



wineries of the region

Big Hill Vineyard

BIG Hill Vineyard is hosting a cocktail party on March 12 in their new "Big Shed" function hosting facility to showcase all the options the vineyard has to offer.

Guests at the cocktail party will have the opportunity to browse through the different function rooms, view a wedding set up, sample award winning wines and gourmet foods, stroll through the gardens and the vineyard and

check out the barbecue and gazebo areas.

Set in beautiful natural surroundings, only 12 kilometres south of Bendigo, this is a relaxing and stylish place for people to have their weddings, functions and corporate events.

Not only do the shiraz vines at the Big Hill Vineyard produce delicious, award-winning wine, they also provide a beautiful backdrop and an ideal location for



special occasion photos to be taken.

Big Hill is also a fine vineyard that produces award-winning wines.

Available from the cellar door are shiraz, chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, cabernet sauvignon, verdelho, botrytis, port, muscat, granite white and granite red.

Coffee and cake is also available and a trip to the vineyard followed up by a lovely glass or two of wine and coffee or cake is a lovely way to spend the afternoon.



What: Big Hill Vineyard
Where: Corner Calder Highway and Belvoir Park Road Big Hill
Contact: 5435-3366



Friday August 13, 2004 - Bendigo Weekly 7

Big day of music to feature at Big Hill

ACOUSTIC soloist Scott Graham will headline a big day of music at the Big Hill Winery on Sunday.

Big Times in Big Hill's new Big Shed will feature Scott presenting his range from finger-style guitar of James Taylor, to the laid back feel of Jack Johnson and Pete Murray, and the rhythm of Oasis, the Goo Go Dolls and Powderfinger.

The concert, which runs from 2pm to 5pm, will be held in the winery's new shed, which used to house a hay stack at Ortech Industries in Golden Square.

The 60-year old shed with red gum posts was recycled and has created a stunning addition to the winery.

It will be an ideal asset for functions of all types.

To book tickets for the concert, phone 5435 3366. Tickets are \$15 adults (including tasting glass) and \$5 for children.



Weddings

4 course formal dining inc. drinks \$69
The gardens and gazebo are available for photos and ceremonies at no extra cost.
Saturday February 12th & 19th 2005 are still available

Fine Dining

2 course meal \$29 - 3 course meal \$36

Conferences

Catering for small and large groups

Cocktail Parties

Delicious selection of savouries from \$15

Gourmet BBQ

Selection of premium meats & salads \$20

Afternoon Tea

Great selection of slices \$7

Minimums Apply
Bookings Essential



Cellar Door Sales

Wines from \$7.50 - Coffee & Cake \$5
Free Wine Tasting

Open 7 Days 10am - 5pm
www.bighillvineyard.com
Calder Highway
Big Hill Bendigo
Phone: 5435 3366

Get Heritage tickets



UNCORKED: Big Hill Winery's Wayne Gordes.

TICKETS for the Bendigo Heritage Uncorked event go on sale today at 10 am.

Locals will need to get in quick, as tickets to last year's event sold out within three hours.

Food and wine lovers from across the country will converge on Bendigo for the October 11 and 12 festival, which will this year feature the Town Hall as its centrepiece.

It will be the first time since its refurbishment that Bendigo's premier historical building has housed part of the festival.

The event showcases food and wine from across the region in a selection of Bendigo's historic landmarks.

As well as the Town Hall, this year's venues include the Bendigo Art Gallery, Whirrakee, the Shamrock Hotel, Greystones, the Cafe Tram, the Sandhurst Trustees building and the former School of Mines Library.

Local restaurants and in-house caterers will provide food to accompany the wine.

Tickets can be purchased from the Capital Theatre or on 5441-5344 or fax on 5441-6375.

Tickets are \$80 each and are limited to 400.



25th, 2004 – Bendigo Weekly • 9 +

BIG HILL VINEYARD

A big day was had by over 100 revellers who attended the opening of the "Big Shed" at Big Hill Vineyard.

Manager, Phil Barlett was thrilled with the attendance considering it was almost 40C in the sun.

The release of the estate Merlot and Cabernet was well received and many cases were sold.

The shed can easily accommodate 300 guests and we look forward to hosting other events such as a family movie night.

Many of the guests commented that the \$15, which included a tasting glass, wine tastings and gourmet finger foods was exceptional value for money and that they will be attending the event again next year. Many were impressed with the effort that went into constructing the shed from 60 year old recycled materials. The venue has already been booked for upcoming weddings and sporting functions.



Weddings
4 course formal dining inc. drinks \$69

The gardens and gazebo are available for photos and ceremonies at no extra cost.

Fine Dining
2 course meal \$29 - 3 course meal \$36

Conferences
Catering for small and large groups

Cocktail Parties
Delicious selection of savouries from \$15

Gourmet BBQ
Selection of premium meats & salads \$20

Afternoon Tea
Great selection of slices \$7

Minimums Apply
Bookings Essential

Cellar Door Sales
Wines from \$7.50
Coffee & Cake \$5
Free Wine Tasting

Open 7 Days 10am — 5pm
www.bighillvineyard.com
Calder Highway
Big Hill Bendigo
Phone: 5435 3366



BIG HILL VINEYARD

Weddings

4 course formal dining inc. drinks \$80
The gardens and gazebo are available for photos and ceremonies at no extra cost

Fine Dining

2 course meal \$36 - 3 course meal \$45

Conferences

Catering for small and large groups

Cocktail Parties

Delicious selection of savouries from \$15

Gourmet BBQ

Selection of premium meats & salads \$25

Afternoon Tea

Great selection of slices \$7

Minimums Apply
Bookings Essential

CELLAR DOOR SALES

Wines from \$7.50 - Coffee & Cake \$5 - Free Wine Tasting

OPEN 7 DAYS - 10am - 5pm
Calder Highway, Big Hill, Bendigo

www.bighillvineyard.com
Ph 5435 3366





A DAY ON THE GREEN
Saturday Night - 26th February 2005

Weddings
4 course formal dining inc. drinks \$69
The gardens and gazebo are available for photos and ceremonies at no extra cost.
Saturday February 12th & 19th 2005 are still available

Fine Dining
2 course meal \$29 - 3 course meal \$36

Conferences
Catering for small and large groups

Cocktail Parties
Delicious selection of savouries from \$15

Gourmet BBQ
Selection of premium meats & salads \$20

Afternoon Tea
Great selection of slices \$7

Minimums Apply
Bookings Essential



Cellar Door Sales
Wines from \$7.50 - Coffee & Cake \$5
Free Wine Tasting

Open 7 Days 10am - 5pm
Friday April 16, 2004 – Bendigo Weekly • 9



Weddings
4 course formal dining inc. drinks \$69
The gardens and gazebo are available for photos and ceremonies at no extra cost.

Fine Dining
2 course meal \$29 - 3 course meal \$36

Conferences
Catering for small and large groups

Cocktail Parties
Delicious selection of savouries from \$15

Gourmet BBQ
Selection of premium meats & salads \$20

Afternoon Tea
Great selection of slices \$7

Minimums Apply
Bookings Essential



Cellar Door Sales
Wines from \$7.50



CLOSE TO HOME: John Ellis and Nick Cugura sample some of the Big Hill Wines which use locally-grown grapes.

Big praise for B

By LUKE WEST

SINCE its first shiraz block was planted in 1998, it seems Bendigo's Big Hill Vineyard can do no wrong.

Big Hill Vineyard is still well and truly in its infancy, but last month collected one of the most prestigious accolades in the industry.

The vineyard produced the Wine of the Week in the June 3 edition of *The Age's Epicure* lift-out for its 2001 Reserve Shiraz.

The wine received a 4½ star rating out of a possible five by Ralph Kyte-Powell, who said the Reserve Shiraz had lots of minty Bendigo regionality with blackcurrant and juicy blackberry fruit character.

To earn a 4½ star rating by Mr Kyte-Powell, the product must be first class and a wine of distinction.

Thousands of wine labels are tasted by Mr Kyte-Powell yearly and to be recognised as one of just 52 Wine of the Week's is symbolic of the quality being produced at the Calder High-Bendigo vineyard.

The wine was destined for its first grape-

Quaffing

Its first picking in 2000 produced a silver medal-winning Shiraz at last year's Ballarat Wine Show.

It received a rating of 88-100 by renowned wine critic James Halliday — not a bad first-up start for the winery.

This success has come in the wake of rumours circulating since Big Hill Vineyard's first picking that the grapes grown on its estate are not used to produce its wine.

However, director Nick Cugura set the record straight yesterday, assuring the grapes grown at the four-hectare Big Hill Vineyard are made into wine at the Hanging Rock Winery by renowned wine-maker, John Ellis.

Mr Cugura elects to have the Big Hill Vineyard wine made at the Hanging Rock Winery because it's cost-effective.

"Our vision is to produce high quality wine from our estate-grown vineyard and promote the Bendigo wine region," Mr Cugura said.

"The grapes grown at Big Hill Vineyard are managed by Bendigo



TOP DROP: Nick Cugura

identity Harry Schier and they are made under contract at the Hanging Rock Winery.

"The Big Hill Vineyard produces wines from 100% estate-grown Big Hill grapes and because of the strong demand for the local wine, the Shiraz vineyard in front of the cellar door will be harvested again next month," he



Grand day planned

SUPPORTING Tim Finn at the Big Hill Vineyard on October 27 will be one of the most powerful singing and songwriting line-ups seen in the region for years, according to organisers.

Music diva Renee Geyer, one of the highlights at last year's Day on the Green, will be back by popular demand, according to Day publicist Chrissie Camp.

Geyer possessed one of the most versatile and stunning voices in contemporary music.

She would perform many of her hits, including "It's a Man's World, Say I Love You and Heading in the Right Direction".

Richard Clapton, who Camp described as one of the most influential artists of our times, would also perform.

"Celebrating the success of his first live album in 12 years, Up And Down The Glory Road, Clapton's passionate about rock 'n' roll and this shows in his live performance.

"Girls On The Avenue, Goodbye Tiger, Best Years Of Our Lives, Deep Water and Capricorn Dancer are just a few of the reasons why Clapton is so well regarded.

"The sweet soulful harmonies of Vika and Linda Bull will be perfect for the day on the green.

"Through their career with The Black Sorrows, and several platinum and gold albums as the Bull sisters, Vika and Linda's glorious voices and charming on stage presence has endeared them to concert audiences across Australia.

Things Of Stone And Wood reunited 12 months ago and this year will release a compilation album marking their 10-year history.

"The band's spirited folk/pop sound will be the perfect opener for the afternoon," Camp said.

All artists would perform with full bands — no acoustic sets.

Children would be treated to an entertainment zone of their own away from the

main stage, featuring a kid's disco, "balloonology", "bubbleology", circus workshops, roving performers, face painting, storytelling and more.

Children under 12 will be admitted free.

This year's event will host a larger "market" area for food, arts and crafts stalls.

Anyone interested in taking a stall should contact (03) 9695-7822.

Trains from Melbourne will also run this year to again help bring in visitors to the region.

Ticket prices are \$53.80, plus booking fee.

Tickets for a Day on the Green 2002 will go on sale from August 26 through Ticketmaster7 by phone on 136-100 and the Internet on www.ticketmaster7.com.au

For more information about a Day on the Green, visit the website at www adayonthegreen.com.au



SHADES: Richard Clapton takes to the stage at A Day on the Green.



Nick Cugura and Janine Leach were married March 23rd in the picturesque vineyards at Big Hill Winery followed by a reception.

WIN A Day on the Green package

4 tickets to A Day On The Green
1 bottle of granite white & 1 bottle of granite red compliments of the Big Hill Vineyard.
1 \$50 hamper compliments of the Green Olive.

The Green Olive are taking orders for hampers for the event to save people the fuss of organising their own.

FIND THESE WORDS:

Paul Kelly, James Reyne, Renee Geyer, Big Hill Winery, Wine, Music, Hamper, Los Chalenos, Vika, Linda, Lawn, Enjoy, Open air, Rug, October, Bendigo, Calder, Food, Performers, Entertained, Picnic, Fun.

Complete the find a word and the remaining letters will spell out a special sentence. Send the coupon to A Day On The Green Competition, PO Box 61, Bendigo, 3552. Entries close last mail on Thursday, October 18.

NEWS UPDATE



They took the music world by storm many years ago, now they are teaming up once more for A Day On The Green. Music legend Paul Kelly and Vika and Linda Bull are set to once again grace the stage together, rekindling memories of one of the great acts in Australian music industry. See the reunion at A Day On The Green, Big Hill Winery, on October 28. Sponsored by Retravision

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ted musicians, will headline the A Day on the Green, of Split Enz and Crowded House Geyer, singers Vika and Linda Bull and Full story — Pages 8-9



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HEADLINE ACT: Tim Finn is one of the world's most respected n



CROWDED STAGE: Tim Finn, one of the world's most r
on the Green concert at the Big Hill vineyard on October
fame, will be joined by rock icon Richard Clapton, diva R
Things Of Stone And Wood.

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SPRING 2003

FOCUS

Ready for a big day out

WELCOME in the warmer weather and the
first day of daylight savings' time with
fine food, wine and music.

The third annual A Day on the Green
festival will be held at Big Hill
vineyard on Sunday, October 26.

This year's musical line-up is
first class with Birtles, Shorrocks
and Goble - the original voices
and songwriters of the Little River
Band, Kate Ceberano, Tim
Freedman of The Whitlams, and
Geoff Achison.

Pack a picnic hamper or feast
on the many gourmet delights,
which will be available at the
vineyard on the day.

The event is fully license and
has a strict no BYO alcohol
policy.

Shuttle buses will depart from

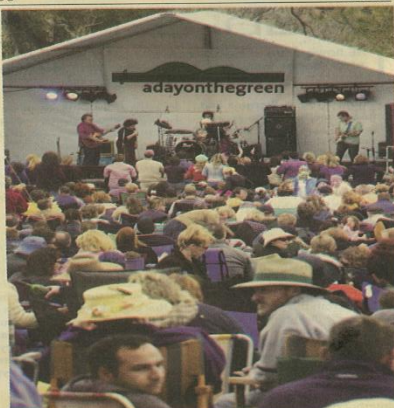
the Bendigo Visitor Information
Centre, Pall Mall at noon,
12.30pm, and 1pm to transport
patrons to the event.

Parking is also available at the
site.

Buses will also depart the
venue at the end of the event
between 7pm and 8pm.

Tickets for the event are
available from Big Hill vineyard,
phone 5435-3366, or from
Ticketmaster7, phone 13-6100 or
online at www.ticketmaster7.com.

A day for the whole family,
children can enjoy themselves in
the special entertainment zone set
up just for them.





success judged an outstanding last year, the concert event series A sen returns to Bendigo on October 27.

of daylight saving will superb line-up of Australian singer/songwriters to the stunning surf-funk Vineyard.

On The Green concert is quality music, fine in beautiful outdoor concert will be the first nationally this summer. singer Nick Cugura said he for the whole family bring a rug or chair to picnic and enjoy the

"Parents can relax and enjoy themselves for a day, and take the opportunity to hear music that's not at a pub or nightclub, so they can bring the kids along," he said.

"The day is designed for everyone to enjoy."

This year's music line-up includes-Tim Finn, Renee Geyer, Richard Clapton, Vika and Linda Bull and Things Of Stone And Wood.

Because of rescheduled touring commitments, Kasey Chambers will be unable to perform as previously announced.

For those who don't want to pack a picnic, they can enjoy the eight food vendors at the vineyard.

version burgers will be available, along with an ice-cream stall and a health food stand.

"Picnic baskets are welcome, but the event is strictly no BYO alcohol," Mr Cugura said.

Big Hill Vineyard and Tyrell's Winery will have wine stalls on the day, and beer and spirits will also be available.

"Patrons were responsible drinkers last year and we encourage them to do the same this year by organising a designated driver or taking the shut-

Last year more than 4000 music lovers enjoyed the A Day On The Green experience, with local tourism authorities, the shire councils and music fans in surrounding areas all declaring the event a resounding success.

A new attraction this year will be the kids entertainment zone.

Children will be treated to an entertainment zone of their own, away from the main stage, featuring a kid's disco, balloonology, bubbleology, circus workshops, roving performers, face painting, storytelling and more.

Shuttle buses which leave the Visitor Information Centre, Pall Mall, hourly from 11.30 am at a cost of \$2 each way.

Ticket prices are \$53.80 plus booking fee. Children under 12 are admitted free.

Tickets are available at Big Hill Vineyard, phone 5435-3366, or from Ticketmaster7, phone 13-6100 or www.ticketmaster7.com.au

The Bendigo Advertiser, Big Hill Vineyard and Roundhouse Entertainment have **two A Day On The Green double passes** and **two bottles of Big Hill Bendigo Shiraz 2000** to give away. To enter, fill in your name, address and phone number on the entry below, along with the answer to the following question:

What change does the A Day On The Green Bendigo concert welcome in?

ge does the A Day On The Green Bendigo S

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Answer:

Send your entries to: A Day On The Green Giveaway, PO Box 61, Bendigo 3552

Winners will be announced next Tuesday.



Corner Calder Highway and
Belvoir Park Rd

BIG HILL VINEYARD ▲
Christmas Dinner Saturday December 14th.
3 courses \$38 p.p plus drinks. Includes
live entertainment. Bookings essential.
Phone 5435 3366

4000 expected on green

Buses to the event leave the Visitor Information Centre, in Pall Mall, from 11.30 am

"The area set aside for the kids means mum and dad can have a great time as

opportunity to hear big
name acts, enjoy great food
and wine and have a day out
with the family?"

This year's line-up in-

When approached by many agencies eager to host the event, "This year we will hold events in Perth, Mudgee and

We are on a par with net sales for last year's event" promoter Michael Atkinson said.

SOME 4000 food, wine and music lovers are expected to head to Big Hill Vineyard tomorrow.

Parking is available on site and organisers are hoping patrons will be responsible drinkers and arrange a designated driver or catch a return bus to Bendigo.

Patrons are encouraged to pack a picnic basket for the event, or grab something to eat from the eight gourmet food stalls on site.

“Bendigo needs to get behind events such as this,”

Big Hill Vineyard manager
ack Cugura said the event
is ideal for anyone who
ved a good time outdoors.

We are still expecting quite a few to buy their seats at the gate."

The vineyard will host the A Day on the Green concert for the second year.

Tickets cost \$53.80 plus a booking fee and are available by phoning 5435-3366, Ticketmaster, or at the gate.

No BYO alcohol will be permitted into the grounds. Wines from Big Hill and Frell's will be available by

"It's great for the whole city." As well as the music, this event includes market

"The event is great for the region," he said.

...wards around the nation, celebration of Australian music, food and wine. Last year's concerts wor-

Bendigo's event is timed to coincide with the first day of daylight savings giving pat-



IN THE GROOVE: Meagan Hollings and Ami Pearson were among the thousands of people to get into the swing of things at A Day on the Green at Big Hill Vineyard yesterday.

Picture: ANDREW PERRYMAN.

BENDIGO DAZZLES

By GREG DUNDAS

BENDIGO businesses will be smiling after another hectic, but profitable weekend, fuelled by a variety of major events held throughout the city and region.

Top of the card was yesterday's A Day on the Green concert at the Big Hill Vineyard.

About 3500 patrons strolled through the gates for a relaxing day of entertainment headlined by acclaimed Kiwi-cum-Aussie singer-songwriter Tim Finn.

Other events which attracted tourists to the city and kept Bendigo's masses entertained were the Bendigo Agricultural Show, the

Mount Tarangower Hill Climb and the Girl's Day Out race-meet at the Bendigo Jockey Club.

The Show's entertainment program ended on Saturday night with a spectacular fireworks display before the conclusion of horse events yesterday.

The Hill Climb ventured into a two-day format for the first time, with great success. Australian motorsports legend Graeme Hornville recorded the fastest time of the day.

Time wasn't so important out at Big Hill, where patrons kicked back to the tunes of Finn, diva Renee Geyer, rocker Richard Clapton, harmonic duo Vika and Linda Bull and

acclaimed folk/pop artists Things of Stone and Wood.

The relaxed family atmosphere proved a winner with patrons and organisers.

Vineyard marketing director Nick Cagura applauded the event's management group, Roundhouse Entertainment, for improving on last year's maiden effort.

"We're ecstatic," he said. "Last year was good, but this year has been much better again. Roundhouse have managed to address the three anomalies from last year which were entertainment for the kids, toilets and variety of food."

Although the supposed-green was tinged with more brown than organ-

isers would have hoped, Mr Cagura said patrons were understanding about the dry conditions.

"People are aware we are in a drought," he said. "Our 30-Ml dam is now less than five, and I think it might be good for people to see that."

"Hopefully, people will be a bit more appreciative of their water."

Roundhouse spokesman Michael Newton said Big Hill was the perfect place to launch the A Day on the Green concert series, and his company would be back again next year.

"We just love doing regional shows," he said.

More — Page 2



BIG HILL VINEYARD

Cnr Calder Hwy & Belvoir Park Rd
Big Hill Bendigo 3453
Tel: (03) 5435 3366
Fax: (03) 5435 3311

MEMBERSHIP CARD

10% Discount
on wine and café purchases

No: **1**

Bendigo dazzles

From — Page 1

Mr Cagura said although many bottles of wine were sold on the day, there was a greater motivation for hosting the event.

"Promoting Big Hill Vineyard comes secondary to promoting Bendigo," he said.

"People are not here for Big Hill, they are here for a central Victorian concert. "Selling wine is just a bonus."

A day on the green at Big Hill



Kate Ceberano

This first day of daylight saving, Sunday October 26, will feature another superb line-up of Australian talent at 'a day on the green' as Birtles, Shorrocks and Goble (the original voices and songwriters of Little River Band), Kate Ceberano and Tim Freedman rock Bendigo's Big Hill Vineyard.

Last year more than 3000 music lovers enjoyed the 'a day on the green' experience and this year, the combination of these high calibre artists, and the picturesque setting of the lush green surrounds of the Big Hill Vineyard, will offer incredible value for money.

"Nationally the event has gone from strength to strength, providing a great platform for many of our best artists to perform," said promoter Michael Newton. "We definitely have a soft spot for Bendigo, as it was our first ever event and we look

forward to this third one being the most successful yet."

'A day on the green' will start at 1.30pm (gates open at 1pm) and is a fully licensed event. Deck chairs and picnic rugs are recommended however there is strictly no BYO alcohol.

Once again the very popular Kids Entertainment Zone will be running, with children's entertainers, face painting, story telling and other activities available for the kids during the afternoon.

Parking is available on site. Shuttle buses will depart from the Visitor Information Centre, Pall Mall at 12 noon, 12.30pm and 1pm and return between 7pm and 8pm at a cost of \$2 each way.

Tickets to the event which are available from Big Hill Vineyard (Phone 5435 3366), are priced at \$59, plus booking fee, (children under 12 are admitted free).

Bendigo 2003 heritage fair

Bendigo Town Hall
Hargreaves Street, Bendigo

Saturday 25 October 2003
10am - 4pm
FREE ADMISSION

Trade Displays, Product Demonstrations,
Seminars and Free Town Hall Tours.

Presented by you & us



22 EPIURE

THE AGE TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2003

RALPH KYTE-POWELL

RATINGS

★★★★★
A superb example, a near-perfect wine of great character, worthy of the big occasion and the best company.

★★★★☆
First class, a wine of distinction not far below the top rating.

★★★★
A very good wine of real style and personality.

★★★☆☆
Good quality, a cut above average.

★★★
A sound, agreeable wine without faults or nasty habits.

VALUE

\$\$\$
A wine with a price tag that makes it a steal.

\$\$\$
Reasonably priced relative to quality.

\$
A price tag that stretches things.

BIG HILL VINEYARD RESERVE SHIRAZ 2001 \$30

The Bendigo district was one of the great 19th-century wine regions of Victoria, but the scourge of phylloxera put an end to viticulture there for nearly a century. Now reborn, it's one of the most vibrant regions of all, with new labels popping up all the time. Big Hill Vineyard is one of them and their early products suggest this will be a name to watch in the future. This reserve shiraz has lots of minty regionality with blackcurrant and juicy blackberry fruit character. There's a good dose of vanillin oak in the mix, too, but it doesn't completely overpower things. It has good body and plentiful long flavour with balanced tannins.

Ageing? Yes, two to six years plus.

Food ideas: Roast beef.

Stockists include:

Available from Big Hill Vineyard cellar door on

www.bighillvineyard.com

or phone 5435 3366

Rating: ★★★★★ \$\$\$



Wine of the week

Under \$18

\$18 to \$30

Indulge yourself

RIVERINA ESTATE LOMBARD STATION CHARDONNAY 2001 \$12-\$14

Riverina Estate, in the Griffith region, is making typically reasonably priced, easy-drinking wines. This chardonnay has a bright yellow-green colour and a ripe nose of peachy fruit and well-modulated oak for the style. The palate has succulent flavour and smooth texture, but it falls away a little at the end. Good value.

Ageing? Drink young and fresh.

Food ideas: Chicken stir-fries; fried prawns.

Stockists include: Cable Car Wines and Spirits; Elwood; Jack's, Ballarat.

Rating: ★★★★★ \$\$\$



TRENTHAM ESTATE PETIT VERDOT 2001 \$18-\$19

An increasing number of growers in the Murray Valley vineyards see Bordeaux's minor red grape, petit verdot, as well suited to their warm vineyards. Trentham's version is a persuasive argument in favour. It has attractive blackcurrant character and a measured veneer of sweet oak. Juicy flavour is offset by ripe tannins.

Ageing? Drink over three years.

Food ideas: Roast racks of lamb.

Stockists include: Coburg Wines and Spirits; Alf's Wine Store, Richmond.

Rating: ★★★★★ \$\$\$



ROCKBARE SHIRAZ 2002 \$16-\$17

This new South Australian name has a range of good-value wines under a minimalist label that makes them look as though they cost a lot more. From McLaren Vale, this shiraz has fruitcake and lightly earthy aromas of good intensity. Oak is subtly applied and the medium-bodied palate has good balance.

Ageing? Drink over two years.

Food ideas: Good bratwurst; roast vegetable risotto.

Stockists include: Boccaccio, Balwyn; Red Bluff Cellars, Black Rock.

Rating: ★★★★★ \$\$\$



CORIOLE SANGIOVESE 2001 \$20-\$22

More than 15 years ago, Coriole at McLaren Vale pioneered the Tuscan red grape, sangiovese, in Australia. This latest vintage has good varietal personality and some savoury charm. It's paler than most reds, with raspberry, red cherry, leather and woody aromas, and a dry, savoury, medium-intensity palate with a firm backbone underneath.

Ageing? Drink over two years.

Food ideas: Scallopine; pasta with chicken livers.

Stockists include: Armadale Cellars; Rathdowne Cellars.

Rating: ★★★★★ \$\$\$



BRAND'S STENTIFORD'S RESERVE OLD VINES SHIRAZ 1999 \$58-\$60

Made from Coonawarra vines planted 107 years ago, this is one of the modern flagships for the region's shiraz. It's a powerfully concentrated wine dressed in plenty of spicy oak, but it's not too heavy and the extra fine Coonawarra fruit character shows through. There's a loganberry fruit thing and warm spice to it, and ripe tannins support it in style.

Ageing? Drink over 10 years.

Food ideas: Braised oxtail; wild mushroom ragu with polenta.

Stockists include: Mono Cellars, South Yarra; Vintage Cellars, city.

Rating: ★★★★★ \$\$\$



PEGASUS BAY PINOT NOIR 2001 \$56-\$60

There's a lot of hype around about Kiwi pinot noir - some well justified, some less so. Pegasus Bay is one of the wines to take notice of, a concentrated inky style with a nose of stewed plum, sweet spices and high-toned chocolaty oak. It's a very butch, meaty pinot with a lush, exotically rich palate, full body, velvet texture and fine, ripe tannins.

Ageing? Drink over four years.

Food ideas: Beef fillet; venison.

Stockists include: Randall the Wine Merchant, Albert Park; Oakleigh Discount Liquor.

Rating: ★★★★★ \$\$\$



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Fabulous Day on the Green enjoyed by 2000

THE wine flowed freely yesterday as more than 2000 people packed into the Big Hill Winery's Day on the Green concert.

With crystal clear skies and music from Kate Ceberano, Birtles, Shorrocks and Goble and Tim Freedman the winery's scenic

grounds were quickly filled as people settled in for a big day of entertainment.

Big Hill Winery managing director Nick Sugura said that with six hours of music and free children's entertainment the day was enjoyed by people of all ages.

"There was a really good vibe here today," Mr Sugura said.

"The bands were well received and they interacted with the crowd really well."

"Everyone had a good time and was well behaved."

Now in its third year, Mr

Sugura said the festival was really finding its feet and many people were regulars to the winery.

"Central Victoria is really lucky to have this event," he said. I am thankful for the community supporting it."

Pictures — Page 14



Kate Ceberano



BIG HILL VINEYARD

Weddings
4 course formal dining inc. drinks \$80
The gardens and gazebo are available for photos and ceremonies at no extra cost

Fine Dining
2 course meal \$36 - 3 course meal \$45

Conferences
Catering for small and large groups

Cocktail Parties
Delicious selection of savouries from \$15

Gourmet BBQ
Selection of premium meats & salads \$25

Afternoon Tea
Great selection of slices \$7
Minimums Apply
Bookings Essential

CELLAR DOOR SALES
Wines from \$7.50 - Coffee & Cake \$5 - Free Wine Tasting

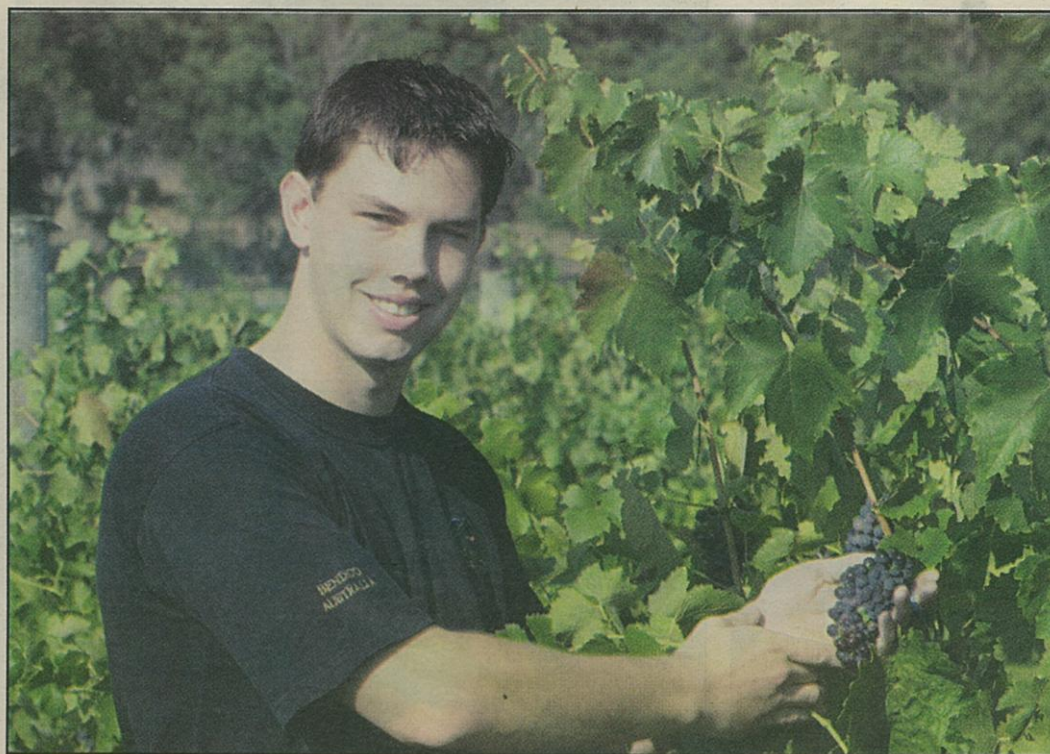
OPEN 7 DAYS - 10am - 5pm
Calder Highway, Big Hill, Bendigo

www.bighillvineyard.com
Ph 5435 3366

BIG HILL VINEYARD
barbecue meals
now available
7 days.
Everyone welcome



TOP DROP: Big Hill Vineyard cellar door manager Matt O'Brien checks the crop (right) and tastes the 2001 Shiraz (below) which has been awarded a silver medal.



Big Hill on a winner

By KIM MAWSON

BIG Hill Vineyard has come a long way since it was first planted in 1998.

Just 13 km from Bendigo, Big Hill has produced a silver medal-winning wine.

It's first vintage of shiraz (2000) was sent to the Ballarat Show where it was awarded a silver medal from noted wine writer James Halliday.

Not bad for a first vintage.

The 2001 shiraz also shows signs of being a winner, and so far it has picked up a bronze medal at the Seymour Agricultural Show.

As the 2000 was its first crop, the wine was only entered in one show, and the directors were pleased to come away with a silver.

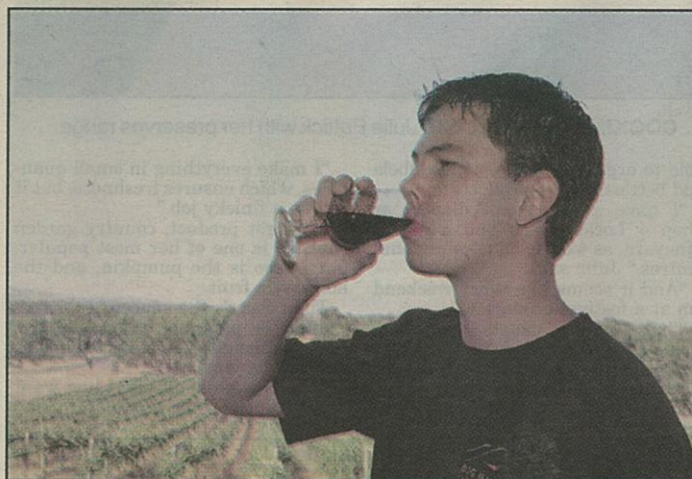
"The directors only wanted to enter the wine in local shows, and sent it to Ballarat for judging, and they are pleased with the result," cellar door manager Matt O'Brien said.

"The 2000 was our first effort and we believe the 2001 will do even better," Matt said.

"It (the 2001) is ageing very nicely and should do well at this year's Ballarat Show," he said.

"We want our wines to be accepted locally and we've kept it's entries to local wine shows at this stage."

While the 2001 shiraz is still a



young wine, it shows plenty of potential and winemaker John Ellis has recommended cellaring it for five to eight years.

According to Matt the 2000 is a medium-bodied wine which is perfect for drinking now and the 2001 is a big, full-bodied shiraz which should please wine lovers.

Along with the 2001 release, a reserve shiraz was also created.

"The 2001 yield was considerably higher than 2000 and was a higher quality crop, and the reserve was made to reflect this," Matt said.

"The reserve has a high baumé,

or sugar content, and it's a 14.4 per cent alcohol wine, which shows it will develop well in time," he said.

"To have a winemaker of John Ellis' standard making our wine is a great honour," Matt said.

"He is certainly known for creating superb wines, and he has done so at Big Hill."

New crops have also been planted at the Big Hill site, with cabernet sauvignon and merlot to be picked in 2004.

"This will allow the vineyard to look at the possibility of creating red blends such as shiraz

cabernet, which John Ellis will also make," Matt said.

While the drought has had a slight effect on the vineyard, with a smaller yield, they are expecting big things from 2002 vintage.

"The drier conditions will add intensity to the flavour of the fruit, meaning we should have a superb wine."

The directors have been pleased with the wine's early success and will look to export the wine to the US market in the near future.

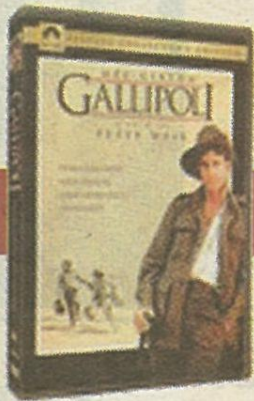
At present the wine is available from the cellar door and several local wine retailers, and IGA supermarkets.

"We also have Yarra Valley Wine Consultants distributing to some outlets in Melbourne," Matt said.

"The priority has always been to the local market, and the directors are keen to support local events and charities before looking further afield," he said.

The cellar door and reception centre overlooks the five-acre shiraz block, and has recently had a facelift.

"Bendigo is known as the red centre of Victoria and our success adds to that reputation."



Big Times in Big Hill's ne

MOVIES IN THE SHED

Do you miss going to the drive-in?

Do you miss the relaxed, laid back atmosphere of watching a movie outdoors?

Come to Big Hill Vineyard where you can enjoy a movie in the recently constructed "Big Shed", a 30 x 14 metre open shed, built from 60 year old recycled metal and red gum posts. The shed is ideal for those seeking a rustic venue in which to see a movie and enjoy refreshments in a relaxed atmosphere amongst the vines. The movie concept was suggested by many of the guests that attended the recent "Reds In The Shed" function. Hay bales are available but you may prefer to bring your own chair and rug. V meals will be available for purchase from only \$1. Movies will be held monthly between October and March. 'Rocky Horror Show', 'Sideways', 'Mad Max' and 'Officer and a Gentleman' are planned, the rest will be able to make suggestions.

The first screening will be on Easter Saturday

Gates open at 6.00pm and the movie "Gallipoli" (Rat

Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets: Adults \$8, Children (ov

BIG HILL VINEYARD

Corner Calder Hwy
& Belvoir Park Road,
Big Hill

Ph 5435 3366

www.bighillvineyard.com

Groove away a big day at Big Hill

ACOUSTIC soloist Scott Graham will headline a big day of music at the Big Hill Winery this Sunday.

Big Times in Big Hill's new Big Shed will feature Mr Graham presenting his range from finger-style guitar of James Taylor, to the laid back feel of Jack Johnson and Pete Murray, to the rhythm of Oasis, the Goo Goo Dolls and Powderfinger.

The concert will take place in the winery's new shed, which used to house a hay stack at

Ortech Industries in Golden Square.

The 60-year old shed with red gum posts has found a new lease of life at Big Hill and created a stunning addition to the winery.

It will be an ideal asset for functions of all types.

The concert will take place Sunday, March 12 from 2pm to 5pm.

Tickets are \$15 adults (including tasting glass) and \$5 for children, telephone 5435 3366 to book your tickets.

Big Hill concert success

Bendigo's Big Hill Vineyard held an outdoor concert last Sunday week, featuring some of Australia's greatest musical talents!

'A Day on the Green', drew a crowd of 3500 people from as far as Melbourne to see Paul Kelly, Linda and Vika Bull, James Reyne and Renee Geyer perform in ideal conditions on the lawns of the Vineyard. The five music legends delighted the audience as they performed a final number altogether on stage.

The event was organised through promoters Roundhouse Entertainment together with Vineyard owner, Nick Cugura, who was so pleased with the response that the concert will now become an annual event, held on the first day of daylight savings every year. Next Year's concert is already set for October 27.

Members of the audience reported a fantastic day was had by all and the atmosphere was relaxed, enthusiastic and family-friendly.

Children under 14 entered for free and all ticket holders received a Retravision voucher for a free compilation CD of the artists who performed. The sound was excellent and there was plenty of food and wine to be enjoyed by all. This event will become a must on the Spring calendar!

***Big Hill draws big names:** Linda and Vika Bull join Paul Kelly on stage at Big Hill Vineyard's 'A Day on the Green' concert.



Day on the Green is value for money

SIR — I've written to the Advertiser for ten years and am now seldomly moved to inflict my views further on readers. However, I make an exception in commenting on A Day

on the Green held at Big Hill Vineyard on Sunday.

Bendigo has a long tradition of hosting quality events and this was no exception.

From the moment we were ushered to a parking space until the last bus pulled out of the carpark, the day was superbly organised... and well priced.

With four bands, free buses, a souvenir CD and even a free drink in town afterwards, patrons received value for money.

Even the drinks were moderately priced; I heard numerous people praising organisers for not ripping off a captive audience as is too often the case at these "events".

Yes, the promoters were blessed with fine weather, but they left nothing else to chance to ensure we had an enjoyable day.

The musicians responded with excellent sets and few people went home disappointed.

Congratulations to all concerned — and congratulations Bendigonians for supporting this venture. I am sure our attendance and enthusiasm will assure us of future "Days on the Green".

OWEN DAVIES,
Harley Street.