

# Koonowla Wines



PO Box 45, Auburn, SA 5451 **Region** Clare Valley

**T** (08) 8849 2080 **F** (08) 8849 2293 [www.koonowla.com](http://www.koonowla.com) **Open** Not

**Winemaker** O'Leary Walker Wines **Est.** 1997 **Cases** 3500

It's not often that a light as large as this can be hidden under a bushel. Koonowla is a historic Clare Valley property; situated just east of Auburn, it was first planted with vines in the 1890s, and by the early 1900s was producing 60 000 litres of wine annually. A disastrous fire in 1926 destroyed the winery and wine stocks, and the property was converted to grain and wool production. Replanting of vines began in 1985, and accelerated after Andrew and Booie Michael purchased the property in '91; there are now 40 ha of cabernet sauvignon, 36 ha riesling, 20 ha of shiraz, and 2 ha each of merlot and semillon. In an all too familiar story, the grapes were sold until falling prices forced a change in strategy, and now part of the grapes are vinified by the infinitely experienced David O'Leary and Nick Walker, with the remainder sold. Most of the wines are exported (the UK, the US and NZ).



**Clare Valley Shiraz 2005** A slightly oaky bouquet, but fresh blackberry fruit and fine, savoury tannins on the finish. Screwcap. 14.5° alc. **Rating** 90 **To** 2015 **\$18**



**The Ringmaster Shiraz 2004** Not entirely clear, suggesting no filtration; sweet confit fruit at odds with the moderate alcohol; finishes with soft tannins. Screwcap. 14.5° alc. **Rating** 89 **To** 2011 **\$10**

**Clare Valley Riesling 2007** Good intensity, with plenty of minerals, floral touches and good flavour; just a little bitter on the finish. Screwcap. 12.5° alc. **Rating** 88 **To** 2012 **\$15**

**The Ringmaster Cabernet Rose 2007** Bright pale rose; nice varietal aroma, with good flavour and not too much sugar; very clean. Screwcap. 12.3° alc. **Rating** 87 **To** 2009 **\$12**

**The Ringmaster Cabernet Sauvignon 2005** Again, not bright; a powerful wine, with lots of earthy tannins in a savoury style; rump steak and patience recommended. Screwcap. 13.5° alc. **Rating** 87 **To** 2014 **\$10**

**Clare Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2005** Good varietal cabernet; hint of black olive and plenty of fruit weight; lacks a little freshness, but has good flavour. Screwcap. 15° alc. **Rating** 87 **To** 2012 **\$18**