

By Matt Carr
February, 2010

Chance to woo visitors with bottles of our best

By **MATT CARR**

HUNTER vineyards hosted yesterday a group of tourists who could bring millions to the region's wine industry.

A group of British restaurateurs, importers, journalists and distributors spent the day sampling the fruit of the region's vines as part of Wine Flight, an industry tour aimed at boosting overseas wine sales.

Pokolbin was the last stop on the 10-day tour.

Cornwall-based freelance journalist and restaurant manager Lucy Cornes said the Hunter had been a highlight of the trip.

"We know about the great semillions coming out of the


Hunter but the chardonnay and verdelho have been really fantastic as well," she said.

Miss Cornes said she was looking for accessible wines.

"[Australian wine] is something we've had a bit of trouble selling in recent years, but they [customers] don't know what they're missing out on," she said.

Brokenwood managing director Ian Riggs said the visitors were impressed that the Hunter was staying true to its strengths.

"A lot of the smaller guys here don't get out and about overseas, so it's great to bring the market to them," he said.

 **Region's winning wines**
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SECRETS: The industry representatives at Brokenwood Wines yesterday. — Pictures by Kitty Hill