

# THORN-CLARKE WINES

## THORN-CLARKE WINES DOUBLES A-GRADE FRUIT PRODUCTION WITH BOOSTED EUTYPA PROGRAM



Two years after significantly extending its Eutypa reworking program, Barossa winery Thorn-Clarke Wines has more than doubled its A grade fruit production.

The 250ha winery, which has 15 vineyards located across Eden Valley and northern Barossa Valley, decided to boost its reworking program after a vineyard analysis identified nearly 40% unproductive cordon.

Thorn-Clarke committed to a five-year program in 2016, which increased vineyard reworking from two hectares (ha) per year to 35ha, followed by 55ha in 2017. According to the winery's viticulturist Steve Fiebiger, the boosted program quickly paid dividends, with repaired vineyards producing improved yields without suffering any loss of quality.

"Our C Grade production has increased from below 5t/ha to more than 8.5t/ha," said Steve. "Our A Grade production was down to less than 2t/ha but now we've achieved our 5.5t/ha mark."

### MANAGING COSTS ON A LARGE SCALE

Increasing the program's scale without a cost blow-out has required the winery to take a broad-brush approach to reworking. "We found that to minimise costs when doing reworking on a broad acreage that we can't get too bogged down in the nitty gritty with individual vines," said Steve.

This means that cordons showing Eutypa infection, even after reworking, are now cut off at the drip line and allowed to sprawl without any further attention during the first season. "This way we minimise our labour costs and we tend to those vines the following winter," said Steve. There is also the added benefit of improving spur positioning by delaying rod and spur pruning. "If we rod and spur prune the vine in the second winter that allows us to select better wood to lay down a more even cordon in the following season," he said. "And that improves spur positioning and also minimises a big gap on the V of the vine."

*For more information on Barossa's focus on sustainability go to <https://www.barossawine.com/vineyards/resilience/> or contact Nicki Robins, Viticultural Development Officer, Barossa Grape & Wine Association at [nicki@barossa.com](mailto:nicki@barossa.com)*