



Screwcap Research

Recently released research from the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) further cements d'Arenberg's belief in the screwcap closure and supports our own trials conducted in the early 2000's. The AWRI Closure Trial involved a 1999 Clare Semillon made by Kerri Thompson of which thousands of bottles were sealed with 14 different closures including multiple natural and synthetic corks as well as one sample under screwcap.

The bottled wines were systematically analysed over a 10 year period by sensory and analytical methods and photographed. The second page of this document displays these revealing photos with the screwcap seal on the far left. The pictures certainly tell the story and leave little doubt as to which seal provides the most effective method of preserving a wine. The trial was closed after 10 years with sensory evaluation revealing that the wines sealed under screwcap were still drinkable and showing appealing secondary aged characters while retaining freshness.

UK wine Journalist Jamie Goode has followed the trial closely while remaining independent and was fortunate enough to taste the Semillon after being in bottle for 10 years and 8 months, saying "It's a full yellow colour, with a mineral, flinty edge to the attractive honeysuckle and citrus fruit nose. The palate has a lovely focused fruit quality to it with pithy citrus fruit and a hint of grapefruit. There are also some subtle toasty notes. Very attractive and amazingly fresh for a 10 year old Clare Semillon."

Read more of Jamie's insights at <http://www.wineanorak.com/blog/2010/01/very-important-wine-1999-awri-trial.html>.

Group Manager at the AWRI Peter Godden agrees with Jamie's assessment of the 10 year old Semillon.

"The wine under screwcap was classic aged Semillon and was wonderful to drink."

Peter also said that there was huge variation in the results for the synthetic and cork closures, which was of more concern than TCA taint.

"The biggest issue for any form of cork closure is variability, the wines sealed with screwcap were extremely consistent bottle to bottle and no other closure achieved results even similar."

"Most of the wine sealed with closures other than screwcap were completely undrinkable, some synthetic corks didn't even last 28 months."

"The study was initially established to determine which would be the best performing cork and we didn't expect screwcap to be much of a factor. It didn't take long to work out that it was going to be the most reliable performer, and as it turns out the results are emphatic."



28 months after bottling



63 months after bottling



125 months after bottling