



Located within the larger Limestone Coast zone, Mount Benson is a small but rapidly growing wine region that we feel is destined to do great things.

Mount Benson

A geographical indication in its own right, the relatively new Mount Benson wine region is located 320km south of Adelaide between the two prominent cray-fishing ports of Kingston SE in the north and the historic township of Robe in the south.

Settled in the 1840s, the land at Mount Benson was mainly used for growing wool, wheat and wattle bark, and formed part of a cattle and sheep route between Adelaide and Portland. Today the fairly unobtrusive peak of Mount Benson overlooks a landscape dominated by forestry, grazing and viticulture.

The area draws the interest of viticulturalists largely due to its rich red soils atop free-draining limestone. Once underwater for millions of years, shells and skeletal remains of marine animals deposited on the shallow sands of the Limestone Coast. They fused together to form a layer of soft limestone. When the seas retreated with the development of the polar icecaps in the last million years, an ideal water-holding mineral base remained under *terra rossa* soils, ideal conditions for premium wine production.

The Cape Jaffa site was chosen for a number of reasons. Firstly, Mount Benson is blessed with this *terra rossa* soil made famous by the Coonawarra and shared by Padthaway and Wrattontully, but our proximity to the Great Southern Oceans sets us apart. Our cool maritime climate affords us more moderate frosts than our neighbouring inland wine producers, protecting us from one of the industry's major threats. Our coastal location also rewards us with whites of great minerality and consistent reds year after year.

With many Cape Jaffa plantings approaching 15 years of age, grape quality increases each year as the vines mature. Fast becoming known for our

citrus-infused whites and elegantly fragrant reds, our continued success continues to draw many locals and international grape growers to the region.

Mount Benson Site Data

Latitude:	36.97° South (BOM)
Longitude:	139.72° East (BOM)
Elevation:	50-150m (AWBC)
Mean January Temperature:	18°C (AWBC)
Heat Degree Days:	1338 (AWBC)
Average yearly rainfall:	455mm (BOM)
Growing season rainfall:	157.5mm (BOM)
Average annual relative humidity:	76% (BOM)

Sources: Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), Australian Wine and Brandy Cooperation (AWBC)

Left: Mount Benson vineyards with ocean backdrop

Below: Another magical Limestone Coast sunset

