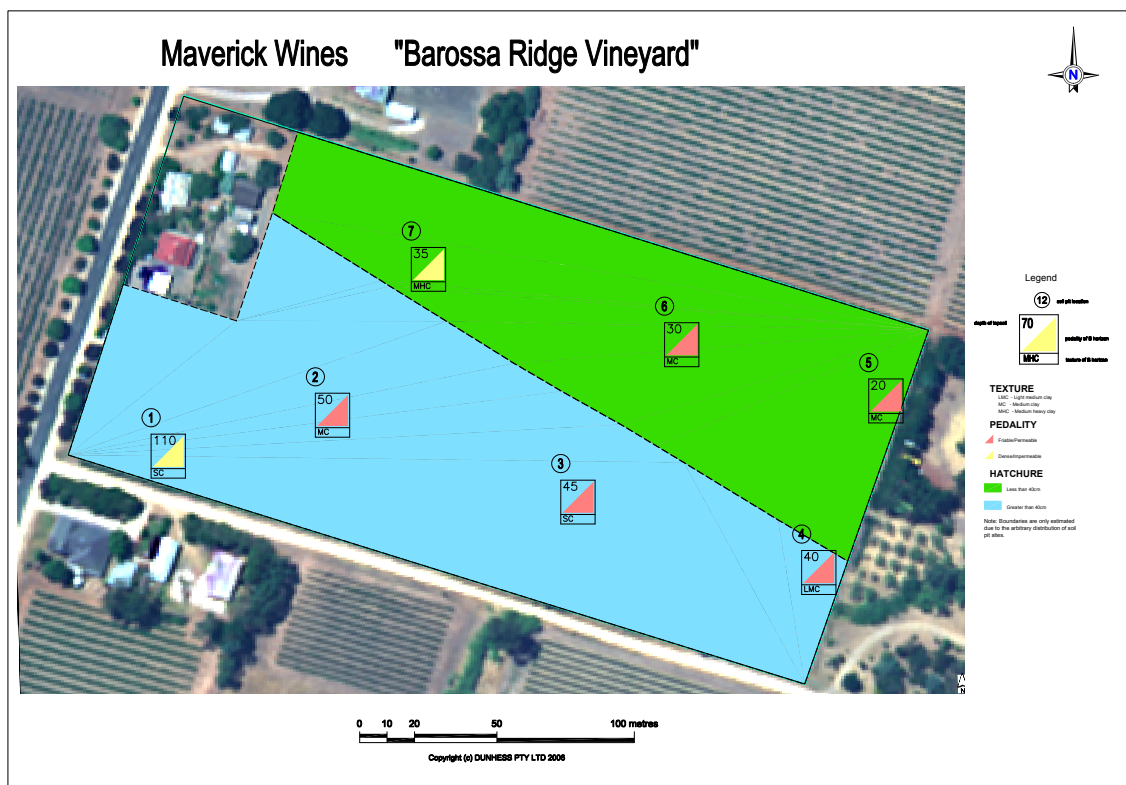


The soil is classified as "Nuraip Sand", and is unique to this tiny part of the Barossa Valley – it has a white beach sand-like appearance (fine, loose with small amounts of organic matter), but underneath at differing depths is a red clay capable of storing the winter rainfall which percolates through it. This in turn requires permanent cover crop to prevent this wind-blown soil being carried away!

Although warm climate, Barossa Ridge's beautiful setting just in the lee of the Barossa Range allows for regular cooling gully winds in the evening which relieve the vines after a hot day and lead to good grape composition and natural acid balance, something not always achievable in Barossa Valley floor sites not near the foothills.

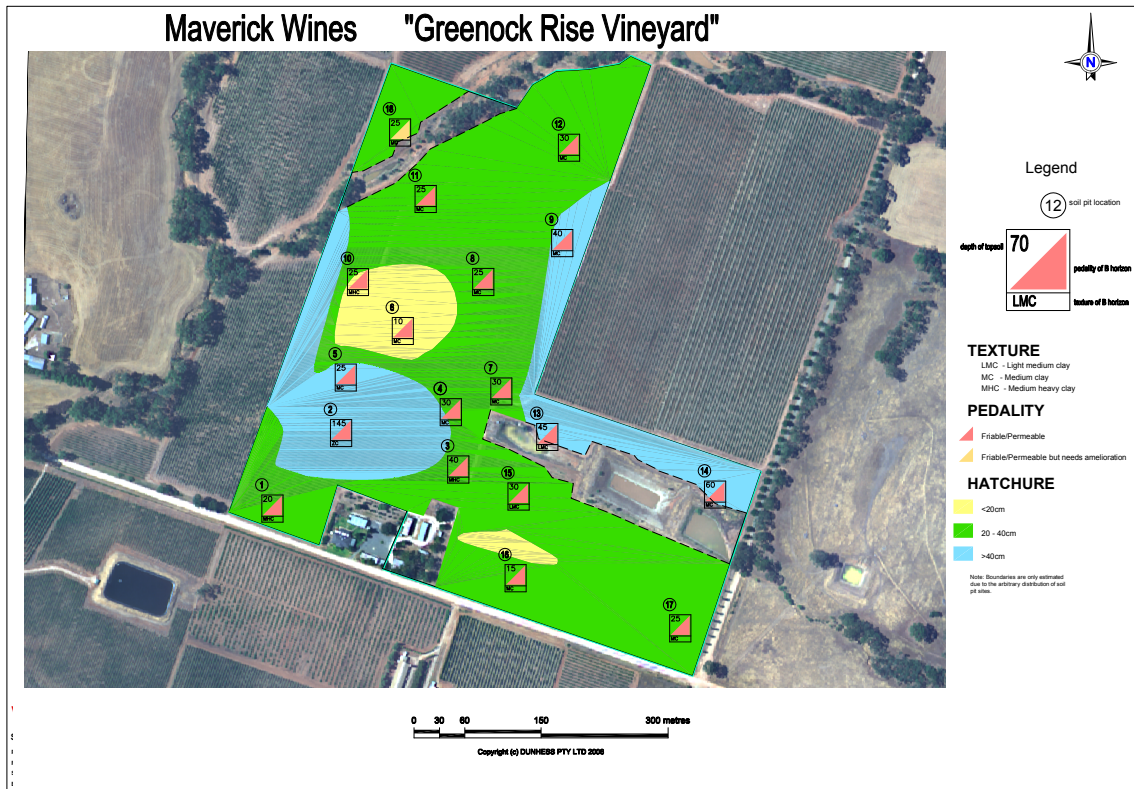


The vineyard is 9 acres, and although a historical site was almost entirely replanted since 1988, to a "Bordeaux blend" combination of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, with also some Shiraz.





Maverick's Greenock Rise Vineyard



Situated at the Northern end of the Barossa Valley, this vineyard is quintessential Barossa Valley red wine country. A recent classification of the terroirs of the Barossa Valley has grouped its 3 top red terroirs (Greenock, Seppeltsfield and Marananga) under the “Greenock” umbrella – with a 200 million year history, these vineyards are literally the oldest land in Australia.



The soils are relatively uniform “Greenock red-brown earth”, which has a high level of moisture retentive clay content, over lime stone – the limited moisture and low phosphorous result in low vigour and small yields, which in turn optimise ripeness. The climate during ripening is warm and dry - rainfall is predominantly in winter with an average of 525mm.

The property boasts just under 1 acre of old vine bush Grenache, planted in 1895 – these stand proudly and independently like the veteran centurions they are! Single vineyard sites of old vine Grenache and Shiraz have been selected as the source for Maverick's very top wines. Most of the vineyard is planted to Grenache and Shiraz, with some Roussanne and Viognier.



The vineyard comprises 46 acres of vineyards, of which the youngest are 7 years old, the oldest over 110 years old, with the average age being over 50 years old.



Maverick's Old Ben Vineyard



This 20 acre vineyard is set in the rolling fastnesses of the High Eden Valley. It is situated on the eastern-facing slopes of the High Eden ridge at an altitude of 430m above sea level and is planted to Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon.

The soils are grey-brown loamy sand over mottled yellow-brown clay with quartz gravel and rock fragments. The quartz and rock fragments are a result of decomposing schist.

These soils are typical Eden Valley and regularly become saturated in winter leading to water run-off into the numerous winter creeks. They also store water for the vines use during the Spring and Summer months. In a normal year they become very dry by mid Summer which effectively leads to a degree of vine stress and resulting low yields and berry size.

This is particularly useful for the development of small berried, high coloured and full flavoured Shiraz. The long ripening season and cooler nights compared with the Barossa Valley lead to more lifted perfume aromas and tightly structured wines.

One special feature of Old Ben is its old vine stocks of Shiraz planted in the early 20th century, the remnants of the Barossa's forgotten fortified wine industry. These grandfathers produce low crops of small berried grapes capable of intense flavours.

8 acres are classic 85 year old Shiraz, yielding absolutely top quality Eden Valley fruit. A further 8 acres is almost 25 years old, with 4 acres of 10 years old Cabernet.

The first wines from this vineyard were made by Maverick in 2008, for release as Maverick Single Vineyard Old Ben Shiraz in 2010.

The Paraview Vineyard

This belongs to the Braunack family, who created Langmeil, and whose 6th generation roots are as old as the viticultural history of the Barossa. David and Anne Braunack nurture exceptional Shiraz fruit from their 9 acre Paraview vineyard, situated in the Stonewell sub-region (another classic leading red wine region of the Barossa Valley). This has been vinified by Maverick, who in partnership with the Braunack family are proud to release in 2009 our single vineyard Maverick Paraview Shiraz.



..... Viticultural Philosophy

The overriding importance of the underlying terroirs to the wine end-product is often completely underestimated.

Maverick has over the years acquired a truly unique portfolio of vineyards representing the very best that the Barossa Valley and Eden Valley have to offer. However, equally critical is the way in which these cherished terroirs are nurtured.

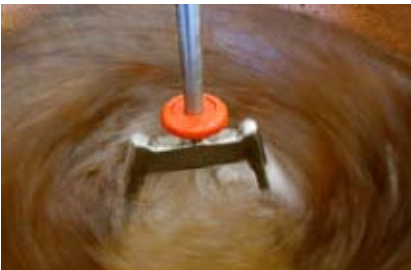
Maverick is committed to the principles of sustainable Agriculture, farming our vineyards in accordance with Mother Nature, and producing fruit which is in harmony with its environment. We consider ourselves one of the pioneers in the development of sustainable viticultural practice in Australia – we have hosted with Biodynamic Agriculture of Australia a South Australia Seminar, attended by progressive viticulturalists from across the state.



Our two Barossa Valley vineyards (Greenock Rise and Barossa Ridge) are biodynamically farmed, and are scheduled for certification shortly. In these vineyards, no chemicals whatsoever have been used, and our biodynamic treatments follow the astronomical calendar. Our other two vineyards are in the course of conversion.



In all our vineyards we apply biodynamic principles in accordance with the astro calendar. These include cow horn manure 500 and cow horn silica 501, compost prepared biodynamically by us whereby we try to put back into the soil everything which we have taken out, and pepping as appropriate. We have imported our biodynamiser and undervine weeder from Italy, home to the best biodynamic techniques.



As a result, yields for our single vineyard varietal wines are below 2 tonnes per acre (28 hectolitres per hectare), which is in line with the great Grands Crus of France – we firmly believe that farming in harmony with nature not only respects our soil and environment but results in the optimum fruit possible.



The spirit of our biodynamic viticulture is captured in this painting by Andrew Caillard MW.

..... Winemaking

Our official description of ourselves is “hand crafted Barossa wines”. Our unofficial motto is to do what many other boutique wineries can only aspire to!



Over the last few years, many friends and customers have asked what lies at the heart of the Maverick recipe for producing wonderful wines. The answer is simple – there is no secret: we simply follow the time-honoured, traditional and artisanal winemaking methods, with minimal intervention throughout. and buttery tones associated traditionally with the New World – rather they are elegant food wines.



Our Riesling is 100% stainless steel barrel fermented and matured. Our Chardonnay is 100% French oak barrel fermented, in barrels carefully selected to give the wood the necessary structure and elegance to the wine without overt oak influence. The Chardonnay does not undergo malolactic fermentation (though there are always one or two barrels which do it automatically!). The resulting wines do not have the voluptuous oak, vanilla and buttery tones associated traditionally with the New World – rather they are elegant food wines.



For the red wines, our grapes are picked as early as their ripening allows. Our single vineyard varietal wines are fermented in 1-3 tonne open top fermenters. They undergo cold soaking for colour extraction, with regular pigeage and pump-over during the fermentation process. Many of our fermentations are self-starting, capitalising on Maverick’s own natural yeasts in the vineyard and the winery. We do not believe in over extraction, and the finished product is moved to tank and barrel as early as possible. We use 100% French oak barrels, from the very top producers. Here again, we have an oak regime which balances new and 1-year old/2-year old oak, and we move the wine into bottle as soon as the perfect harmony is achieved.

The result is a portfolio of wines which are fruit driven, have structure, depth and complexity, but which are soft, refined, elegant and easy to drink – above all wines which appeal to everyone from the beginner to the connoisseur.



..... The Maverick Family

Within each of our vineyards, we have carefully selected the individual vineyard sites which in our opinion best express both “terroir” and specific varietal character. We have in turn designated these areas as the unique source for our single vineyard varietal wines – in essence, we have created our own “appellation” system! This is in sharp contrast to the traditional blending approach of New World winemaking.



Current Single Vineyard Series

The result is a single vineyard series, with specific varietal wines from the same vineyard sites each year. By definition the quantity of each of our single vineyard wine is finite, and ranges from 400-600 dozen bottles per annum for each wine depending on the specific vineyard and Mother Nature.

Our flagship wines continue to be our Single Vineyard Shiraz’s – from designated vineyard sites at Trial Hill, Greenock Rise, Old Ben and Paraview. These are supplemented by other single variety single vineyard Riesling and Chardonnay from Trial Hill, and a Grenache Shiraz Mouvedre from Greenock Rise.

All our single vineyard wines (except the Riesling) are fermented by vineyard lot and subsequently matured in French oak barrels.



Jasper Morrison proprietary bottle

The Maverick single vineyard series is being released in a special proprietary bottle designed by Jasper Morrison, one of the world’s greatest designers. These will have corks with a wax seal – both the seal and the bottle will be embossed with the “Maverick Tree” logo.



Twins series

Those wines which are not selected for the single vineyard series go into our Twins series – these are wines made from a blend of different vineyards from across our domaine, including everything from younger to very old vines. The resulting wines are still of remarkable quality, thus giving trade and consumer the same Maverick excellence at very affordable value.

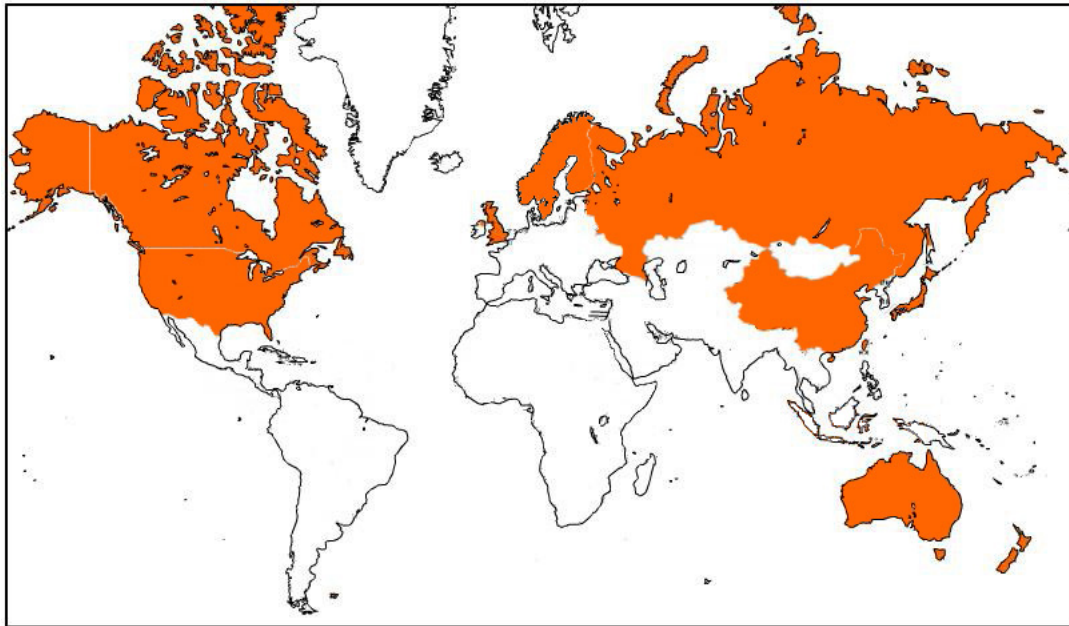
The paintings for the Twins series labels and for the Maverick Trial Hill Eden Valley Riesling are by Andrew Caillard MW, creator of the Langton’s Fine Wine Classification of Australian Wines – these reflect Maverick’s terroirs and biodynamic philosophy. These wines are in stelvin closure.



Breechens Blend

The Maverick family has expanded to include a third series, Maverick Breechens Blend (Basossa red and white) – quintessential "Maverick" but very competitively priced!

..... The World of Maverick



Always room for quality

WINE
Henry Halliday

Remember the early 1990s when the world's most prestigious wine regions were still largely unknown? It's hard to believe now, but it was then that the wine world began to open up to a new generation of producers. It was the time when the wine world began to open up to a new generation of producers. It was the time when the wine world began to open up to a new generation of producers.

FROM THE REGION
2007 **Maverick Red 100**
Henry Halliday

Robert Parker

2007 Maverick Total 100 Chardonnay
Chardonnay 100, 100% Pinot noir from Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia

2007 Maverick Total 100 Merlot
Merlot 100, 100% Pinot noir from Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia

2007 Maverick Total 100 Shiraz
Shiraz 100, 100% Pinot noir from Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia

2007 Maverick Total 100 Cabernet Sauvignon
Cabernet Sauvignon 100, 100% Pinot noir from Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia

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THE 100 BEST WINE DRINKERS

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