

Press Release

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Gemtree winery facility acquired, Melissa and Mike Brown retain Gemtree Wines brand, vineyards and tasting room.

Certified organic and biodynamic winery owners Melissa and Mike Brown today announce the sale of their McLaren Vale winery facility as they set their focus to the future of the Gemtree wine brand and Tasting Room under their continued ownership.

**Certified organic
and biodynamic
Low preservative
Vegan friendly**

The winery facility site will be acquired through a partnership between two highly regarded South Australian brands, Oliver’s Taranga Vineyards and Mike Press Wines who have been making their wines at the Gemtree winery facility for a number of years. The new contract wine processing business will be known as ‘Oliver & Press Winemakers’.

“After ten years in the contract processing business, it is time to hang up the boots. We are pleased to hand over the facility to two of our respected clients in Oliver’s Taranga and Mike Press and wish them every success as they take the facility and team into its next chapter” said Mike Brown, Gemtree managing director and chief winemaker.

Husband and wife duo, Melissa and Mike, say it is business as usual for the Gemtree wine brand, vineyards and Tasting Room and are thrilled to take Gemtree Wines forward into the future, continuing its growth and leadership in sustainable wine and tourism experiences.

“We will continue to welcome visitors to the region at our Tasting Room where they can sample our wines, take a walk amongst the natural beauty of the Gemtree Eco Trail, or experience one of our award-winning biodynamic wine tours” said Melissa Brown, Gemtree co-owner and vigneron.

It’s a great outcome for Gemtree, allowing Melissa and Mike to build upon the Gemtree brand and philosophy they have so passionately brought to life to over the last 25 years.

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Gemtree

About Melissa Brown

As chief viticulturist and co-owner of Gemtree Wines, Melissa oversees many components of the day-to-day running of the business as well as steering the regenerative agriculture philosophies of Gemtree. From introducing and leading the biodynamic practices in the vineyard to developing the Gemtree Eco Trail, which involved planting thousands of native trees and shrubs on the property, Melissa is a leader in her field and is sought after for advice and counsel on biodynamics, organics, sustainability, and regenerative farming.

About Mike Brown

Mike is the managing director of Gemtree, where he does everything from making the wine to wearing out shoe leather during his travels from Queenstown to Quebec, sharing the stories of his McLaren Vale wines. Originally from NSW, Mike undertook a vintage in SA in the early 1990s, shortly thereafter leaving Sydney and his job at the stock exchange to study wine marketing, gaining valuable insights into wineries and winemaking. However, it was the smells, tastes, and activity within the cellar that Mike really loved. After working many vintages in wineries around McLaren Vale and France, in 1998 Mike completed his first vintage as a winemaker at Gemtree. Mike works alongside his wife, Melissa Brown - who is Gemtree's viticulturist and a renowned expert in organic and biodynamic farming practices. Melissa's grapes are brought to the winery in pristine condition where Mike and his team craft them into elegant and delicious wines, a direct reflection of how and where the grapes are grown. Mike is forever grateful he has made his home in McLaren Vale.

About Gemtree Wines

Living in McLaren Vale, one of Australia's most celebrated natural regions, has given Melissa and Mike Brown a mindfulness about the environment and the earth. As Gemtree's custodians, as well as its vigneron and its winemaker, Melissa and Mike decided to bring organics into the vineyard after seeing how well their backyard fruit and vegetables flourished.

Experimentation with a few select blocks of Tempranillo ensued. After much trial, error, grit, determination, and some choice swear words, Melissa started to see more life in the vineyards and a better quality of fruit flavour. From this point Melissa was determined to farm all Gemtree's blocks organically. Gemtree earned full organic certification in 2011.

Never shying away from experimentation and the opportunity to improve Gemtree's vineyards and wines, in 2007 Melissa delved into biodynamics, introducing techniques that interweave the health of the soil, vines and resident fauna and flora. Back at the winery, Mike was no stranger to innovation himself - testing out biodynamic winemaking practices that stand today.

Under the care of this indomitable team over more than 25 years, the Gemtree vineyards are flush with health, resulting in exceptional fruit quality and outstanding wines of elegance and purity.

Gemtree