

The Grip of the Grape



Peter Gago AC ... shining a global light on Australian wine.

In 2017 Peter Gago AC, Penfolds Chief Winemaker and custodian of Penfolds Grange, was the first Australian wine figure to be appointed as a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC). The AC acknowledged his outstanding wine career and his work in promoting the image of fine Australian wine both nationally and internationally. Across the last three decades his global promotion of Penfolds and Australian wine has taken him on countless trips around the world and to many remote markets many times a year. An Honorary Bragg Member of the Royal Institution of Australia, Peter aligns wine with the worlds of Science, Banking, Education, Industry, Government and the Arts. When not in a vineyard, at a wine presentation or on plane Peter can usually be found at Penfolds Magill Estate Winery or its Barossa Valley Nuriootpa Winery ... never too far from a barrel or glass!

Somehow, he finds the time to pen words for wine books that he co-authors with his previous Roseworthy lecturers, Dr Patrick Iland OAM and Dr Peter Dry, and friend Andrew Caillard MW. When asked how he finds the time to write books Peter explained — *‘Until recently time on long haul flights afforded sanctuary and personal space. Less so now with iPhones & WIFI! Nevertheless, it’s amazing what can be achieved above 35,000ft ... especially for someone who doesn’t sleep at all well on planes! Add in utilising dead time in airport lounges — and did I mention weekends? — time is found to contribute to Patrick’s books.’*

This is the fifth book that Peter and Patrick (who received an OAM for services to the wine industry) have co-authored. Their 30-year friendship began when Peter was a student at Roseworthy Agricultural College and Patrick was one of his lecturers. Patrick said, *“It is such a reward to follow the careers of past students and realise that you have contributed something to their success. Now that I am retired I miss the face-to-face teaching, but writing books keeps me active and continues my teaching interest.*

“Australian Wine: Styles and Tastes, People and Places” is a key to understanding and enjoying Australian wine. It will help you to sort your Shiraz from your Pinot Noir, introduce you to the sensory profiles of wines from different grape varieties, demystify the concept of terroir and explore the practice of organic and biodynamic viticulture and winemaking. 290 pages of informative text, maps, wine style guides, tasting clues and over 300 photographs illustrate the richness, diversity and quality of Australian wine. The book is totally produced in South Australia.

The book is available from Patrick Iland Wine Promotions website www.piwpwinebooks.com.au

Photo caption

Peter Gago AC (left) and Patrick Iland OAM in the cellar at Magill Estate Winery.