

Charles 'Chilly' Hargrave to take the lead on Heemskerk and Abel's Tempest

Heemskerk is pleased to welcome industry icon Charles 'Chilly' Hargrave on board to lead the charge on an exciting new era for this established Tasmanian wine producer. With decades of experience in sparkling wine, countless years working with Chardonnay and Pinot Noir varieties and in-depth knowledge of Tasmania's vineyards, Chilly is perfectly placed to take Tasmanian heroes Heemskerk and Abel's Tempest to new heights in his role as Heemskerk Winemaker.

As Group Sparkling Winemaker for Treasury Wine Estates, Chilly worked closely with Heemskerk viticulturist Jamie Hewett across key sparkling vineyards in Coal River Valley and Derwent Valley in Tasmania, and was an important mentor for former Heemskerk Winemaker Anna Pooley, who recently returned to work in her family's business in Tasmania. As such, Chilly has had hands-on involvement with the Heemskerk and Abel's Tempest wines, particularly the sparkling wines, for many years.

A question that winemakers are regularly asked is "What is the next big wine variety," and for years, Chilly's answer has been "Tasmania!" "I think the wines we are producing out of Tasmania are some of the best examples of their variety: steely Riesling, beautiful aromatic Pinot Noir, taut and linear Chardonnay and sparkling wines with lovely finesse. The potential for this cool climate region is great and its significance will only increase over the coming years."

"Although I've been working with Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from a sparkling perspective for decades, I'm thrilled by the opportunity to work with the focused portfolio of Heemskerk and Abel's Tempest. In fact, I'm about to embark on a three-month trip to Burgundy, so it's a great excuse to delve into the style, expression and winemaking and viticultural flair of these noble varieties in their French home," Chilly said.

After more than 35 years in the wine industry, Chilly has spent time spent working with some of Australia's leading brands and has been a mentor to many of the industry's talented younger winemakers. His passion for making wine began in 1978 when he graduated from Roseworthy in South Australia. He began his career making sparkling wine at Chateau Remy (now Blue Pyrenees Estate) in Central Victoria. After three years with Chateau Remy, Chilly made wine in McLaren Vale before settling in the Adelaide Hills.

In 1987, Chilly began his personal journey to create the ultimate Australian sparkling wine. He began planting his own seven-acre vineyard in Piccadilly Valley, Adelaide Hills, on the site of an old apple orchard and set about creating some outstanding fruit for sparkling wines. From 1987 to 1992 Chilly was again at the forefront of premium sparkling winemaking, crafting the Wilson's sparkling wines for the late Ian Wilson.

In 1999, Chilly became Chief Winemaker at Yellowglen and was responsible for developing a number of incredibly successful sparkling wines, including Yellowglen Pink and Red, Bella Pink Moscato, Vintage Perle and Perle Rosé, and most recently, the Exceptional Vintage XV by Yellowglen sparkling wines, which showcase fruit from Chilly's original Piccadilly Valley vineyard and have established a new level of finesse for Yellowglen.

About Heemskerk

In the vast wilderness areas of Tasmania little has changed since Abel Tasman sighted the west coast in 1642, aboard his flagship the Heemskerk. Centuries later, this land would become the premier region in Australia for producing cool climate wines.

The original Heemskerk vineyard was developed by Graham Wiltshire in 1975 with partners Bill Fesq, a Sydney wine merchant and Colin Haselgrove from Reynella Wines. The trio recognised the potential of the Tasmanian wine industry early in the piece. Since its inception in the seventies, Heemskerk has had a number of ownership changes.

Today, the focus for the Heemskerk and Abel's Tempest wines is on the vineyard, with winemaking methods allowing the Tasmanian fruit to take centre stage. A delicate balance of new world winemaking techniques with old-world influences are employed to capture the integrity, purity and elegance of Tasmania's cool climate.

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