

Eco ethos wins for winery



Sue and Sean Delaney from Sinclair's Gully Winery

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A small boutique winery at Norton Summit, Sinclair's Gully, has pushed aside some giants in the industry to win the Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Boutique Breweries category in the 2009 South Australian Tourism Awards.

In quite a coup the cellar door took out the Ecotourism award and a gold medal in the prestigious Qantas Award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism for the second year in a row.

Dedicated conservationists and vignerons, Sinclair's Gully owners Sean and Sue Delaney received their awards in front of 600 industry guests at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

"What a great honour," Sue said.

"We are thrilled to be recognised by our peers and as far as being acknowledged by the tourism industry, it doesn't get any better than this."

Sinclair's Gully is one of only two cellar doors in Australia to carry Eco Certified Accreditation. Sustainable practices are the foundation of this family business. From the conservation of the endangered candlebark ecosystem and sustainable biodynamic vineyard practices, to its zero waste 100% recycling program, the onsite collection of all water and reuse of grey water on the surrounding garden, its energy efficiency program and solar power project, through to measuring and implementing strategies to reduce its carbon and ecological footprint.

The multi-awarded property now has over 150 species of native plants and 66 species of birds, many being endangered or rare.

Passionate about their wine, the Delanays' believe the secret to producing a great wine starts in the vineyard.

"We have a strong focus on soil health, using a combination of biodynamic methods and native grasses in our vineyard, ensuring the vineyard remains in balance with nature," Sue said.

The wines produced display great expression and cleanliness, reflecting the unique site specific characteristics," Sean Delaney said.

"We offer visitors interpretive

experiences on the conservation value of the candlebark endangered ecosystem here. Showing visitors the bush care work we have completed over the past 12 years, the biodynamic practices in the vineyard and the sustainable land and business practices that follow provides an out of the ordinary cellar door experience.

"Walking through the wildflowers in spring, watching the black cockatoos fly through the candlebark forest at dusk at a summer twilight tasting, or just sitting back on the deck with a glass of wine and a platter provides a very personal Australian wine and ecotourism experience, with visitors returning again and again."

As a South Australian Tourism Awards winner, Sinclair's Gully is now automatically entered into the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards to be held in Hobart, Tasmania in February 2010, to compete against the best in each state and territory.

Sinclair's Gully is located at Lot 3 Colonial Drive, Norton Summit. For more information visit their website at www.sinclairsgully.com

Other Adelaide Hills winners from the 2009 SA Tourism Awards included:

Tourist Attractions - Cleland Wildlife Park (also Hall of Fame entrant), Chocolate @ No 5 (bronze medal).

Tour and Transport Operators - Rich & Linger (silver medal)

Hosted Accommodation - Hannah's Cottage (gold medal)

Standard Accommodation - Woodhouse Activity Centre (silver medal)

Deluxe Accommodation - Pobblebonk Bed and Breakfast (bronze medal)

General Tourism Services - Rich & Linger (also Hall of Fame entrant), Sticky Rice Cooking School (Commendation)

Tourism Restaurants & Catering Services - The Locavore

Tourism Wineries - Longview Vineyard

Tourism Accommodation - Pobblebonk Bed and Breakfast

Outstanding Contribution by an Individual - Pauline Renner