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MEDIA RELEASE

Applications Open for Winemaker Immersion Program

Australian Grape & Wine (AGW) is inviting early-career Australian winemakers to apply for a unique opportunity to experience China's dynamic wine industry as part of the Australia–China Winemaker Immersion Program.

Running from 10 October to 8 November 2025, the program will see four successful applicants embark on a four-week immersion across Beijing, Shanghai, and Ningxia - one of China's most exciting wine regions. Participants will gain first-hand exposure to Chinese viticulture and winemaking, including visits to Treasury Wine Estates' Stone & Moon Winery, Ningxia's Greatwall Château Terroir, Changyu Longyu Estate, and Yuanshi Vineyard, as well as leading academic institutions and industry organisations. The program concludes at the China International Import Expo annual trade fair in Shanghai.

AGW Chief Executive, Lee McLean, said the program invests in the next generation of winemaking talent by building cross-cultural understanding, technical expertise, and enduring relationships.

"We are delighted to see Australian winemakers gain a deeper appreciation of China's wine regions, consumers, and production practices. Our industries face common challenges in areas such as sustainability, climate adaptation, and meeting the expectations of a new generation of wine consumers. This program equips participants to address those challenges together," Mr McLean said.

Treasury Wine Estates Chief Supply & Sustainability Officer, Kerrin Petty, said the China immersion will build on the strong foundations of the inaugural exchange in South Australia.

"This program is about more than technical skills – it's about cultural exchange, mutual respect, and lasting relationships across the Australian and Chinese wine industries. After seeing the passion and dedication of the first cohort of Chinese wine professionals, we welcome applications from Australian winemakers ready to broaden their horizons, share ideas, and learn from one of the world's most dynamic wine regions," Mr Petty said.

Supported by AGW and the China Alcoholic Drinks Association (CADA), with Treasury Wine Estates as the lead industry partner, the initiative is strengthening people-to-people and industry-to-industry ties between Australia and China.

Applications are now open and will close at 5.00pm AEST on Monday, 9 September 2025.

The program includes return economy flights to Shanghai, all accommodation, transfers, and meals (excluding on leisure days). For more information and to apply, visit the AGW website at <https://www.agw.org.au/industry-resources/australia-china-winemaker-immersion-program/>

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About Australian Grape and Wine Inc

Australian Grape and Wine Inc is the national association of grape and wine producers. We address issues across the supply-chain that impact on the profitability and sustainability of the sector. We lead and advocate public policy that enhances the ability to responsibly produce, promote and enjoy Australian wine in moderation.

Australian Grape & Wine is recognised as a representative organisation for winegrape and wine producers under the Wine Australia Act 2013, and is incorporated under the SA Associations Incorporation Act 1985. We work in partnership with the Australian Government to develop and implement policy that is in the best interests of winegrape growers and winemakers across Australia.