



St Hallett

Stuart Blackwell Senior Winemaker

Stuart Blackwell's outstanding achievements with St Hallett wines and commitment to the Barossa over the past 30 years was fully recognised by his peers and the 'Barons of the Barossa' who awarded him "2003 Barossa Winemaker of the Year."

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Stuart Blackwell's winemaking career spans four decades. Having first dabbled with winemaking in Australia's McLaren Vale, Stuart was lured by the Barossa in 1973. During this early winemaking stint at St Hallett, together with Robert O'Callaghan, Stuart experimented with small barrel fermentation for reds and increased use of new oak for maturation. In the late seventies, Stuart was attracted to winemaking abroad in South Africa. At 27 years old, he was invited to build a new winery (Mukuyu) and develop its vineyards in Zimbabwe, not returning to Australia until 1982.

As Senior Winemaker of St Hallett, Stuart has developed not only a deep understanding of the rich tapestry of site and climatic variances in the Barossa but also an appreciation of the importance of both dedicated growers and 'old vine' Shiraz. His commitment to the region over the past four decades has won the hearts of some of the Barossa's most dedicated and passionate growers giving St Hallett access to the Barossa's most prized 'old vine' Shiraz vineyards dating back 60 to over 100 years of age. These strongly forged relationships have yielded exceptional quality fruit consequentially leading to benchmark Barossa wines of extraordinary acclaim, all endorsing Stuart's sincere and long-term approach in the Barossa over the past four decades.

A big believer in enjoyment and armed with a 'can do' attitude, Stuart's energy is contagious. Amongst the small winery crew he has imbued warmth, honesty and integrity which is simply the way of life at St Hallett and embraces both experience and a constant sense of evolution.

As Senior Winemaker for over 30 years and recognised by his peers in 2003 as 'Barossa Winemaker of the Year', Stuart embodies a wealth of experience. With a glint of enthusiasm ever in his eyes, Stuart engages all those around him in the enjoyment of wine, and whenever possible in a round or two of golf!