



The Hooper family established Cape Jaffa Wines as the region's first winery in 1993, pioneered biodynamic winegrowing on the Limestone Coast.

History

Cape Jaffa Wines, Mount Benson's pioneer winery, was founded on a commitment to making regionally-distinct, cool-climate wines that showcase the best of the region. The maritime compass logo represents how central our geographical position is to everything we do here, both at work and at play.

In June 1993 the Hooper family moved to the area and purchased land with plans to diversify their interests to include winemaking. Once a livestock buyer, but always appreciative of great wine, Kym Hooper had noticed the red tinge in sheep's wool from the Mount Benson region apparent in the wool of sheep grazing in other successful wine growing regions blessed with the famous *terra rossa* soil. Both he and winemaker son Derek deemed the site climatically suited to viticulture with a good north-facing aspect and a desirable cool climate moderated by the Great Southern Ocean. The surf break a few kilometres down the road also fuelled Derek's enthusiasm for the region and the decision was made.

Kym and Derek spent the next few years planting the eight-and-a-quarter hectare Cape Jaffa vineyard, comprising four hectares of chardonnay, two hectares each of cabernet sauvignon and shiraz, and a quarter of a hectare of merlot. They harvested their first crop in 1995, and in 1997 built the modern and innovative winery with a capacity of 1000 tonnes. Alongside this, the desirably rustic and quaint cellar door was built out of paddock rock found on the site, including a natural barrel hall cut into the limestone ridge existing on the property. The second vintage was processed at the new Cape Jaffa winery, and over the past ten years the vineyard has continued to expand to now include semillon, sauvignon blanc, pinot gris and petit verdot.

Cape Jaffa became the Limestone Coast's first fully certified biodynamic vineyard in 2008, and with this husband-and-wife winemaking team Derek and Anna Hooper released a certified biodynamic range of wines under the name *La Lune*. This premium range celebrates with each vintage outstanding parcels of fruit which express Mount Benson's very distinct terroir. Following *La Lune's* success Cape Jaffa has begun to extend the certification to its Cape Jaffa range of wines as of vintage 2010.

Now 19 years on, with 25 hectares under vine, the winery now produces up to 12000 cases of Cape Jaffa branded wines each year. Having developed a reputation for producing some of the Limestone Coast's best and most savoury reds, Cape Jaffa continues to draw interest and accolades for its heavily maritime-influenced cool-climate wines.

Left: Derek and Anna Hooper

Below: cellar door

