

Burn Cottage and Valli

One of our dear friends in Central Otago is Grant Taylor, the former winemaker of Gibbston Valley Vineyards and proprietor of Valli Vineyards, one of the great producers of Central Otago. Grant is an iconic figure in Central, equally beloved for his wonderful wines and his quick wit. We share stories and visit each other's vineyard and cellars as often as we can. Over the course of several months in 2013 we decided that it would be great fun to swap grapes from each other's estate vineyard, starting with vintage 2014, and make the wines - with each of us vineyard designating the result. In our view, there is no finer vineyard in the Gibbston region than Grant's. The professionalism, care and love which go into the management of this site are exemplary.

- Ted Lemon
Burn Cottage Vineyard

Ted Lemon and Claire Mulholland of Burn Cottage have both been friends of mine for almost as long as I can remember.

Ted, I first meet in Burgundy in 1984. As far as I know he was the first foreign winemaker in a very traditional part of the French wine industry. He was an inspiration in realizing there are no boundaries: anything is possible in the world of wine. Since then we have worked closely together both at Chateau Woltner in Napa Valley and Archery Summit Winery in Oregon.

Claire and I worked side by side in the early days at Gibbston Valley Wines. We shared the joy of being the first winemakers to see fruit from many different Central Otago sites, made the first wines for a number of today's iconic Central Otago brands and were on one of the steepest learning curves in winemaking history.

When a discussion with Ted and Claire turned to the possibility of exchanging fruit as a way of gaining further understanding of our own sites, and of course having the pleasure of working with each other again, there was only one answer.

YES!

- Grant Taylor
Valli Vineyards