

Yalumba Nursery



Viti-Pioneers and Innovators

Established in the 1970s as the winery moved towards planting grafted vines in its Eden Valley and Riverland vineyards, The Yalumba Nursery pioneered vine grafting in Australia. It is now recognised as having the highest quality and most innovative nursery programme in Australia. For example, the Nursery team were instrumental in establishing one of the country's first hot water treatment facilities aimed at reducing the risk of contamination to grafted vine stock (see below for further information about grafted vines). Today, the Nursery is a flourishing enterprise and supplies grafted vines to grape growers in regions throughout Australia.

Originally sited on the winery property, the Yalumba Nursery was relocated in 2001 to a new state-of-the-art nursery and propagation centre in the Barossa Valley, in the heart of an old-vine Grenache vineyard - a valuable piece of the Barossa's viti-history. On officially opening the new nursery, Yalumba Proprietor, Robert Hill Smith said, "the strategy for the nursery has been three-pronged; to ensure reliability and consistency of supply, to maintain focus on innovation and to continue to provide access to rare grape varieties and clones."

As Australia's most reliable source of quality grafted rootstock, especially for emerging varieties and hard to get clones, the Yalumba Nursery's clonal selection programme focuses on fruit and ultimate wine quality. This is a vital resource, as the Australian wine industry is continually demanding healthier vines that will provide quality fruit. Having a Nursery as part of its operations also allows Yalumba greater control over its own grapevine selection and, therefore, the inherent quality of the finished wines.



The Nursery now offers the most comprehensive range of Viognier clones in Australia after recently importing seven new Viognier clones. It is also a leading supplier of Bernard selected French Pinot Noir and Chardonnay clones. Vines are supplied as dormant one-year-old vines which are grown at three separate field nurseries in South Australia's Riverland and Adelaide Plains regions.

Confirming its position at the cutting-edge of industry practice, in early 2004 the Yalumba Nursery achieved ISO9001-2000 certification for its quality management system. It was also the first vine nursery in Australia to achieve national accreditation under the Australian Vine Improvement Association quality accreditation scheme.

Mid-2004 saw another exciting development, when the Yalumba Nursery signed a distribution agreement with ENTAV International which will facilitate the supply of authentic French clones from the only certified organisation of its nature in France. This historic alliance is an important development for the Australian wine industry with growers and winemakers now having greater access to rare, high quality French clonal varieties. Some of the more well known clones established by ENTAV-INRA® that will be available from the Yalumba Nursery include Pinot Noir 777 and Chardonnay 76 and 95.

Why Grafted Vines?

Grapevines are susceptible to attack by two major soil-borne pests - phylloxera and nematodes. At present, phylloxera, which devastated European vineyards in the 1860s, is confined to small regions in Victoria and NSW. Planting vines grafted onto phylloxera resistant rootstock can help guard against the spread of Phylloxera. Grafted rootstocks can also help protect against nematodes that occur in sandy soils and attack the vines. Other problems such as salinity, high or low pH soils and drought can also be combated to some extent by planting onto sustainable rootstock. In South Australia, currently only 15% of vineyards are on grafted rootstock.

Visit the Yalumba Nursery website at www.yalumbanursery.com - The website provides a wealth of information on vine planting material and propagation as well as technical advice on clonal performance, vine handling and planting procedures. The rootstock selector assists in making rootstock choices for a particular site, answers questions and cross references it with a broad range of research.