



📷 George and Deidre Cremasco take a walk at their Mount Towrong Winery in the lead-up to the Macedon Ranges Wine and Food Festival. Picture: David Smith

NORTH WEST

Macedon Ranges Wine and Food Festival to attract thousands

Barry Kennedy, Macedon Ranges Leader

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RECREATING the joy of families getting together and sharing food and wine, Italian-style, is the vision of the Cremasco family.

Their family-owned [Mount Towrong Winery](#) in Mt Macedon has quickly created a buzz among those who have visited it in the past six months, since a tasting room and dining area was opened.

Now, Mount Towrong is participating in this weekend's Macedon Ranges Wine and Food Festival (Budburst) along with about 30 other wineries in the shire.

- [Macedon Ranges Wine and Food Festival program](#)

George Cremasco, whose family origins are in the Veneto region of northern Italy, has introduced several varieties of wine common there but rarely seen in the Macedon Ranges.

He and wife Deidre planted chardonnay and pinot noir grapes in 1996, adding nebbiolo in 1999 and prosecco in 2005.

The family had always envisioned a tasting room, with the one opening earlier this year emerging from a shed.

“We’ve had 27 years up here now, and while it was a shed, I always knew it would be a cellar door eventually,” Mr Cremasco said.

“Dad had a farm (in Italy) and they made wine for themselves, so it was part of life.

“What we have created is all about food and wine and getting together.”

So far the cellar door experience has proven a hit, with tables of up to 20 regularly booked and a changing weekly menu.

A State Government Wine Industry Growth Fund contribution of \$20,000 helped the creation of the cellar and dining room.

Mount Towrong takes its name from the peak in the Macedon Ranges. There are stunning views of both that peak and Mt Macedon.

The couple, as well as sons Giacomo, Sebastian, viticulturist Adam Paleg and winemaker Laura Sparrow, contribute to the family atmosphere experienced by visitors.

■ Mount Towrong Vineyard is at 4 Taylors Rd, Mt Macedon.



Some of the drops available at Mt Towrong Winery.
Picture: David Smith



📷 Megan Healy, of Botanica Estate, is all set for Budburst. Picture: Luis Enrique Ascui

RAISING A GLASS TO THE GOOD LIFE

Megan and David Healy have traded corporate suites for gumboots and tracksuit pants on a sometimes muddy Heskett winery.

Their leafy property at the verge of valleys is the setting for their new venture [Botanica Estate](#), which will burst into life at this weekend's Macedon Ranges Wine and Food Festival.

The pair have played a long game getting ready for their transition to winemaking, planting their first vines "Tullus Block" in 2004, a second planting called "Cow Hump Block" in 2014 and not making the permanent tree change until 2009.

Their first wines, their "Tullus Blend" chardonnay, pinot noir and shiraz — all from 2015 — are on offer this weekend.

Ms Healy said adding their passions to the Macedon Ranges winemaking community from this weekend was exciting.

"Budburst is a big celebration and to open up our doors and be part of it is a big landmark for us," she said.

"It's so good to not be in the corporate world and work here on this small winery, enjoy the open space and get around in gumboots and tracksuit pants."

The pair have a vision for Botanica as a colourful retreat for wine-lovers.

Blooming rhododendrons and azaleas form a colourful backdrop among formal terrace gardens, while organic produce is also set to be the base for a future food menu.

The vineyard is 630m above sea level, making it among the highest in the country.

■ Botanica Estate is at 1294 Romsey Rd, Heskett



📷 There will be plenty of Botanica Estate's best on offer for the Macedon Ranges Wine and Food Festival. Picture: Luis Enrique Ascui



📷 All is set for the Macedon Ranges Wine and Food Festival. Picture: David Smith

GET INVOLVED

Macedon Ranges Wine and Food Festival

November 18-19

Featuring 30-plus wineries at 20 venues

Each venue open from 10am to 5pm

Country hospitality, wine tastings, dinners

[CLICK HERE](#) for event details



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