

# WHO'S DOING WHAT?



## Chatto joins Pepper Tree

Pepper Tree Wines in the Hunter Valley has appointed Jim Chatto (above) as chief winemaker.

"We searched extensively for a highly accomplished winemaker who could take the brand to the next level and we feel that Jim is the right person to do just that," CEO John Martini said.

Having worked vintages in Hungary, France, the Yarra Valley and Tasmania, Jim's previous appointment was at First Creek Wines where his role as chief winemaker saw him contract winemaking for up to 50 different labels from multiple regions.

"My head is still spinning from moving from a position where I was making wine for up to 50 brands to making wine for just one," Jim said.

"I have been making Cabernet, Merlot and Shiraz from the Pepper Tree Orange vineyard for six years and it's always been high quality fruit, but I'm particularly excited about the potential of the Wrattonbully vineyard.

"There is enormous scope for improvement across the whole range. Everyone at Peppertree is passionate about wine—it's a really dynamic environment.

"Contract winemaking was a great experience, but it is nice to know that I will be behind a brand, and that the brand is behind me."

Jim's experience as a wine show judge took off when he was a Len Evans Tutorial scholar in 2002. He has since judged at regional, capital city and national wine shows.

"Wine show judging is a great opportunity and I have been fortunate to judge alongside some of the world's best palates. It's given me insight into what makes a great wine and benchmark myself as a winemaker," Jim said.

## Misha's woo Olly

Misha's Vineyard in Otago, New Zealand, has appointed winemaker Oliver 'Olly' Masters as consulting winemaker. He will oversee Misha's Vineyard's trial vintage in April in preparation for the first commercial vintage in 2008.

Forging some of New Zealand's most consistently fine Pinot Noir over the past decade, Olly has carved a reputation as one of NZ's leading winemakers and wine judges. Olly's credentials include an honours degree in Biotechnology from Massey University (1989) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Viticulture and Oenology (Distinction) from Lincoln University (1990). He serves as a senior wine judge at NZ's major national competitions.

Starting his career in Martinborough in 1989, Olly has also worked in Hawkes Bay and Burgundy prior to joining Ata Rangī in 1994 as winemaker/viticulturist then later becoming a partner. During his time there, Ata Rangī's achievements included winning the Champion Pinot Noir at the International Wine and Spirit Competition three times as well as numerous accolades and trophies in Australasia. Olly will continue his involvement with Ata Rangī as consulting oenologist.

"We are very excited that Olly will be making his Central Otago debut with our vineyard where he will have an ongoing role in setting the direction for style and taste," said Misha Wilkinson, director of Misha's Vineyard.

"With Olly joining our team, which includes Robin Dicey, arguably one of NZ's most recognised viticulturists, we have the best possible combination to be able to



Olly Masters, left, with Robin Dicey at Misha's Vineyard.

realise the flavours from our vineyard."

"Having tasted many of the wines from this region, the opportunity to make Central Otago wines and to be part of a vineyard operation that has all the right elements to be a truly great wine producer, was something I couldn't really pass up," Olly said.

Established in 2004 by Andy and Misha Wilkinson, Misha's Vineyard is situated on 57 ha of Bendigo Station's most visually spectacular sites located on the north-west facing terraces overlooking Lake Dunstan. With 10 ha planted in 2004, and a further 12 ha in 2005, Misha's Vineyard plans further planting as well as the construction of an underground wine cellar and winery. Currently two-thirds of the vineyard is planted to Pinot Noir, with the remainder comprising a selection of white varieties including Pinot Gris, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc and Gewürztraminer.

## New Zealand office for Mondo

Mondo Search has decided to open an office in Auckland "in response to anticipated changes in HR dynamics in the wine industry". It will be led by Janet Sullivan to help facilitate migration of wine industry personnel to NZ, and to assist Australian wine companies with NZ offices, and locals looking to grow in Australia.