

TAHBILK

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NEW VINTAGE REDS FROM TAHBILK: A FAMILY OF OLD AND NEW STYLES

Media release – for immediate release

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Victoria's oldest family owned winery, Tahbilk, located in the Nagambie Lakes region of Central Victoria, has released some of its 2014 reds - Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon - which sit proudly beside the 2015 Grenache Shiraz Mourvèdre, the newest member of the red wine family from Tahbilk.

Whilst the single varietals reflect the traditional and classic Tahbilk house style, the newest kid on the block shows a break from tradition, featuring a modern approach to a well-loved, Rhone-style blend.

Vintage 2014 started like vintage 2013, with good winter rain. Spring started well but conditions changed quickly with irrigation of vines required at budburst, however, a late frost on 18th October hit delicate young growth in many of the low-lying vineyards creating some heart stopping moments of concern. Fortunately, the water and native tree cover of the Tahbilk wetlands protected most of the vineyards, minimising the damage to new growth and yields.

Spring was followed by a very dry summer of relentless heat. Vintage started early and all Shiraz was picked by the end of March – a big shift from the 80s and 90s when picking didn't start until after the March long weekend! The fruit shows bright primary flavours, with great depth and concentration. Warm, dry years are traditionally good ones for reds at Tahbilk and the 2014s are no exception.

Whilst showing considerable richness and character, flavour and substance, both 2014 wines are perfect for current drinking, however, will develop further with longer term cellaring.

Whilst winter started well for vintage 2015, with above average rainfall in June and July, August did not deliver a drop! Above average again in September, below in October, high in November and low for December, the rainfall

rollercoaster continued. The unnerving Spring weather continued through December and January however, the vineyards remained healthy and disease free despite the tricky conditions.

January rain brought vibrant green to the vineyards, with open canopies and evenly distributed bunches. Vintage was slowed by a lull in ripening before autumn delivered perfect picking conditions at optimum ripeness. All the reds were picked by 1st of April and the resulting wines were bright and concentrated.

And whilst the 2014 and 2015 weather conditions were challenging, Tahbilk's Chief Winemaker and CEO Alister Purbrick said, "As Victoria's oldest family owned winery, we have seen just about every weather cycle at Tahbilk. The age of our established vineyards and the skill of our teams mean that whilst challenged, we know our land and how to manage it. The resulting 2014 Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon and 2015 Grenache Shiraz Mourvèdre are a testament to the quality of our vineyards and the knowledge of our winemaking and vineyard teams".

The 2014 Shiraz, 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon and 2015 Grenache Shiraz Mourvèdre will be available at selected restaurants and quality independent wine merchants and all have a RRP of \$25.70. Head to www.tahbilk.com.au for more information.

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The Tahbilk range is distributed as follows:

VIC, NSW & QLD: The Wine Company. Phone: 03 9562 3900
SA & NT: Porter & Co. Phone: 08 8373 3010
WA: Off The Vine. Phone: 08 9418 8210
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Interviews and Images are available on request.

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