



ZONTE'S FOOTSTEP

Langhorne Creek, South Australia



Ben Riggs

"They are all fruit-forward, impeccably well-made offerings meant for uncritical drinking that accurately portray their varietal characters, and offer excellent value." Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate* (October, 2004)

WINEMAKER: Ben Riggs FOUNDED: 2004 SIZE: 543 acres

SOILS: Deep, fertile alluvial sandy loams varying from red-brown to dark grey

HARVEST: Late Feb to late April ANNUAL RAINFALL: 15.1 inches

CLIMATE: A "cool desert" - warm days tempered by southerly ocean breezes

VARIETIES PLANTED: Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Viognier, Petit Verdot, Malbec, Verdelho, Pinot Grigio, Mataro, Grenache, Sangiovese, Dolcetto, Barbera, Tempranillo, Vermentino, Roussanne, Lagrien, Marsanne, Graciano, Tannat, Teroldego

PROFILE:

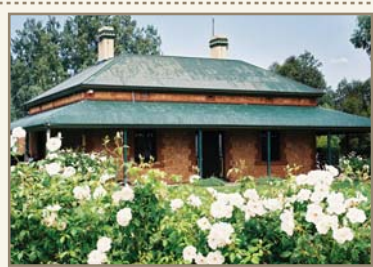
Zonte's Footstep vineyard is named after Langhorne Creek's original 19th century plantings. More than one hundred years after the first plantings of the Zante currant variety were planted in the area, Ben Riggs and Zar Brooks teamed up with a group of mates to re-establish the property. All local grape growers and winemakers, these friends pooled old white pick-ups, new tractors and expertise, eventually establishing more than fifty separate blocks of red and white vinifera grapes to expand upon the original Zante plantings. And the footprint? This is the very same land that the world's largest marsupial, the Diprotodon (or giant wombat) roamed for more than 20 million years until becoming extinct twenty thousand years ago. Eons on, the Zonte's wines are firmly stamping out a footprint of their own, emerging as the vanguard in a revolution of Australian wine styles.

VITICULTURE:

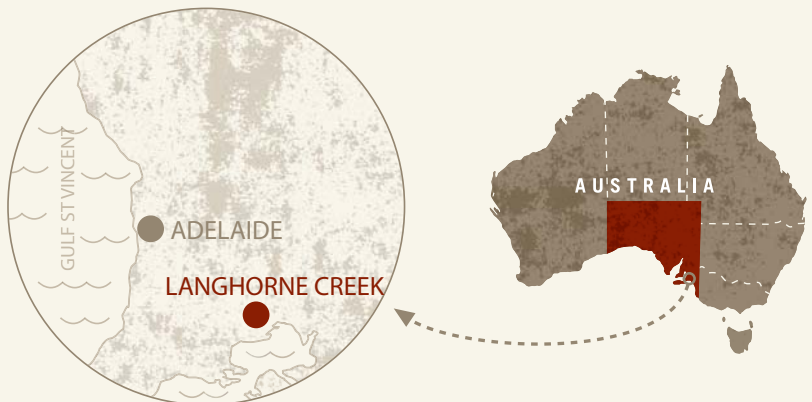
Langhorne Creek is one of Australia's oldest wine regions with a proud history of family owned vineyards. Founded on an ancient flood plain, Langhorne's deep, fertile soils have supported thriving vines since the first plantings in the 1860s. Situated just a stone's throw from the sea mouth of the River Murray, and in close proximity to Australia's largest permanent freshwater lake, Lake Alexandria, Langhorne's climate is heavily maritime influenced. Invariably warm and sunny days are moderated by cooling ocean and lake breezes, seeing this region commonly referred to as a "cool desert."

Between Viticulturist Geoff Hardy and Vigneron John Pargeter, six decades of experience put the Zonte's Footstep vineyards in capable hands. The team is committed to excellence, with a focus on environmentally sustainable viticulture and uncompromised grape quality. In addition to manicured vines and tree-lined wind breaks, the vines run adjacent to wetlands on the lake-front that teem with bird life, fish and frogs, while magnificent red gums are dotted along the river and lake front.

WEBSITE: www.zontesfootstep.com.au



The Zonte's Footstep tasting room in historic Langhorne Creek



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THE WINES



The simple and avowed aim of Zonte's Footstep is to make the best wine possible, true to vineyard and variety. These wines restore one's faith in the purity of winemaking during an age of vinous homogeny.

LADY OF THE LAKE VIOGNIER:

Fragrant Citrus Blossom, classic apricot almost a lime-like herbaceous characters.

SEAMIST VERDELHO:

Herbaceous with lime and gooseberry overtones, but also floral ginger scents and ripe passionfruit and mango flavors.

AVALON TREE CABERNET:

The district's beloved Cabernet blended with a little of its vinous cousin Malbec to add complexity on the nose and palate.

THE LAKE DOCTOR VINEYARD SHIRAZ VIOGNIER:

Comprises Shiraz co-fermented with a hatful of the white variety Viognier to add complexity on the nose and palate.

WINEMAKING:

Ubiquitous Australian winemaker Ben Riggs reins over the highly-awarded Zonte's Footstep range. A native of South Australia and Roseworthy graduate, Riggs has 22 years of winemaking experience behind him, including 14 years with leading Australian producer Wirra Wirra. His wines have claimed countless trophies over the years, including winning two Great Australian Shiraz Challenges and taking out top gong at the 1993 Sydney International Wine Competition's Top 100 Awards. Ben knows all too well that exceptional wines originate in exceptional vineyards, so he works closely with the vineyard team in achieving fruit quality that is second-to-none. Committed to championing regionally- expressive wines, Riggs brings passion and determination to the team along with demonstrated winemaking skill.



Z marks the spot – the entrance to Zonte's Footstep



A tree-lined driveway leads visitors to the winery



Vines thrive on the region's ancient alluvial soils



Winemaker Ben Riggs