

INTERNATIONAL
FIRST
GROWTHS

THE AUSTRALIAN ARK COLLECTION

To be launched through La Place de Bordeaux's
March 2024 Releases



THE AUSTRALIAN ARK

The Australian Ark Wine Collection comprises a special linen-bound edition of Andrew Caillard MW's three-volume grand opus of Australian wine, and showcasing six of the country's most celebrated wines. This limited release collection represents a rare opportunity to experience the best in Australian fine wine while securing a historic masterpiece in international wine literature.

The Australian Ark follows the story of Australian wine from its earliest beginnings in 1788 to the modern era and reveals a romantic, fascinating and sometimes thrilling story that is mostly untold. This grand opus promises to reinvigorate the Australian wine industry's image and identity with new perspectives and deeper knowledge based on extensive research and first-hand observations through the ages.

The Australian Ark highlights the imagination, strength, and foresight of Australia's fine wine pioneers as they built an industry that became a centre of influence and power over more than two centuries. The 'Ark Collection' will be placed with a select group of negociant partners and will allow this limited release to be accessed around the world; only La Place has that capability.

This fully illustrated production has taken over a decade to publish and is the centrepiece of The Australia Ark Wine Collection release which connects the story of Australian Wine to the most highly prized family-owned wineries across Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. Henschke (Eden Valley), Jim Barry (Clare Valley), Leeuwin Estate (Margaret River), Mount Mary (Yarra Valley) Tyrrells (Hunter Valley) and Yalumba (Barossa).

This Collection of six bottles uncovers the impact of an extraordinary old vine legacy, heirloom selections and surviving genetic vine stock material. These examples highlight the generosity and spirit of the antipodean landscape, the empathy of winemakers and the beauty of the Australian wine aesthetic, only enhanced with the illustrations and mapwork found in Caillard's book.

About Andrew Caillard MW

The three-volume lavishly illustrated Australian Ark is authored by Andrew Caillard MW who is renowned in Australian and international wine circles for his work as a wine auctioneer, expert, and writer. This magnificently published book, regarded by many as an historic achievement in Australian literature, tells the economic, political and social history of Australia through the evolving progress of the Australian wine industry.

Volume 1: 1788-1900: The Colonial Era

Volume 2: 1901-1983: Federation to the Modern Era

Volume 3: 1983-present day: Contemporary Times – Recollections and Perspectives



Branded wooden case comprising the three-volume slip-cased hardback edition with six bottles of important Australian fine wines.

500,000 words | 1760 pages | 1100 images | Trim size: 246 x 170 mm portrait

Paperback binding with full-colour matt celloglazed covers in a polypropylene slipcase.



HENSCHKE 2018 Mount Edelstone Shiraz, Eden Valley – South Australia

The Mount Edelstone Vineyard was planted in 1912 by Ronald Angas. Unusual for its time, it was planted solely to shiraz. The 500-million-year-old soils are deep red-brown clay loam to clay, resulting in low yields from the 1912-planted dry-grown, ungrafted vines. Mount Edelstone derives from the German word 'Edelstein', meaning gemstone. Henschke Mount Edelstone Shiraz was first bottled as a single vineyard in 1952 and is now regarded as one of Australia's emblematic wines.



JIM BARRY 2016 The Armagh Shiraz, Clare Valley – South Australia

The Armagh Vineyard was planted in 1964 with cabernet sauvignon and malbec. These two blocks still survive, but the reputation of the vineyard is based on 1968 plantings of shiraz. The 70-acre grazing property lies two kilometres northwest of the Clare township. The Armagh Vineyard was named after the nearby Armagh hamlet, which was established in 1849. The plush fruit and supple richness of The Armagh are well suited to the shock of tannin, a characteristic of Clare Valley shiraz. The opulent and muscular shiraz fruit is the driving force and the consistent theme across vintages. La Place has managed the distribution of The Armagh Shiraz since 2020.



LEEUWIN ESTATE 2012 Art Series Chardonnay, Margaret River – Western Australia

The pure, mineral and exceptionally age worthy Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay represents the best of Australian winemaking philosophy and provenance. The historic Block 20 Vineyard, planted in 1975 to the remarkable Gingin clone of chardonnay, is the primary source of this exquisite Australian First Growth wine. The deeply weathered soils derive from decomposed Precambrian granite gneiss and lateritic gravelly alluvium. These are some of the finest soil anywhere in the world to grow wine grapevines.



MOUNT MARY 2016 Quintet Cabernets, Yarra Valley – Victoria

Established in 1972, the low-yielding, dry-grown, 17-hectare vineyard is located on sandy clay loams over Silurian shales. The north-facing vineyard is planted with 50% cabernet sauvignon, 25% merlot, 15% cabernet franc, 5% malbec, and 5% petit verdot. Mount Mary's Quintet, derived from this historic vineyard, has evolved over the decades, reflecting the age of the vines, the transparency of the vineyard site, and refinements in winemaking. Mount Mary pioneered a new genre of cabernet, in which pristine fruit, fine-grained tannins, silky texture, and empathetic oak maturation resulted in poise, elegance, and flow.



TYRRELLS 2013 Vat 1 Semillon, Hunter Valley – New South Wales

This extraordinary long-lived Vat 1 Semillon is based on surviving heirloom vines, planted on their own roots (franc pieds). The fruit derives primarily from the 1908 Johnno's Vineyard and 1928 and 1968 Short Flat Vineyard. The introduction of controlled fermentation, aided by refrigeration and maturation in large, seasoned oak (later stainless steel), led to Tyrrell's signature 'crispness of acidity in the flavour'. Although the style was modified to allow more richness of flavour to develop, the structural bones remain the same, and Vat 1 became –and continues to be– the most-awarded white wine on the Australian wine show circuit.



YALUMBA 2018 The Octavius Shiraz

When Yalumba planted its vineyards in the 1850s, the cuttings were sourced from Sir William Macarthur's Camden Park in New South Wales, and from Pewsey Vale and Tarrawatta in the Eden Valley. Planted on their own roots (franc pieds), these ancient vines form the foundation of the rare The Octavius Shiraz. The oldest vines date back to 1854 (before the famous 1855 Bordeaux Classification), 1901, 1919, and 1920. Others were planted later, in the 1940s and 1950s. The wine's modulated power and elegant structure reflect a superb 10/10 growing season, the exceptional provenance of heirloom vineyards in the Eden and Barossa Valleys, and the best of precision winemaking and maturation philosophies. La Place has managed the distribution of The Octavius Shiraz since 2023.

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL FIRST GROWTHS

International First Growths, established by Tom Portet and Emma Thienpont, is purposed with promoting Australia's finest wines in the highly specialised ultra-premium-focused international marketplace known as La Place de Bordeaux. International First Growths aims to select, promote and support Australia's finest collectible wines through La Place de Bordeaux. These highly reputable wines already have a track record of performance in primary and secondary wine markets. They have the authenticity, quality and heritage to meet the expectations of La Place, a market that is unequivocally the most advanced distribution system in the world. This proven international network has famously opened and serviced markets that have otherwise been unable to access these exceptional wines.

CONTACT

International First Growths

www.internationalfirstgrowths.com

FRANCE: emma@internationalfirstgrowths.com TEL: +33 07 67 40 48 41

AUSTRALIA: tom@internationalfirstgrowths.com TEL: +61 0490 145 144

