



SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING AUSTRALIA

REGIONAL ANNUAL RESULTS

MCLAREN VALE 2021/22

McLaren Vale Grape Wine & Tourism Association
mclarenvale.info



SUSTAINABLE
WINEGROWING
AUSTRALIA



SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING AUSTRALIA

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Sustainable Winegrowing Australia is Australia's national program for grapegrowers and winemakers to demonstrate and continuously improve their sustainability in the vineyard and winery through the environmental, social and economic aspects of their businesses.

The program takes a holistic approach to managing, supporting and promoting sustainability. It fosters stronger relationships between growers, wineries and their regions. It also provides authority and confidence to customers, who receive reliable certified produce to address growing global consumer demand. No matter where a grapegrower or winemaker is on the journey, the program is relevant and user-friendly.

Sustainable Winegrowing Australia is a voluntary program designed with flexibility to suit the changing goals and needs of all Australian grape and wine producers. It informs and contributes to the identification of priorities for wine industry research, development and extension activities and can be used by members for benchmarking.

The program is administered by the Australian Wine Research Institute with governance, endorsement and active support from Australian Grape & Wine and Wine Australia. The program is modelled on global best practices and aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, with progress towards these monitored annually.

McLaren Vale Grape Wine and Tourism Association wishes to acknowledge the Kurna People as Traditional Custodians of the McLaren Vale Wine Region and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Sustainable Winegrowing Australia is a community of like-minded growers and winemakers who want to produce exceptional wines that make a positive difference for people and the planet.

BECOMING A CERTIFIED MEMBER




Sustainable Winegrowing Australia members wishing to become certified must complete an independent audit against the Australian Wine Industry Standards of Sustainable Practice (AWISSP) for Viticulture and Wineries.

To maintain certification, a successful audit must be undertaken every three years by an approved certification body.

Benefits of certification:

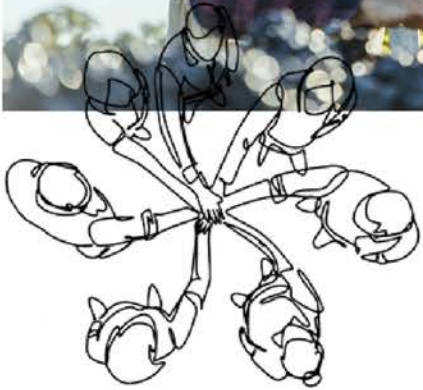
- peace of mind that your sustainability claims have been independently verified.
- use of a certified trust mark - an assurance to customers and consumers of how the product is produced
- enhanced international marketing through Wine Australia's marketing program
- integration of sustainability stories into Wine Australia's education and content for customers and consumers

Source: Sustainable Winegrowing Australia



Australian wine producers are well known for their commitment to sustainable production and continuous improvement. Many are thoughtful custodians, actively practicing in a sustainable way due to climate impacts. It is now time to commit, show leadership and demonstrate our nation's credentials around the globe.

MEMBERSHIP



192

TOTAL MEMBERS

175 vineyard sites and 17 winery sites.

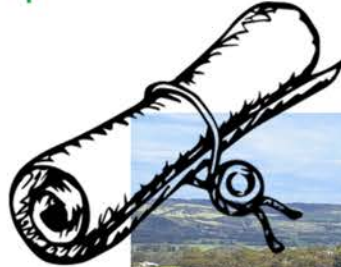
↑ 58 members from previous year

49

CERTIFIED MEMBERS

44 vineyards and 5 wineries completed an independent audit against the Australian Wine Industry Standards of Sustainable Practice (AWISSP) for Viticulture and Wineries.

↑ 19 certified members from previous year.



566

HECTARES SET ASIDE FOR BIODIVERSITY

VINEYARD SITES

5071

TOTAL VINEYARD HECTARES

Included within the McLaren Vale Sustainable Winegrowing Australia Program.

↑ 1063 hectares from previous year



6.5

TONNES / HECTARE

Average Yield of regional Sustainable Winegrowing Australia members.

↓ 0.7 tonnes / hectare from previous year



32,460

TONNES CRUSHED

Total crush for McLaren Vale Sustainable Winegrowing Australia members.

↑ 16,523 tonnes from previous year



BIODIVERSITY



74

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

% of vineyard members that take action to protect and enhance existing biodiversity on the property.

64

VINEYARD BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS

% of vineyard members that participate in own or off-site biodiversity projects.



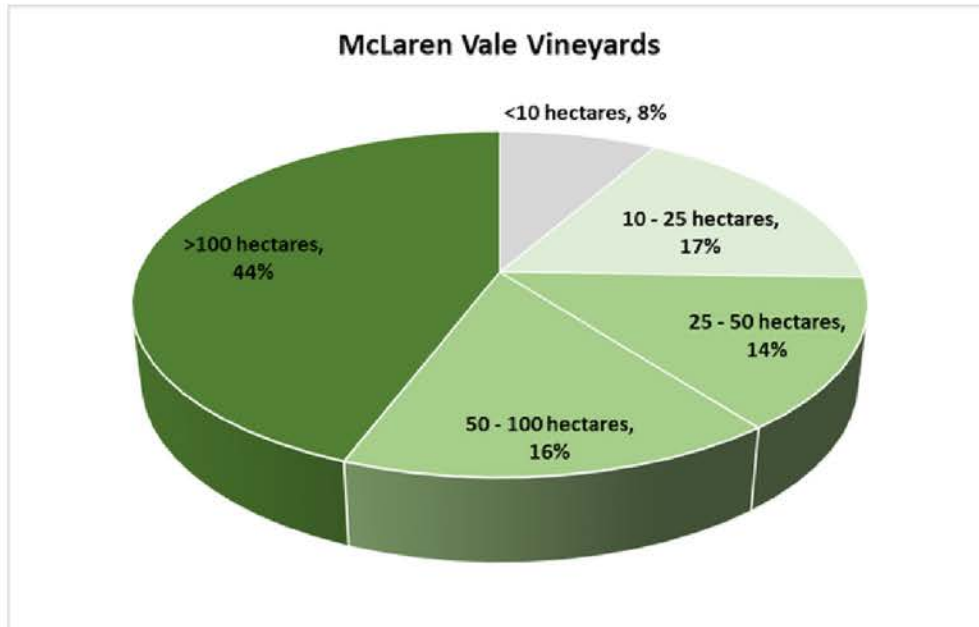
76

WINERY BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS

% of winery members participating in on- or off-site biodiversity projects.

MEMBERS BY VINEYARD SIZE

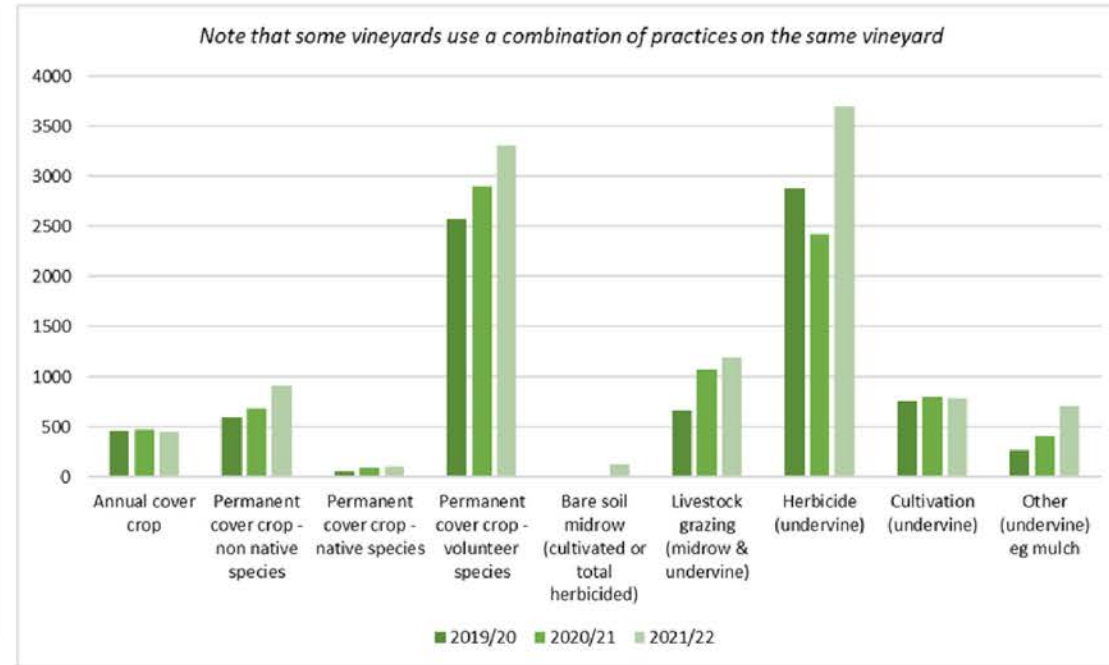
Percentage of program members per vineyard size category



■ The percentage of larger vineyard enterprises >100ha has increased from 6% to 44% from 2021 to 2022. The percentage of McLaren Vale vineyard area under Membership is now 69% of the total vineyard area as reported by Vine Health Australia planting statistics (up from 54% in 2020-21).

MIDROW MANAGEMENT

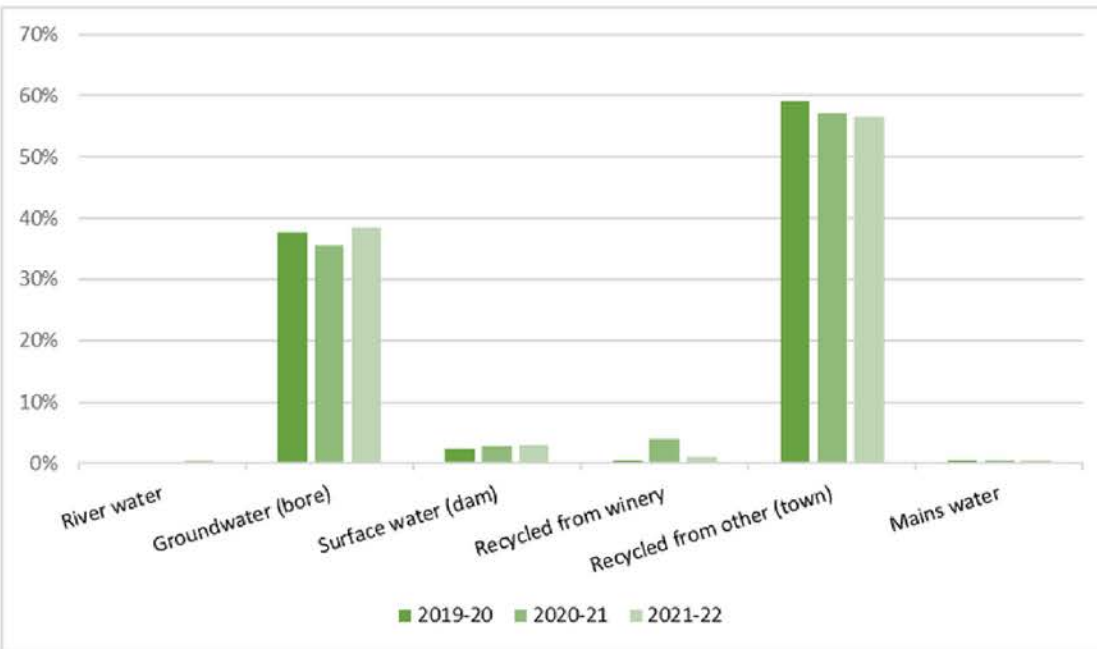
Midrow and Undervine Management Practices (Hectares)



■ Midrow management practices can significantly affect long term soil health. Avoiding excessive cultivation and bare soils by maintaining permanent cover crops reduces the risk of soil degradation over time. Livestock grazing helps reduce herbicide inputs & enhances soil health with animal manures.

WATER USAGE

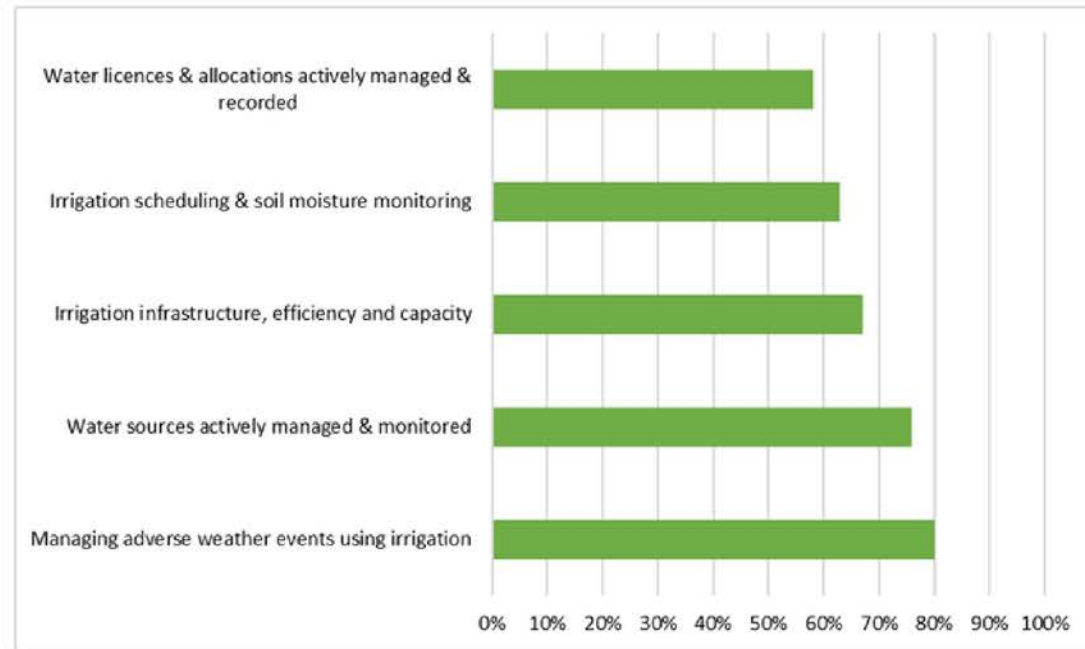
Total Water Use by Source



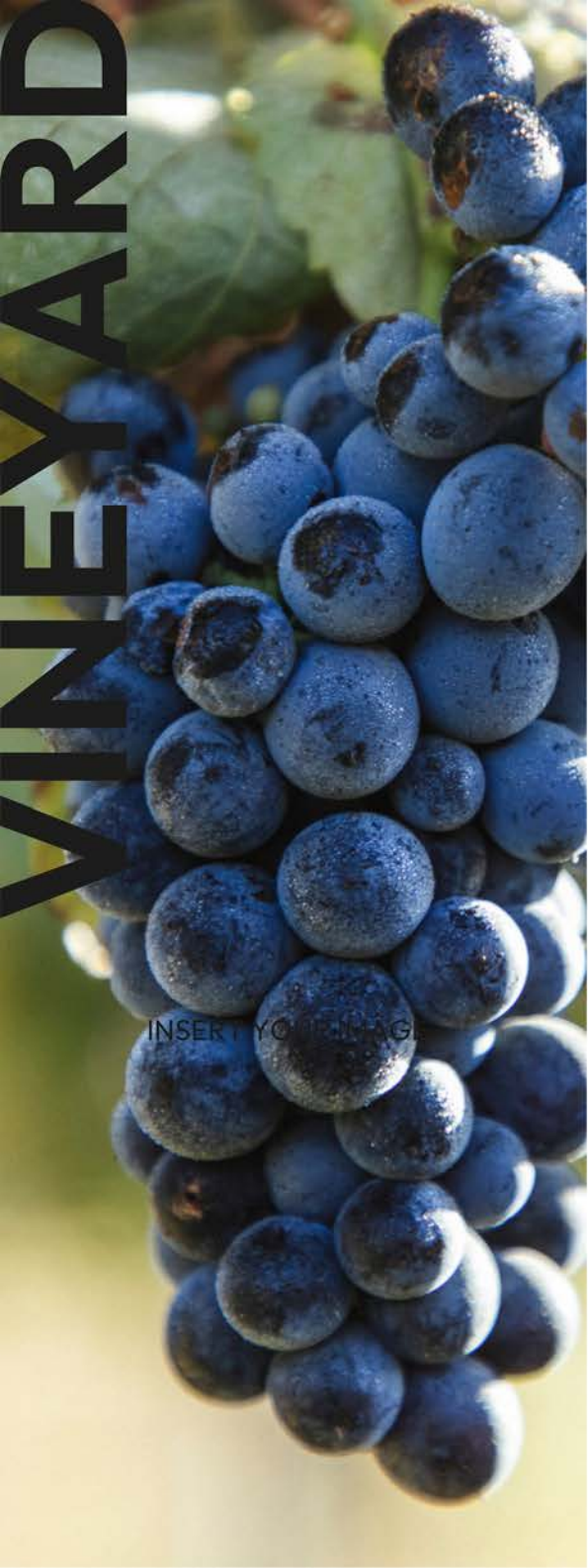
■ McLaren Vale is an industry leading wine region in the use of recycled water for vineyard irrigation and which adds to long term sustainability. The average vineyard water use in 2021/22 was 1.2 ML per hectare (1.3 in 2020/21)

WATER MANAGEMENT

Irrigation water management practices



■ Growers closely monitor water quality & use and adjust irrigation inputs to vine and seasonal demands. McLaren Vale vineyards are very efficient with irrigation water use.



INSERT YOUR IMAGE



BIOSECURITY



Of businesses have a strong understanding of key biosecurity risk pathways and take action to manage them. The businesses are aware of key endemic and exotic pest biosecurity threats and potential impacts on vine health. 45% of members are at best practice or above.



Know the endemic and exotic pests of high priority to the wine industry. Vineyard monitoring is undertaken regularly. If unusual plant pests, diseases, or weeds are found, help is sought to identify the issue. 55% of members are at best practice or above.



Source planting material from approved suppliers (e.g. accredited nurseries or vine improvement associations). A record of health status is/has been obtained for all grapevine planting material prior to purchase. 43% of members are at best practice or above.



LAND, SOIL AND FERTILISER MANAGEMENT



Have identified major soil types and areas at risk or affected by degradation on a vineyard map(s) and staff are familiar with visible symptoms in grapevines affected by salinity, soil compaction, acidity, or alkalinity. 53% of members are at best practice or above.



Service and calibrate fertiliser and soil additive application equipment at least annually or as per manufacturer's instructions OR evidence of this is provided by the contractor. 50% of members are at best practice or above.



Locate, construct, and maintain fertiliser storage and handling areas to minimise harm to off-target and sensitive areas from nutrient run-off or leaching. 49% of members are at best practice or above.



PEST AND DISEASE



Consider alerts from industry or qualified personnel. The vineyard is monitored for pest, weed and disease and the weather observed. The main pests, weeds and disease have been identified and are targeted at critical times of the year. 65% of members are at best practice or above.



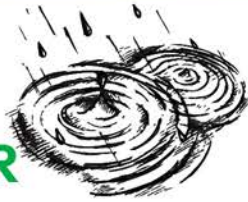
Ensure spray equipment is maintained and checked for effective operation before and after each use. Before each spray round, spray unit filters and nozzles are checked. 65% of members are at best practice or above.



Check the weather conditions regularly during spraying, and spraying is stopped if off-target spray drift is likely. 85% of members are at best practice or above.

VINEYARD

WATER



82%

↑ 0% from previous year



Understand rootzone and water holding capacity for most blocks and consider when planning irrigation. Irrigation is adjusted based on soil or leaf water data, water availability, cost, and quality. Soil moisture is measured and monitored. 63% of members are at best practice or above.

94%

↑ 2% from previous year



Have a plan for managing water. Irrigation is applied based on results of soil, crop or weather monitoring results or a combination thereof. 49% of members are at best practice or above.

94%

↓ 2% from previous year



Manage the impacts of adverse weather events using strategic irrigation application before and during (if required) these conditions. 80% of members are at best practice or above.

WASTE, AIR, ENERGY & FUEL



88%

↑ 4% from previous year



Separate waste into types and store to minimise the risk of contaminating on-site and off-site areas. The business takes all reasonable and practicable steps to contain or secure transported waste. 35% of members are at best practice or above.

83%

↑ 6% from previous year



Have taken action to minimise the impacts on air quality. 46% of members are at best practice or above.

77%

↓ 1% from previous year



Ensure energy and fuel efficiency is a priority to the business and incorporated into selection and/or design of new premises, vehicles, machinery, and equipment. 49% of members are at best practice or above.

COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS



93%

↑ 2% from previous year



Of businesses have discussions with purchasing winery(ies) or potential buyers and is aware of consumer trends, grape/wine supply and demand and current market pricing; these influence sales/purchase negotiations. 79% of members are at best practice or above.

91%

↓ 1% from previous year



Conduct grape sales based on signed, written contracts which include block information, agreed price, quality expectations and delivery location. 77% of members are at best practice or above.

92%

↓ 3% from previous year



Engage contractors based on references from other vineyards and/or based on previous engagement by the business. 70% of members are at best practice or above.

DOCUMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT



93%

↓ 1% from previous year



Ensure vineyard operations which are relevant to the sale of grapes are communicated to purchasing wineries. 81% of members are at best practice or above.

92%

↑ 4% from previous year



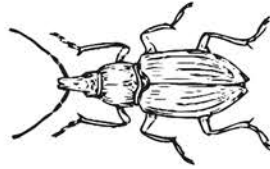
Of businesses are committed to sustainable production. 48% of members are at best practice or above.

84%

↓ 4% from previous year



Of businesses record all business activities. 60% of members are at best practice or above.



BIOSECURITY

88%

↓ 12% from previous year



Of businesses have a strong understanding of key biosecurity risk pathways and take action to manage them have mapped their different land management units (e.g. vineyard, fence lines, buildings and roads, riparian strips etc.). 47% of members are at best practice or above



CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT

88%

↓ 12% from previous year



Purchase records are kept, and recorded in an inventory which also includes batch number (where available) and expiry/manufacture date of products. A current Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is accessible for all hazardous chemicals and dangerous goods purchased, transported, used and/or stored by the business. 56% of members are at best practice or above.



WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

59%

↓ 12% from previous year



Ensure winery wastewater and storm water drain into the wastewater capture and management system; and the volume of wastewater generated is measured and reviewed annually against the Water Management Program. 12% of members are at best practice or above.

WATER

94%

↓ 6% from previous year



Of businesses have a plan to monitor and manage water. The usage volumes of water sources (i.e. bore, rain water, mains water) for the business is monitored and recorded. 35% of members are at best practice or above.



WASTE, AIR, ENERGY & FUEL

75%

↓ 20% from previous year



Ensure waste is separated into types and stored to minimise the risk of contaminating on-site and off-site areas. The business takes all reasonable and practicable steps to contain or secure transported waste. 31% of members are at best practice or above



COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS

88%

↓ 12% from previous year



Of businesses engage with neighbours and the community when issues arise. The business contributes to the community in a positive way. 29% of members are at best practice or above.

DOCUMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

65%

↓ 21% from previous year



Of businesses have established a Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) to document action(s) planned to address sustainability issues and protect assets. 47% of members are at best practice or above.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- **Our Growers, our Wineries, our Members, our Community and our Region.**
- **Our Sustainable Australia Winegrowing (SAW) and Sustainable Winegrowing Australia Program Users and supporters (past and present).**
- **Our Boards and Chairs of MVGWTA (past and present).**
- **Our Team of MVGWTA (past and present) – all team.**
- **SA State Government and industry partners particularly – Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), Wine Australia, Australian Grape & Wine (inclusive of WFA and AV), Australian Wine Research Institute– Executive and Management Teams (past and current), Board (past and current), and Chairs (past and current).**
- **Dr Irina Santiago-Brown.**
- **Our SAW Program contributors to all versions – Codes of Conduct developers, SAW Chapter Authors and Reviewers (for both versions), our on-line system developer, and our Auditors.**
- **Our regional neighbours and partners**

Where not otherwise credited, all images in this document are courtesy of Wine Australia

This is a shared success in leadership of our regional community and grape and wine community.

Publisher	McLaren Vale Grape Wine & Tourism Association
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The Sustainable Winegrowing Australia membership data contained in this report was provided to McLaren Vale Grape Wine & Tourism Association by the Australian Wine Research Institute in an aggregated and de-identified format and was accurate at 16 September 2022.

For more information about Sustainable Winegrowing Australia, please visit: www.sustainablewinegrowing.com.au

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A COLLABORATION BETWEEN



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