

TEXT ANDREW CAILLARD MW

# NATIONAL TREASURES

How do you put Australian fine wine back on the world stage? Invite the freshest wine-industry minds from across the globe to the inaugural Landmark Australia Tutorial to immerse them in a five-days of masterclasses and tastings with the country's top wine gurus – then send them home to spread the word.

The inaugural Landmark Australia Tutorial, held in June in the Barossa Valley, was a five-day course for a select group of emerging wine-opinion leaders from around the world. This remarkable project was instigated by Paul Henry and Lucy Anderson of Wine Australia, the market development arm of the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation. The Tutorial was devised to counter a downward drift in global market sentiment and to help navigate Australia's fine-wine agenda back onto the international stage.

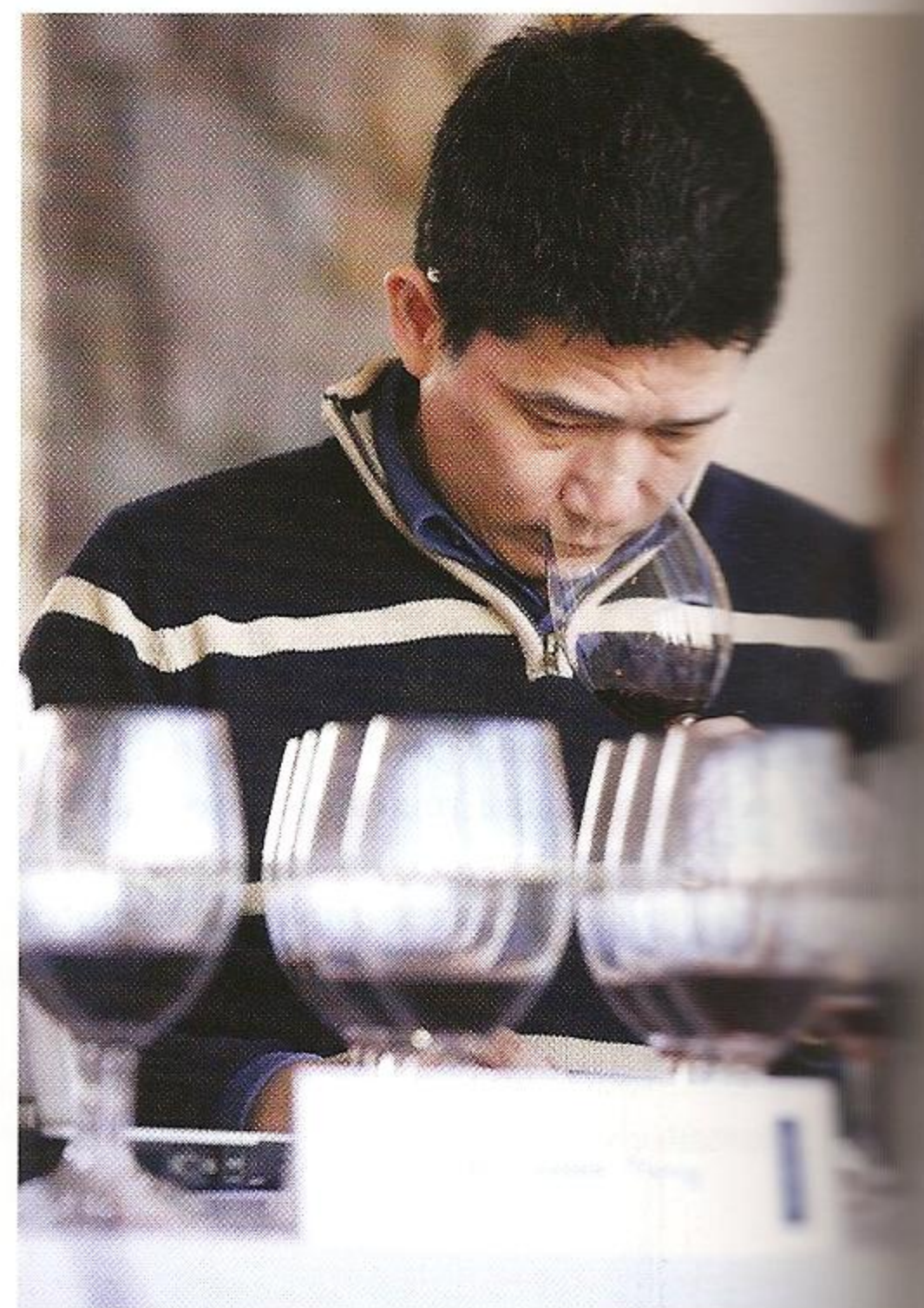
Although inspired by the annual Len Evans Tutorial (mainly aimed at aspiring Australian wine-show judges and professionals), the Landmark Australia Tutorial was devised as a "meaningful forum for international trade and media influencers to discover, discuss and debate the voice of Australia's top wines". Wine professionals from all walks of life, including wine writers, sommeliers and educators, were invited to apply for a generous study scholarship. All candidates were

required to undergo a rigorous selection process. The aim was to find influential wine professionals, with the expertise, discipline and resilience to undergo 11 contiguous wine masterclasses, four wine-dinner presentations and an intense 14-hour day of detailed dialogue. Expectations were high; the successful "apostles" included four Masters of Wine, two Master Sommeliers and two PhDs!

A cast of luminaries across several wine disciplines were roped in as advisors and tutors. Michael Hill Smith AM MW, co-founder of Shaw & Smith Winery in the Adelaide Hills; Dr Tony Jordan, founder of Domaine Chandon in the Yarra Valley; and I were appointed as resident tutors. Our role was to encourage debate through our own individual experiences in Australian fine wine. Guest tutors included James Halliday, Brian Croser AO, Ed Carr, Jeffrey Grosset, Vanya Cullen, Steve Pannell, James Godfrey, Robert Mann, Tom Carson, Louisa Rose and Max Allen. More than 250 wines across several Australian fine-wine



**CRACKING LINE UP**  
Some of the many bottles tasted over five days. Right: one of the lucky 12 Singapore's Hwee Peng Lim.





#### THE 12 APOSTLES

From left: Yukari Iwashiro, Tyler Colman, Bell-Pei Tang, Barbara Philip MW, Sean Razee MS, Dermot Nolan MW, Rebecca Leung, Frank Kämmer MS, Essi Avellan MW, Jamie Goode, Hwee Peng Lim and Julia Harding MW.



against the great 1998 Tyrrell's Wines Vat 1 Hunter Semillon contrasted contemporary winemaking philosophy against traditional thought within a single region. The inclusion of the Vasse Felix Semillon highlighted ongoing attempts to shape a new regional style. The sauvignon blancs showed Adelaide Hills and Orange as compelling cool-climate regions for this variety. The sauvignon blanc-semillon blends, all from Western Australia, have enjoyed a strong local following. It was interesting to see the Tutorial divided by this style; some believing that the wines do not have great international appeal. Others wondered whether sauvignon blanc fell into the Landmark category. Nonetheless, the tasting revealed plenty of interest and contrary views; for instance the 2006 Cape Mentelle Wallcliffe Sauvignon Blanc Semillon was widely admired.

Robert Mann, the grandson of Jack Mann (winemaker at Houghton from 1930 to 1972), winemaker at Cape Mentelle, presented cabernet sauvignon and blends. This particular genre enjoyed strong interest and debate. Cabernet is inextricably linked to Australia's fine-wine story. Although Coonawarra and Margaret River predominate, many of Australia's top cabernets also come from Yarra Valley, Clare Valley and the Barossa. The Château Mouton Rothschild was put in to contrast style. Julia Harding MW said this was "a concise selection of cabernets: the first five wines were, on the whole, models of restraint and finesse, and the Mouton, at this stage in its evolution, looked very oaky and definitely in need of considerable further ageing to reach its peak, unlike the Australian wines. The last six wines were definitely in a more powerful, rich-fruited style but even so there was good diversity of tastes and textures. The Wendouree Cabernet Malbec blend split the room but

#### SEMILLON AND SEMILLON SAUVIGNON BLANC BLENDS

1998 Tyrrell's Wines Vat 1 Hunter Semillon, Hunter Valley  
1999 Brokenwood ILR Reserve Semillon, Hunter Valley  
2002 Peter Lehmann Margaret Semillon, Barossa Valley  
2003 Tempus Two Copper Zenith Semillon, Hunter Valley  
2005 Vasse Felix Semillon, Margaret River  
2006 McWilliam's Mount Pleasant Lovedale Semillon, Hunter Valley  
2008 Thomas Wines Braemore Individual Vineyard Semillon, Hunter Valley  
2009 Shaw + Smith Sauvignon Blanc, Adelaide Hills  
2008 Angullong Sauvignon Blanc, Orange  
2008 Logan Sauvignon Blanc, Orange  
2008 Goundrey G Sauvignon Blanc Semillon, Pemberton  
2006 Cape Mentelle Wallcliffe Sauvignon Blanc Semillon, Margaret River  
2008 Brookland Valley Verse 1 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc, Margaret River  
2007 Rosemount Show Reserve Semillon Sauvignon Blanc, Western Australia  
2007 Lenton Brae Wines Wilyabrup Semillon Sauvignon Blanc, Margaret River

#### THE INAUGURAL LANDMARK AUSTRALIA TUTORIAL "12 APOSTLES"

ESSI AVELLAN MW (Finland) is a freelance wine consultant and lecturer, editor of *FINE Champagne Magazine* and an adviser and regular contributor to *FINE* magazines.

TYLER COLMAN (US), also known as Dr. Vino, is an author with a PhD in political science and a wine educator with New York University and the University of Chicago. Tyler is responsible for one of the most highly rated wine blogs in the US, [www.drvin.com](http://www.drvin.com).

JAMIE GOODE (UK) is a wine journalist with a weekly national newspaper column in *The Sunday Express*. Goode also publishes a leading wine website, [www.wineanorak.com](http://www.wineanorak.com) and holds a PhD in plant biology.

JULIA HARDING MW (UK) is assistant to Jancis Robinson MW, regularly contributing to her website [www.jancisrobinson.com](http://www.jancisrobinson.com). Julia is also assistant editor on both the *World Atlas of Wine* and the *Oxford Companion to Wine*, two of the most significant wine-reference books in print.

YUKARI IWASHIRO (Japan) is a published author and one of the main contributing writers for *Winart* magazine, which is one of the most popular and respected wine magazines in Japan.

FRANK KÄMMER MS (Germany) is an author, wine writer and a contributor and member of the tasting team of Germany's *Gault Millau Weinguide*.

REBECCA LEUNG (China) is an independent wine educator and wine journalist based in Hong Kong. Rebecca writes her own wine blog "Wine is Beautiful", and she has a regular English wine column in *Review Asia Magazine*.

DERMOT NOLAN MW (Ireland) is a wine educator who works with The Wine Board of Ireland (WBI) where he administers the WSET Diploma course. <http://dermotswineblog.blogspot.com>.

HWEI PENG LIM CSW (Singapore) is the partner of WineCraft Marketing & Services, a registered wine-marketing company based in Singapore, which operates in south-east Asia.

BARBARA PHILIP MW (Canada) is a partner/wine consultant for Barbarian Wine Consulting and a wine educator based in Vancouver.

SEAN RAZEE MS (US) is beverage director for Spago at The Ritz-Carlton in Colorado and is a contributing member of The Ritz-Carlton's Corporate Beverage Committee in the US.

BELL - PEI TANG (China) is a senior wine tutor and a member of management for Ease Scent Wine Education and Culture Company based in Beijing.