



Geoff Merrill Wines

Geoff Merrill Wines is a family owned winery based in McLaren Vale, South Australia.

Established in 1980, Geoff Merrill's wines are created for those with an appreciation for aged fine wines, providing a range for special occasion, gifting, celebrations and to be enjoyed with family and friends.

Geoff Merrill Wines are unique as we only release wines when we believe they are showing their best drinking flavours.

Geoff Merrill Wines has held a '5 Red Star' rating in the Halliday Australian Wine Companion for eight consecutive years.





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Mount Hurtle Winery - The Home of Geoff Merrill Wines

Built in 1897, **Mount Hurtle Winery** was set on 200 acres of prime Reynella hillside. The winery itself was innovative for its time, using the principles of gravity to feed wine throughout the cellars. Because of this, the building is now state heritage listed.

Today, **Mount Hurtle Winery** is an oasis among suburbia, nestled in 4 acres of vineyards and landscaped gardens. It is hard to believe when Geoff purchased Mount Hurtle in 1985 it was a derelict building, run down and dilapidated. It required two years of love, hard work and special vision by Geoff and his supporters to restore the winery and vineyard to its former glory.

While retaining an almost Tuscan charm, the original winery and the 1500 square metre barrel maturation cellar, completed in 1998, now perfectly copes with the rigors of modern-day winemaking. A large family of geese and ducks also inhabit the winery grounds and dam near the front entrance to the estate.

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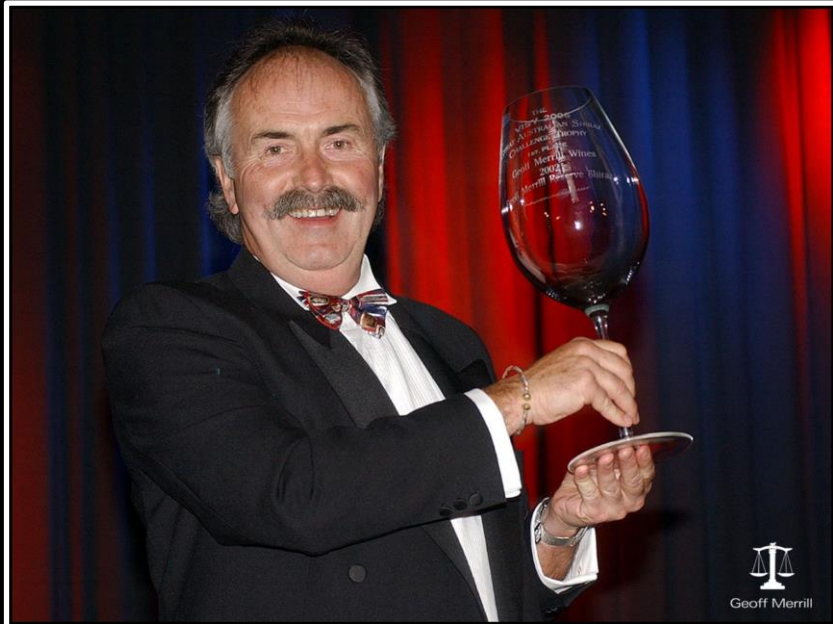
Geoff Merrill - The Man



Born in 1953, **Geoff Merrill** was raised in the far North of South Australia and relocated to the Barossa Valley in his teens before undertaking a winemaking traineeship at B Seppelt & Son. He was lured to South Africa for a year as Experimental Winemaker at Stellenbosch Farmers Winery before travelling through Europe.

In 1975 Geoff returned to Australia to take on the role of Assistant Winemaker at Chateau Reynella and in 1977 was promoted to Senior Winemaker, a position he held until 1985 while finding the time to also make wines under his own "**Geoff Merrill**" label. These wines were first released in 1983 with a 1980 Cabernet and a 1981 Semillon.

In 1993, Geoff also took up a position as Consultant Winemaker to UK supermarket Sainsbury and Gruppo Italiano Vini in Italy. Since then Geoff has concentrated on the winery and his wines and has continued to gain national and international recognition for his distinctive style of winemaking and his zest for life.





Geoff Merrill Wines

Our Winemaking Philosophy

The Geoff Merrill winemaking philosophy has been and will always be to produce wine that allows regional, varietal and vintage expression, without excessive winemaker intervention. Great wine is a matter of balance, and our passion for subtle, elegant and harmonious flavours in wine is well documented.

We believe that maturation, both in barrel and particularly in bottle, at our cellars prior to release, plays an integral role in achieving this aim.

The premium red wines from Geoff Merrill Wines will generally be released a minimum of 3 years from harvest, while our Reserve selection and Henley will be held in our cellars for over 7 years from harvest.

“When I first wrote winemakers notes for the early Geoff Merrill Wines labels, I often referred to the balance of my wine. Great wine is a combination of fruit, tannin, acid and sometimes oak, all being in balance. It was these references that inspired me to use a set of scales, depicting balance, as our corporate logo”. – Geoff Merrill





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Awards & Wine Shows

Over the years, Geoff Merrill's Wines have seen a great deal of success at both Australian and International Wine shows including the following major wins.

Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy

2005 Royal Melbourne Wine Show (2004 Reserve Shiraz)

Dan Murphy Trophy

2006 Sydney International Wine Show (2002 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon)

The Wine Society Trophy

2006 Royal Melbourne Wine Show (2001 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon)

Winner - 2006 Great Australian Shiraz Challenge

(2002 Reserve Shiraz)

Winner - 2014 Peel Estate Great Shiraz Tasting

(2008 Henley Shiraz)

Winner - Best Dry Red Museum Class

Hyatt Advertiser SA Wine Awards 2008 (2002 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon)

Since our inception in 1980, Geoff Merrill Wines have won **27 Trophies, 143 Gold, 373 Silver and 1181 Bronze** medals.

Icon Wines



2006 Henley Shiraz

"Henley is named in honour of my Grandfather, who passed away at the ripe old age of 102. This wine is the best of the best of our McLaren Vale Shiraz and only a maximum of 10 barrels of the Vintage are set aside for Henley." - Geoff Merrill

97 points - Sam Kim (Wine Orbit)

95 points - James Halliday (Halliday Australian Wine Companion)

95 points - Australian Wine Showcase Magazine

"A magnificent offering; the immensely complex bouquet shows blackberry, plum jam, cake spice, cocoa and cedar characters with a subtle lift of floral. The palate is superbly concentrated and sumptuous, exhibiting outstanding depth and power, brilliantly framed by velvety tannins. Seamless and impressively long on the finish. 5 stars."

2016 Parham Cabernet Sauvignon

"Parham is named in honour of my Grandfather, who passed away at the ripe old age of 102. This youthful red wine has the same essence of longevity and is selected from fruit grown in two of our premium, company owned vineyards." - Geoff Merrill

97 points - Sam Kim (Wine Orbit)

95 points - Ray Jordan (The West Australian)

95 points - Huon Hooke (The Real Review)

95 points - Steven Creber (Halliday Australian Wine Companion)

95 points - Australian Wine Showcase Magazine

"The focus is on the fruit, which needs no winemaker flourish other than 100% new oak. Blackcurrant rides high on the bouquet, oak on its postillion. Tannins make their presence felt on the palate, which will stand the wine in good stead as it ages."

Reserve Wines



2017 Reserve Chardonnay

95 points – Sam Kim (Wine Orbit)

92 points – Australian Wine Showcase Magazine

*“Gorgeously complex and engaging, the splendidly lifted bouquet shows golden peach, Gala apple, nougat and cedar characters, leading to an opulent palate that’s superbly weight and expansive. The wine is complex and persistent with a multi-layered mouthfeel, making it hugely appealing. **5 stars.**”*

2013 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

95 points - Sam Kim (Wine Orbit)

94 points - Stuart Robinson (The Vinsomniac)

94 points - Australian Wine Showcase Magazine

*“Made from grapes grown in Coonawarra and McLaren Vale, this splendid rendition shows cassis, spiced plum, vanilla, smoked game and cedar characters on the nose, leading to a concentrated palate that displays outstanding weight and depth. The wine delivers classic varietal intensity backed by flowing mouthfeel and fine texture, finishing impressively long and engaging. Wonderfully harmonious and gratifying. **5 stars.**”*

2013 Reserve Shiraz

95 points - Sam Kim (Wine Orbit)

94 points - Huon Hooke (The Real Review)

*“This is gloriously opulent and magnificently developing; the instantly appealing bouquet shows dark fruit richness combined with seductive notes of cocoa, cake spice and cedar, leading to a concentrated palate that is plush and impressively weighted. It is powerful and intense, wonderfully enhanced by velvety mouthfeel and seamlessly integrated silky tannins. Multi-layered and totally delicious. **5 stars.**”*

Premium Red Selection



2014 Bush Vine Shiraz Grenache Mourvèdre

95 points - Sam Kim (Wine Orbit)

"A gorgeous wine showing gloriously attractive aromas of dark fruit, cedar, smoked game, dark chocolate and mushroom on the nose, leading to a concentrated palate that is plump and fleshy. The wine offers terrific fruit power and generosity, brilliantly structured by fine, chalky tannins, finishing impressively long and seductive. 5 stars"

2013 G & W Cabernet Sauvignon

95 points - Sam Kim (Wine Orbit)

95 points - Australian Wine Showcase Magazine

"The wine offers glorious aromas of cassis, dark berry, cigar box, espresso, black olive and floral on the nose. It is concentrated and intensely flavoured on the palate, displaying excellent depth and complexity, backed by fine texture and chalky tannins, which provide a sturdy structure and magnificent length. Beautifully maturing and hugely enjoyable. 5 stars"

2015 Jacko's Shiraz

94 points - Sam Kim (Wine Orbit)

"It is gorgeously fruited and aromatic on the nose showing blackberry, dark plum, vanilla and cedary oak characters with nuances of toasted spices. The palate delivers lovely concentration and weight, together with supple mouthfeel and fleshy texture. It is up front and flavoursome, loaded with delicious flavours. 5 stars"

by Merrill

Take flight with 'The Gaggle by Merrill'.

Exceptional wines designed to match your mood.



2020 'by Merrill' Dancing Queen Riesling

GOLD MEDAL 2020 Royal Adelaide Wine Show - 96 points

Mike Bennie (The Winefront) - 92 points

2019 'by Merrill' Georgie May Chardonnay

Sam Kim (Wine Orbit) - 90 points

Australian Wine Showcase Magazine - 90 points

2020 'by Merrill' Charley Rose Dry Rosé

GOLD MEDAL 2020 Royal Adelaide Wine Show - 96 points

Sam Kim (Wine Orbit) - 92 points

2018 'by Merrill' Grumpy Gramps Grenache

Australian Wine Showcase Magazine - 93 points

Sam Kim (Wine Orbit) - 92 points

2017 'by Merrill' Saint Nic Shiraz Cabernet

Australian Wine Showcase Magazine - 94 points

Sam Kim (Wine Orbit) - 92 points