



Top wine writers visit

More than 30 of England's top sommeliers, wine writers and wine influencers visited the Clare Valley last week to sample the region's finest wines.

Among the wine experts who travelled more than 24 hours to attend the event were Oz Clarke, winner of the Louis Roederer International Wine Writers' Award for his book, *Bordeaux*; Robert Joseph, founder of the *Wine International Magazine* and *International Wine Competition* in London; and Jane Masters, Master of Wine and former wine buyer for Marks & Spencer.

The event, held at Clare Showgrounds, featured key educational sessions including a tutored tasting on selected Riesling and Cabernet Sauvignon.

In addition, each winery participated in a tasting to showcase their top wines.

Following the tasting the English wine influencers mingled with the winemakers, taking the opportunity to discuss winemaking techniques, vintage conditions and market trends.

Taylor's Wines chief winemaker Adam Eggins was among the winemakers who interacted with the influential crowd.

Mr Eggins suggested the event was invaluable for the insight he was able to gain into the English market, but also to remind the wine influencers that Australia continues to produce world-class wines.

"The oversupply of cheap Australian wine has caused some global critics to question Australia's wine quality, yet there are countless producers making world-class wines," Mr Eggins said.

"We were delighted that our English guests were able to experience some classic Clare Valley wine styles and we really feel it altered their perception of Australian wine for the better."



International wine writer Oz Clarke shares his thoughts on Australian wine



Jeffrey Grosset, of Grosset Wines, conducts the Master Class in the Clare Showgrounds brick pavilion.



In Flight Services managing director Roger Craig, winemaker Tim Adams and international wine writer Oz Clarke.



Clare proprietor Sam Barry, Jim Barry Wines managing director Peter Barry, international wine writer Oz Clarke and Jim Barry Wines winemaker Tom Barry.



UK retailer Paul Hexter, Jim Barry Wines managing director Peter Barry, Taylors Wines general manager Neil Jericho, and UK wine buyer Richard Allisette.



Kilikanoon Wines chief executive Nathan Waks with Wine International Magazine editor Robert Joseph.

PHOTOS: KATHERINE LINDH