

# Tête A Tête

The newsletter of  
Domaine A / Stoney Vineyard

Domaine A  
Tasmania's First Growth

Spring 2016 | Volume 20

## VINTAGE REPORT 2016

It is a strange sensation sitting writing this years vintage report when we would normally still be doing the last of our picking. That has all been done 3 weeks ago and we are beginning to look at the blending process to highlight the 2016 vintage.



It is no secret that it has been a year of extremes, the driest ever Spring followed by the warmest Summer on record. In many crops this would be a stressful and difficult year, the paradox is that for us, it has resulted in an easy, happy and potentially outstanding vintage.

As we have mentioned in previous vintage reports the vines at Domaine A are grown without artificial irrigation. This has resulted in deep rooted, self-sufficient vines that cope well with climatic stress.

With pruning and the tying down of canes well completed we had adequate rainfall in the month of August to give the plants a good reserve for the start of the growing season. All risk of frosts passed and we moved into the months of September and October where we were gifted the most perfect flowering conditions, beautiful warm, sunny breezy days with an average temperature of 22 degrees and virtually no rain. This allowed a complete and even fruit set.

There was little to note as we moved through a calm Summer and although it was dry a large rainfall on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December replenished and invigorated the vines. Daily averages of 24 degrees continued through January but with virtually no extremely hot days.

Early February really hastened the ripening (veraison) process, many days having 10 or more hours of sunlight and temperatures again averaging 24 degrees. The clear skies meant we also had cool nights which are essential in the growing of balanced cool climate grapes.

With great anticipation we began picking our Sauvignon Blanc on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March and the first indications were

that this would be an excellent year with quality matching desired quantity.



The Pinot Noir quickly followed and then after a week of waiting we moved on to the Merlot which gave us the most wonderful results. Our mainstay of Cabernet Sauvignon began on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March and our final day of picking was on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April with the Petit Verdot rounding off what was a smooth and very enjoyable month of picking. The variety of people who come to pick at Domaine A is always a source of pleasure and interest and we thank them for their part in bringing our wines to you.



With this glass

I raise a toast

to all the people

I have yet to meet

We consider this year to be an excellent vintage, we have taken great care to work with nature to bring to you, grapes not only of the highest quality but that also reflect our very special location in a very particular year. 2016 a year to look forward to ....

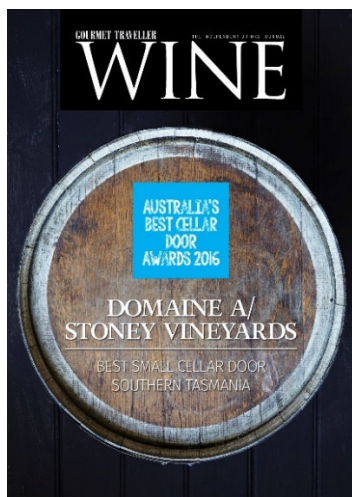
## BEST SMALL CELLAR DOOR SOUTHERN TASMANIA

### Australia's Best Cellar Door Awards by Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine April/May Issue

Gourmet Traveller Wine is one of Australia's most respected wine publications.



The Gourmet Traveller Wine Cellar Door Awards are judged by Australia's leading wine writers, including Mike Bennie, Peter Bourne, Tyson Stelzer, Peter Forrestal, David Brookes, Jeni Port and Ken Gargett, traversed the country to check in on every wine region and determine the star cellar doors, best tasting experiences and evolving wine scene.



Now in its third year, Gourmet Traveller Wine's Cellar Door Awards is a fantastic guide.

Speaking about the award Chief Executive Matt Fowles said: "It is an absolute honour to win this award especially given the discerning nature of the judges!" "In determining the winners, Gourmet Traveller Wine and our writers search for the most outstanding cellar doors by judging the quality of wine, staff knowledge and service, stemware, food, atmosphere, venue (although we award everything from a charming shack to a state-of-the-art building), location and how these factors combine for the complete experience."

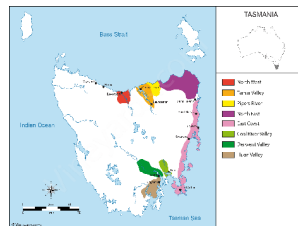
Domaine A is proud to have won this award in 2016. We were awarded "Best Small Cellar Door in Southern Tasmania".

It is always a great experience to visit us at our cellar door. It is not just about tasting our premium wines, it is a great opportunity to meet the owner and winemaker, Peter Althaus and his dedicated, well experienced staff and to learn about our philosophy of making truly honest and great old world wines.

Thanks to the whole team at Domaine A.

## COOL CLIMATE « COAL RIVER VALLEY »

**Domaine A / Stoney Vineyard is located at 42.4 degrees South and 147.2 degrees East.** This puts us in one of the most unique and pristine environments on Earth. We are on an Island that is renowned for having the purest air in the world, where over 45% of land is either Parks or Reserves and where the population density is 7.5 people per square km, (compared to 78.8 in the region of Bordeaux). Given a base of such quality it is then possible to go even further in the search for an ideal wine growing site.



The Coal River Valley is situated 35 km NE of the capital city Hobart and runs in a North South direction. The average annual rainfall at our site is 481mm with the majority falling in late Winter early Spring, when replenishment of soil reserves is vital for plant growth, and very little during the months of veraison and harvest. Temperatures are in the range which can truly be called Cool Climate, the annual average maximum is 18.7 degrees with the ripening months of Jan, Feb and March being 22 degrees whilst nights see averages of 12 degrees during the same period. Add to this the extremely long days that see us having up to 16 hours of sunshine per day throughout Summer and you have the ingredients for growing the highest quality grapes.

A number of other climatic factors help in highlighting our unique location. We are in a North South running valley and throughout the summer months receive warm northerly winds that both help in the ripening process as well as reducing any disease pressure. We are on predominantly North East facing slopes which give us access to the full extent of sunlight during our long summer days. Finally, as we are in the rain shadow of both the Mt Wellington range and the hills that separate the Coal River Valley from the Meehan range, we are in a most wonderful location and



we do our very best to highlight the natural advantages in order to bring a singular and unique wine to you.

Jeremy Harris

Viticulture & Vineyard Manager

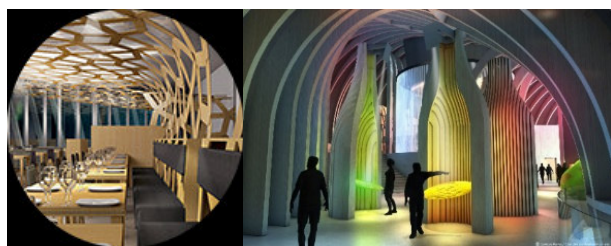
at **Domaine A**



Discover the history and culture of wine, a journey around the world. "La Cité du Vin", a unique place devoted to the world wide cultures of wine situated in Bordeaux France.

"La Cité du Vin" is the place to have an insight into all the different styles of wine making and learn more about the individual wine locations around the world.

The Restaurants "Latitude20" and "Le 7" will give wine enthusiasts the possibility to discover a great range of internationally renowned wines accompanied by a selection of global "gourmet"-food creations.



We are proud to have been chosen to represent Tasmania at "La Cité du Vin" amongst other "Premier Grand Crus" of the world. Our actual releases,

Domaine A Cabernet Sauvignon 2008 and Domaine A "Petit a" 2010 are available at the exhibition.



When you are travelling in France, be sure to visit "La Cité du Vin" in Bordeaux, a great adventure to discover the cultures and civilisations of wine. In an open exhibition space occupying more than 3,000 m<sup>2</sup>, nearly twenty different themed areas entice you to take a voyage of discovery and enjoy a unique experience exploring the many and varied facets of wine across time and space.

Find further information on [www.laciteduvin.com/en](http://www.laciteduvin.com/en)

## ENJOY WINE BY THE GLASS

Enjoy wine by the glass without pulling the cork.



Coravin is a wine preserving system that allows you to pour a glass of wine without ever opening the bottle. A slender hollow needle goes right through the cork to access the wine, and as it's poured, the wine's volume is replaced by an inert argon gas. When the needles is extracted, the springy cork reseals itself and the only trace that remains is a little pinprick in the foil (It won't work on composite or synthetic corks). This means you can enjoy the same bottle weeks, months or even years later and the wine remains the same. The upshot is you can enjoy a glass of your most precious wine today, and then have a second glass six months from now, or so on over the years.

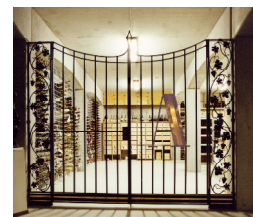


Want to try a 2000 Domaine A Cabernet Sauvignon, a rare and unusual wine from Tasmania or compare it with another Premium wine? Now it is possible to enjoy your private wine selection by the glass.

Find further information on [www.coravin.com](http://www.coravin.com)

## VISIT US AT OUR CELLAR DOOR IN TASMANIA

Domaine A / Stoney Vineyard  
105 Tea Tree Road,  
Campania, Tasmania  
Australia 7026  
Phone: +61 (03) 6260 4174



### Cellar Door

OPEN: Mon-Fri 10 am to 4 pm  
CLOSED: Public Holidays



## DOMAINE A NEW RELEASES IN 2016

*The Domaine A vintage rating is to represent the quality of each hand made premium wine from Domaine A / Stoney Vineyard.*

*We rate our vintages between 0 to 6 bottles and consider the weather conditions as well as the quality of grapes we harvested*



### Domaine A Cabernet Sauvignon 2008

The weather conditions in 2008 were just as good as in 2000, ideal dry and warm weather led all the way up to the harvest. Perfect conditions for an elegant and fine structured wine.

Elegant, fine structured with well balanced acidity, very fine tannins and a persistent finish

**14% Volume Alcohol.**

*18 (out of 20) points by Jancis Robinson,*

*96 points by James Halliday,*

*96 points by Huon Hook.*



Vintage rating  
Domaine A  
6 out of 6 bottles



☆☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆☆  
James Halliday 9 out of 10 stars

### Domaine A Merlot 2010

The weather conditions in 2010 were perfect to grow a high class wine. Temperatures in summer were consistent and we have had very long sunshine hours. After good early rains, we have had dry and consistent good weather.

A fruity, full bodied Merlot with hints of chocolate, fine structure

**14% Volume Alcohol.**



Vintage rating  
Domaine A  
6 out of 6 bottles



☆☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆☆  
James Halliday 9 out of 10 stars

### Domaine A Pinot Noir 2010

The weather conditions in 2010 were perfect to grow a high class wine. Temperatures in summer were consistent and we have had very long sunshine hours. After good early rains we have had dry and consistent good weather.

A full bodied and savory Pinot Noir with great intensity and depth of flavor.

**14,5% Volume Alcohol.**

94 points by James Halliday.



Vintage rating  
Domaine A  
6 out of 6 bottles



☆☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆☆  
James Halliday 9 out of 10 stars

### Domaine A Lady A 2013

A winemakers dream, ideal weather throughout the year. Intermittent rainfall and many long sunny days without extremes. Quality and quantity both highlighted a good vintage.

Aromatics of grapefruit, lavender offset by spicy vanilla bean notes, subtle nuances of oak, natural acid drive, mouth filing with a soft, creamy finish.

**13,5% Volume Alcohol.**

94 points by James Halliday,

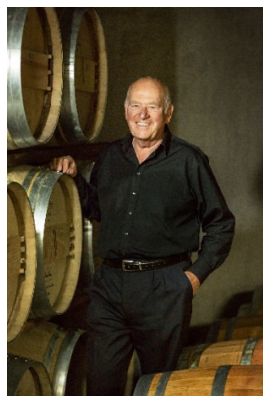
96 points by Huon Hook.



Vintage rating  
Domaine A  
5 out of 6 bottles



☆☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆☆  
James Halliday 8 out of 10 stars



*All great things take time and patience and at Domaine A these are essential parts of our philosophy.*