

BROKENWOOD

AUSTRALIAN CRAFT AT ITS FINEST

Friday 20th January 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brokenwood's Iain Riggs (ILR) 30th Vintage at 'The Wood'

Iain Riggs, Managing Director, Chief Winemaker and part owner of Brokenwood, has taken Brokenwood from a small "hobby" winery and into the national and international arena.

Iain's skills in white winemaking revolutionized Brokenwood, which, when Riggs joined, produced only red wines. A year into his tenure, with the 1983 vintage, production levels changed to 70% white wine and 30% red.

Born in Burra, South Australia in 1955, Iain's first insight into the wine industry was through relatives who lived in the Riverland region of South Australia. These were very much 'brandy and dry' times, but the allure of table wine drew the young Riggs. The experience that set him on the path that was to become his life was a bottle of 1970 Leo Buring DW110 Riesling – he has been tied to the power of the vine ever since.

Iain studied at Roseworthy College between 1972 and 1975, graduating with honours. At this time, the industry was undergoing a major change – namely the emergence of white wine. He first worked at Bleasdale and Hazelmere in McLaren Vale. At Hazelmere, he sparked his interest in varietal blending and was one of the pioneers of the now-famous combination of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. At Hazelmere, Iain, as Chief Winemaker, focused on white wines, and was crowned McLaren Vale Bushing King in 1982 with his multi-trophy-winning Chardonnay.

The owners of Brokenwood, keen to grow their business and expand into white wine production, offered Iain the job of Chief Winemaker in 1982. That year, a new winery was built. Iain's skills in white winemaking revolutionised Brokenwood, which, when Riggs joined, produced only red wines. A year into his tenure, with the 1983 vintage, production levels changed to 70% white wine and 30% red.

Brokenwood's committed to a program of regional blending from 1978 in an attempt to even out some of the more difficult Hunter Valley vintages as well as continuing a long held tradition in Australian winemaking. As such Beechworth was identified as one of the most exciting up and coming regions with Riggs and Brokenwood assisting in the establishment of the Indigo Vineyard in the late 1990s. The Brokenwood winemaking team now has premium Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Gris and newer varieties that include Sangiovese, Nebbiolo, Rousanne and Viognier available. McLaren Vale and the Orange region add more quality fruit.

Iain is known as the force behind the Graveyard Vineyard Shiraz and its promotion as a unique single vineyard Shiraz. Recently elevated to the top level – Exceptional, on the Langton's Classification of Australian Wine, it is still the only Hunter Valley Shiraz to feature. A number of other premium Shiraz feature in the portfolio including Mistress Block, Verona, Wade block 2 and the Indigo vineyard Shiraz. Riggs is also a great promoter of Hunter Valley Semillon with the ILR (Iain Leslie Riggs) Reserve Semillon the flagship.

As vintage 2012 is the 30th with Iain at the helm, the premium region focus and Single Vineyard philosophy is as strong as ever.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Celie Assef, Marketing Coordinator

P (02) 4998 7559

E celie@brokenwood.com.au