

# Tête A Tête

The newsletter of  
Domaine A / Stoney Vineyard

Domaine A  
Tasmania's First Growth

Summer 2017 | Volume 21

## VINTAGE REPORT 2017

Vintage 2017 can be summed up by the word “patience”. The year began with ideal growing conditions, plenty of Winter and early Spring rains provided a good starting point for our non irrigated vines. It did mean that all of the early growth had to be managed and maintained to avoid the plants focusing on vegetative growth and not on the fruit itself. Flowering was close to perfect and fruit set reflected this as did the excellent final yields.



The rest of the year progressed as we always hope it will, good sunlight hours, temperatures as well as timely rainfall brought us to veraison ( ripening ) and then we began the waiting! The weather ( cloudy days and lower temperatures ) slowed everything down but the presence of a healthy leaf canopy was highlighted as this continued providing nourishment for the grapes during the extended period. The waiting tested nerves, as the longer we wait to pick the less days there are to get the grapes in safely before the onset of colder weather. But all good things are worth waiting for and the slower ripening is in many ways more suited to the style of wine we produce: complex, balanced and with the structure to age and mature over many years.



Finally we were able to begin picking on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April, almost a month later than the previous year and 2 weeks later than the 15 year average. The picking was spread out , often with a week between varieties which in many ways contributed to a relaxed and easy harvest. The final grapes were brought in on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May and the year provided us with the largest crop produced at Domaine A, a good indicator of the vineyards health particularly as it was a year of decreased yields for many producers.

The first results indicate a rich, balanced and long lived wine that should continue in the tradition of Domaine A.

Thanks must go to all who maintain and care for the vineyard as well as the pickers who help bring in with care and attention the result of our whole year's work.



## WHERE TO FIND US

We are proud to share with you some of Australia's finest locations that are supporters of Domaine A, and can offer you, our loyal supporters, an opportunity to pair our wines with a fabulous meal and dining experience.

### LANDSCAPE RESTAURANT – HOBART

[www.landscaperestaurant.com.au](http://www.landscaperestaurant.com.au)

Recognised by both the THA (Tasmanian Hospitality Association) and Gourmet Traveller as Tasmania's Best Restaurant for 2017.

Landscape, located at the base of the Henry Jones Art Hotel on Hobart's waterfront has quickly become an icon in its industry. A simple yet sophisticated menu showcases Australia's finest meat and seafood, complemented by a staggering selection of exceptional wines.

Their offering extends beyond just our current releases, also giving lovers of exceptional Domaine A wines the opportunity to try some of our most exclusive back vintages, a rare opportunity for diners anywhere in the world.



### TETSUYA'S – SYDNEY

[www.testsuyas.com](http://www.testsuyas.com)

Tetsuya Wakuda is a name synonymous with exceptional dining in Australia. His restaurant, located in Kent Street, is an elegant French-Japanese undertaking renowned for its culinary masterpieces and ever-evolving menu. His degustation menus are often referred to as experiences worthy of one's bucket list.

Tetsuya is deserving of all accolades and aspirations, but most importantly, he is a dear friend of our winemaker Peter and a long-standing appreciator of our outstanding Domaine A Cabernet Sauvignon.



There are very few places in the world that would offer their clients the opportunity of our flagship wine by the glass –

Tetsuya's is one of those places. If it's not already there, perhaps it's time Tetsuya's was added to your bucket list, too?

### VUE DE MONDE - MELBOURNE

[www.vuedemonde.com.au](http://www.vuedemonde.com.au)

Located on the 55<sup>th</sup> floor of Melbourne's iconic Rialto building, this well-renowned restaurant offers a pared-back and sophisticated setting with a design that reflects on Australia's history. Its reputation and beginnings were heavily rooted in classical and French cuisines but under the hand of chef/owner Shannon Bennett has evolved to a lighter-handed, more natural approach that nods to its history but now celebrates a modern Australian and theatrical approach to food.

We are honoured that Vue de Monde offers its



clientele what can only be described as our most exclusive releases. On their current wine list, you will find both

our Lady A Sauvignon Blanc and Domaine A Merlot. Of all our wines, these have the smallest production levels, with Domaine A Merlot sold almost exclusively from our cellar door, so it is a rare treat indeed to find it on any wine list.

We have distributors and sales staff who ensure we're consistently on the best wine lists in Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland, Perth and Hobart.



**For further locations, feel free to contact our team by email and obtain a list :**

[althaus@domaine-a.com.au](mailto:althaus@domaine-a.com.au)

## DID YOU KNOW ??

You might have noticed, over years of enjoying Domaine A Cabernet Sauvignon and Domaine A Pinot Noir, that our iconic **A** is released on every vintage with different coloured stripes.



The wine, at the point of going to bottle to rest, is sent to a friend of Domaine A who is gifted with the condition Synesthesia. In general terms, this means that there is a crossover between two senses in a person's brain. For some, it means that sounds may evoke images. In others that certain textures when felt bring forward sounds. This neurological anomaly is actually thought to be present, to some degree, in one in every twenty-seven people. It is very rare though, considered only in about 1% of known synesthetes, that the crossover is between taste and sight. That person can literally "taste the rainbow".



While the way the stripes get decided upon is a little unusual, it's functionality has become an almost visual tasting note for each vintage. One stripe indicates fruitfulness, one acidity, and the third speaks to the wine's tannin structure. The wait for our consultant's colour dictation each time is one of interest and excitement. Will the balance of tone be reminiscent of some of our finest releases? Will a vibrancy we've noticed in the winemaking process be reflected in an expert's first taste?

It also allows those "in the know" to have a good idea of what the wine's characteristics were at the time it went to bottle, when revisiting a back vintage to profile its evolution in cellar.

The next time you reach for a bottle of Domaine A Cabernet or Pinot, take a moment to appreciate that, like everything here at Domaine A / Stoney Vineyard, the label is another conscious decision not just in visual appeal, but as an indicator of quality, balance and our commitment to precision in everything that we offer to our customers.

## NEW RELEASE TIME – (and what an impression it's making, all over the world !)

Domaine A / Stoney Vineyard is proud to release the **2009 Domaine A Cabernet Sauvignon**.



### APPROXIMATE BLEND

90% Cabernet Sauvignon  
4% Cabernet Franc  
4% Merlot  
2% Petit Verdot

### TASTING NOTES

Deep Ruby colour. Aromatics of cherry blossom, blackberry and clove woven with whispers of cedar. Ripe dark cherry and cassis characters with seamless elegance, fine tannic structure and perfect natural balance.

ALCOHOL **13.5%**

**We are humbled to report that Jancis Robinson has rated this vintage at 18.5, a rare and very appreciated score.** *"I would so love to serve this blind in Bordeaux! It really is gorgeous. The freshness of the finish distinguishes it. So satisfying! Really rather beautiful"*

**Tyson Stezler (reviewing for WBM) 96 points** *"there is an effortless, seamless and enduring confidence to cabernet at Domaine A"*

Available now on our website:

[www.domaine-a.com.au](http://www.domaine-a.com.au)

# Christmas Specials

Available now at [www.domaine-a.com.au](http://www.domaine-a.com.au)

## CABERNET COMPARISON

The perfect opportunity to test our promise of strong evolution in bottle, and see how our flagship Domaine A Cabernet Sauvignon changes over a decade. Rarely offered **1998** Domaine A Cabernet Sauvignon, vs **2008** Domaine A Cabernet. The refined old gent and a young buck!

**Both bottles of wine for only \$250**

## FLAGSHIP DOUBLE

Combining the 2008 and the 2009 Domaine A Cabernet Sauvignon, this pairing is the pinnacle of our current releases. Each retail for \$120

**Both bottles of wine for only \$190**

## TRIPLE STONEY

They may technically be our “entry level” offering, but don’t think for a moment that our Stoney Vineyard wines are in anyway diminished by the term.

Whether it’s our beautifully savoury and punchy Pinot



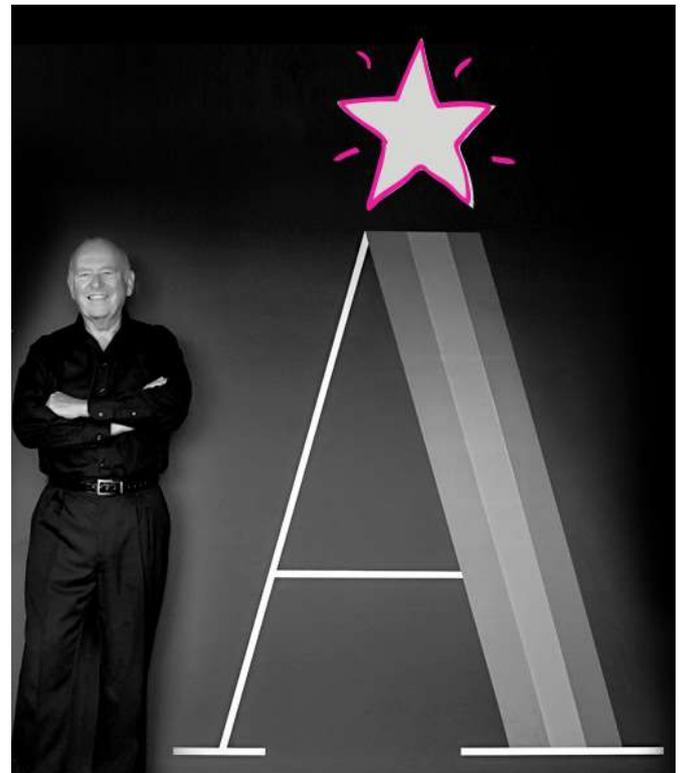
Noir, our textured, fruit driven Sauvignon Blanc, or exquisitely balanced Cabernet Sauvignon, they’re is outstanding



quality at this price point. A Stoney Vineyard bottle for every occasion, or to please everyone at the Christmas dinner table.

**All 3 of our Stoney Vineyard range for only \$90**

**(1x Pinot Noir, 1 x Cabernet Sauvignon, 1 x Sauvignon Blanc)**



## STONEY MAGNUM 2004

Very recently tasted by Peter, this magnum is his pick of the Stoney Cabernet Sauvignon to share with your family this Holiday season.

After all, as we say on our cartons “for this glass is worth sharing” and what better time of year to do it?

**1.5 litre Magnum of wine for only \$90**

## VISIT US AT OUR CELLAR DOOR



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