

DAVID O'LEARY

David graduated from Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1980. David began his career in 1977-1978 with the Stanley Wine Company in the Clare Valley, doing a vintage as lab assistant under Brian Barry. It was at that time that David was introduced to Clare Valley Rieslings. David then spent a year with Petaluma and completed a vintage in Tasmania working for Heemskerk Wines before joining Chateau Reynella in 1981.

In September 1982 Thomas Hardy and Sons purchased Chateau Reynella and David was charged with managing juice separation in Padthaway thereby initiating the exhausting trend of two vintages a year between Waikerie and Padthaway. David was appointed group red winemaker for Hardy's in 1990 and held that role until joining Mildara Blass in 1994.

At Mildara Blass, he held senior winemaking roles at Quelltaller Estate in the Clare Valley where he launched Annie's Lane and at the Mildara Coonawarra based Jamieson's Run winery. During his time with Hardy's and Mildara Blass, he also made wine in France and California.

David has achieved considerable milestones in his twenty years of making wine. A Jimmy Watson Trophy in 1988 and twice International Red Winemaker of The Year (1992 and 1994) sit proudly along with numerous other trophies and gold medals.

David's goals remain unchanged; he simply wants to make great wine.

COMPANY HISTORY

O'Leary Walker Wines was established in 2000 by winemakers David O'Leary and Nick Walker. With over twenty five years experience and established reputations making premium wine with the big companies, these two long time friends decided to take control of their own destiny and craft small batches of wine from some of the best vineyard sites in South Australia. With a great leap of faith they are now doing exactly what they set out to.

O'Leary Walker Winery and Cellar Door is based at Leasingham in the Clare Valley, South Australia. The wines are regionally distinct with fruit sourced from other premium grape growing districts in South Australia including the Adelaide Hills, Barossa Valley, Coonawarra and McLaren Vale. Our theory behind this is to draw on the grape varieties that excel in these quite different viticultural climates. O'Leary Walker celebrated its tenth year in 2010 with an established reputation for producing award winning regional wines at affordable prices.