

Shannon Sutherland (Associate Judge)



Shannon Sutherland is the General Manager and Senior Winemaker of Rymill Coonawarra, after first moving to the Limestone Coast in late 2011.

Originally for a farming family just across the border in South-West Victoria, Shannon's initial experience started in Hastings River and two vintages in Great Western. This was followed by vintages in Napa Valley, Okanagan Valley, Beaujolais, Bellarine Peninsula, and the Hunter Valley. Three vintages and an apparent permanent move to Marlborough had naturally seen a focus on white wine and Pinot Noir production, but an opportunity prior to the 2012 Vintage brought him back to Australia and all things red.

Starting as the Winemaker at newly formed Jack Estate winery in late 2011, and working as the consultant winemaker for a number of other labels, allowed Shannon to explore the diverse range of wines from throughout the great regions that comprise the Limestone Coast. The combination of small-batch production and contract processing for corporate clients allowed Shannon to develop an array of styles and approaches to winemaking, and an appreciation of individuality.

In January 2018, Shannon was recruited to Rymill Coonawarra to take over as General Manager and Senior Winemaker, with the aim to re-invigorate the Estate range of wines, as well as develop and secure the future for the company.

With a keen eye on both innovation and sustainability, Shannon is looking to develop the Estates' vineyards and wine range into the balanced portfolio of a modern wine company.