



The Limestone Coast

The Limestone Coast is a rather desolate and isolated stretch along the coastline of South Australia that includes the wine-growing areas of Padthaway, Koppamurra and Coonawarra (as well as the smaller Robe Mt Benson and Bordertown districts.)

Driving from Padthaway to Adelaide takes three and a half to four hours. Padthaway itself is an area of wide open spaces gently undulating land with outcrops of huge Redgums and has a population of around 600.

There are just two wineries: the new mega sized BRL Hardy's Stonehaven and Padthaway Estate, but there are several large vineyard concerns which are owned privately by some of the countries bigger wine producers.

Family business "Brown's of Padthaway" ships its fruit to be processed elsewhere, as does Southcorp, which has two large vineyards in the district which provide fruit for its Lindemans and Seppelt labels. Other wine companies with vineyards in the area include, Orlando, Wyndham and Mildara Blass. Separated from the ocean by Harper Rangers, Padthaway has built a reputation for producing outstanding white wines, in fact James Halliday has called it the white wine partner for the neighbouring Coonawarra Reds.

The first company to plant vines in the district was Seppelts back in 1963. The Brown family arrived in 1970 and Padthaway Estate (known previously as Eliza Padthaway Estate) was planted in 1980. The primary white grape variety is Chardonnay which has done exceedingly well for both Lindemans and Hardy's. Lindemans, which was named the official supplier of wine to the Olympics last year, has released a special Lindemans Limestone Coast Chardonnay.

Winemaker Phillip John at the Wine's launch said: "We're delighted to commemorate the announcement of being named official supplier for the 1997 vintage wine from the exciting new Limestone coast zone."

Lindemans recognised the potential of this area in the 1960's when it pioneered grape growing in Padthaway and bought its first vineyards in Coonawarra." Padthaway Estate is known for its elegant and refined sparkling wines which are produced using a genuine French press. All grapes for the sparkling wine are hand picked and pressed in the four tonne champagne press. All blocks are kept separate for setting and fermentation and are then blended for the

assemblage of the base wine. Great care is taken in looking after the vineyard. All vineyards are hand pruned with minimal spraying and irrigation. Although known for its Champagne Press, the property is also, renowned for its wonderful guest house which was the original homestead. BRL Hardy's confidence in the region has seen the company making an \$18 million investment in a new state-of-the-art winery, the largest single winery to be built in Australia for the past 20 years.

Stonehaven, as it is known, sits on the top of a hill surrounded by 360 degrees of views and vineyards. Opened by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Tim Fischer just five months ago, the winery is expected to play a significant part in the company's drive for continuous growth.

The first wines under the Stonehaven label from the new vineyard are expected to be produced in 1999.

Members Specials

for September are:

- **Lindemans Limestone Ridge 1997 \$9.25**

This is the first vintage. Peaches, melon and citrus abound in the aroma, while the palate has creamy, varietal fruit flavours laced with subtle, nutty vanilla oak.

- **Padthaway Estate Pinot Noir Chardonnay \$19.50**

This is a blend of the Classic Champagne varieties Pinot Noir (35%) Chardonnay (12%) and Pinot Meunier (3%) showing all the structure of Pinot Noir, the elegance and finesse of Chardonnay and the floral aromas of Pinot Menuier. This round mouthfeel and crisp acid finish balances many food styles, it can also be enjoyed simply as a wine of celebration.