



## **HALL OF FAME 2024: DAVID AND LYNDSEY SHARP**

The perfect match, an accountant and a marketing, PR journalist? yes, they both liked wine and it was something they could do together.

Tonight's Hall of Fame inductees have become a passionate powerhouse in promoting our industry and making the Bellarine a go-to tourist destination – it's David and Lyndsay Sharp.

In 2008 the couple purchased the 150-acre property Leura Park Estate and in 2009 Lyndsay introduced food to the cellar door along with live music, a tradition that still continues today. Things began to further develop and in 2011 a 200-tonne winery was commissioned. This has expanded and now processes 300 tonnes of grapes each year.

From those early days until 2009 the Leura Park label produced around 350 dozen across five varieties, today it is producing around 3000 dozen per annum.

But there was no stopping this enthusiastic couple who continued to build the Bellarine as a tourism and wine destination. In 2010 they purchased Kilgour Estate and transformed it into Jack Rabbit vineyard with its sweeping bay views. In the same year they also purchased a block of land on the Bellarine highway which had four acres planted to vines with the site becoming home to Flying Brick Cider Company.

Further acquisitions followed to meet demand across the brands for both venues and trade, and some export. Today the Sharps own more than 130 acres of vines across the Bellarine.

'Visit the region, taste the region' is the mantra David and Lyndsay have stamped on all their wines to ensure they are a reflection of the terroir, with the management of the vineyards founded on sustainable principles. The company's wines are all crafted from Bellarine-grown fruit so you really are 'tasting the region'.

The state-of-the-art designed Jack Rabbit Vineyard restaurant also focuses on recycling practices and best practice energy-efficient appliances. Food is sourced from as many local suppliers/products as possible, not only to showcase our wonderful regional bounty, but to also support the local community and reduce the carbon footprint.

Sustainable vineyard practices are also adhered to and in addition, vineyard clippings and grape matter such as skins during harvest and post-crushing are used as under-vine mulch.

Flying Brick Cider House opened in 2014 with their apple and pear ciders and Yes Said the Seal exclusive suit of limited-release cool climate wines.

The Sharp Group's investment and commitment to the Bellarine has further grown with the acquisition in 2016 of Curlewis Golf Club that also boasts accommodation and their signature French-influenced restaurant Claribeaux with its spectacular views spanning the fairways and greens of the Golf Club.

Lyndsay is a former President of Wine Geelong and as long-time participants in the Geelong Wine Show, the couple have collected many accolades and awards for their wines including Wine of the Show on two occasions, in 2015 with their Leura Park 2014 shiraz and in 2021 with Yes Said the Seal 2018 shiraz, as well as amassing other awards across the nation.



So, in recognition for their contribution to putting the Geelong region and the Bellarine on the winemaking map, it is with great pleasure this evening that we induct David and Lyndsay Sharp into the Geelong Wine Hall of Fame.

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Written and Presented by Gail Thomas

Wine Geelong would like to thank Gail Thomas for her extensive research and contributions in putting this wonderful celebration and acknowledgement together.