

DAVID HICKINBOTHAM  
PARINGA WINERY

Grapes and wine are etched into David Hickinbotham's genetic make-up. He is the third generation of his family to be involved in the wine industry starting with his famous grandfather, Alan Robb Hickinbotham. Alan Robb, considered one of the founders of the modern Australian wine industry, established Australia's first oenology course in 1936 – a course which today is recognized as one of the best in the world.

In 1972, David and his father established a vineyard thirty kilometres south of Adelaide, in the foothills of Clarendon that eventually became part of the Grange Hermitage wine. After great success with the grapes from this vineyard, they purchased vineyards in the Riverland district, abutting Australia's longest river (The Murray River). It is so large David says, "We measure it in square miles, not in acres." At over 1,000 acres, the vineyard is planted on sandy loam soil that sits atop ancient limestone beds; a perfect recipe for producing excellent Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Although The Riverland is a low rainfall area, Paringa has a permanent and reliable source of water from the Murray River supplying the vineyard's state-of-the-art computer-controlled drip irrigation system.

The fourth generation of the Hickinbothams to turn his attentions to the land and to the wines is Alan, David's only son, who has taken an active interest in helping his father burnish the legacy of the Hickinbotham name in the history of Australian wines.

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