



Senior Lifestyle South Coast
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General News
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Bi monthly

Ringmaster leads Koonowla Carnival

The name Ringmaster may evoke images of carnivals and circuses - but the thrill should really be around Koonowla - one of the Clare Valley's largest and most historic vineyard properties. It's a company to watch, making superb Clare Valley wines combining tradition and excitement, leading the way with its Ringmaster Shiraz recently named by Halliday as one of his Ten Best Value Reds for 2009.

The property was planted in the 1890's and by the early 1900's was producing almost 7000 cases of wine a year. A disastrous fire in challenging times in 1926 led to the property being converted to grain and wool production.

In recent years the property and vineyard, situated just east of Auburn, have been restored to its former glory and 250 acres are planted to premium varieties and quality wines are being made by two of Australia's most regarded winemakers, David O'Leary and Nick Walker.

Andrew and Booie Michael who purchased the property in 1991, with the firm belief that there is a demand for premium wines that show distinct regional and varietal character, and that brands such as Koonowla can always have a strong presence on retail shelves and restaurant lists around Australia.

"We have an intimate understanding of Clare Valley viticulture and winemaking, and we work really closely with David and Nick to ensure that the wines reflect the district's unique terroir." Says Andrew Michael

The wine styles being pursued by Koonowla, as evidenced by the par-

ticularly stunning 2007 Riesling and 06 reds currently in the market, are a blend of unashamed Clare tradition and modern winemaking. The Koonowla brand is the Estate brand which comprises Clare faithfuls, Riesling, Shiraz (92 points Parker) and Cabernet Sauvignon, in fabulous packaging which retail for around \$25.

The Ringmaster series celebrates a carnival of vigneron, winemakers, marketers and merchants who joined together to create these extremely affordable, quintessentially Clare wines. Modern wines, made for fun times, the Ringmaster represents extraordinary value at just \$15 RRP.

The Ringmaster Shiraz 2006, is made from ripe and luscious fruit from the Koonowla vineyard and has been aged in a combination of French and American oak for 18 months resulting in a terrific wine which could easily attract a higher price tag.

The Ringmaster Cabernet Sauvignon 2006 is a complex wine with loads of hallmark Clare Valley Cabernet traits. It too is made from estate grown fruit and matured in French oak to well and truly delivers value for money.

Koonowla wines are distributed by Young & Rashleigh Wine Merchants in NSW and are stocked by a range of independent retailers and restaurants including North Avalon Cellars, Bilgola Cellars, C'ellar Vie Turramurra, Stanmore Cellars, Summer Hill Bottleshop, Vine Providore Of Fine Wine Redfern, Vintage Blue CBD Sydney, Royal Hotel -Paddington.



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Alex Shvetsoff, (Samuel Smith & Sons), Mitchell Bate (Samuel Smith & Sons), and Brendan Bate (Brendon Bate Wine Agencies) from left at the South Coast Restaurant and Catering NSW awards held at Novotel North Beach in Wollongong.