



BATTLE  
*of*  
BOSWORTH  
McLAREN VALE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

23 September 2008

### **Battle of Bosworth's Joch Bosworth named as one of McLaren Vale's Clean and Green Regional Heroes**

Grape grower Joch Bosworth from Battle of Bosworth's Edgehill Vineyards was named McLaren Vale's Grape Grower of the Year at the annual McLaren Vale Grape Wine and Tourism Association's (MVGWTA) Wine Industry Awards on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2008.

The SITA Grape Grower of the Year Award recognises best practise viticultural management in McLaren Vale, as well as commitment to innovation, environmental sustainability and grape growing excellence. The award also recognises continuous improvement in areas such as irrigation management, the protection of biodiversity, waste management and reducing the need for fossil fuels and limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

Nominations were assessed by a panel of independent wine industry experts including Senior Viticulture Lecturer from the University of Adelaide Dr Cassandra Collins and Senior Viticulture Consultant from Scholefield Robinson Horticultural Services Mary Retallack.

Joch Bosworth has converted over 80 hectares of vines within the Willunga sub region of McLaren Vale to organically certified wine grape production. Certified by Australian Certified Organic P/L, the process involves yearly audits and random sampling of produce.

"A lot of what I do in the vineyard is simply old-fashioned grape growing; essentially, my vineyards are run as they would have been 50 years ago before synthetic pesticides and fertilizers became available." Said Joch. "We've also developed a method of sustainable weed management whereby Soursobs (*oxalis pes caprae*) are encouraged to grow under-vine to out-compete other weeds, as well as using modified vineyard machinery to increase efficiency and minimise environmental impact," he went on. "We have also spent considerable time and effort in extensive re-vegetation projects on the vineyard by removing feral species and replanting natives, helping both to improve biodiversity and the natural aesthetics of the vineyards and creeks."

Joch also acknowledged how McLaren Vale Grape, Wine and Tourism Association (MVGWTA) and its members have long recognised the need to carefully balance wine industry practises and the natural environment and how McLaren Vale as a region is at the forefront of environmental sustainability.

"McLaren Vale has the reputation of being a naturally cohesive region with a history of sharing information and ideas; this is no different in the increasingly important area of sustainability and the conservation and management of existing resources. As such McLaren Vale's green reputation is well-founded and as well as ongoing re-vegetation work and organic viticulture; there are many diverse individual 'green' projects such as biodynamic viticulture, wetland establishment, frog and glossy black cockatoo programs as well as carbon footprinting.

**Organically Grown, Traditionally Vinified**

Edgehill Vineyards were established in the early 1970's by Joch's parents, Peter and Anthea Bosworth, and Battle of Bosworth Wines in 2001 by Joch and partner Louise Hemsley-Smith. The Battle of Bosworth wines are made from 100% organically grown and certified grapes from Edgehill Vineyards. The quality of the end product of Joch's award winning endeavours in the vineyard can be found in his Battle of Bosworth wines:

The Battle of Bosworth 'White Boar' Shiraz 2004, which pays homage to the Italian *Amarone* style wine, has recently appeared in a UK publication '1001 Wines You Must Try before you Die' (by Neil Beckett and published by Ebury Press for Random House) and four of the Battle of Bosworth wines appeared in the 2008 London International Wine Trade Fair's Top 100 Organic and Biodynamic Wines tasting.

For more information please contact:

Louise Hemsley-Smith  
Sales and Marketing  
Battle of Bosworth Wines  
T: 08 8556 2441  
E: [louise@edgehill-vineyards.com.au](mailto:louise@edgehill-vineyards.com.au)

Joch Bosworth  
Vineyard and Wines  
Battle of Bosworth Wines and Edgehill Vineyards  
T: 0417 813 670  
E: [joch@edgehill-vineyards.com.au](mailto:joch@edgehill-vineyards.com.au)

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