



LOWBURN FERRY

CENTRAL OTAGO

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Lowburn Ferry Wines Announces Sale to Fine Wine Start-up Company

Lowburn Ferry Wines founders Jean and Roger Gibson have sold their iconic Central Otago NZ vineyard and wine brand to Aotearoa New Zealand Fine Wine Estates Limited Partnership (ANZFWE) – a new venture between a US-based wildlife conservationist and the man who launched Craggy Range winery in NZ.

Co-directors of ANAFWE are Brian Sheth - an investor and wildlife conservationist from Austin, Texas and a passionate wine connoisseur with a great love of New Zealand, including for rugby, and Steve Smith - a Master of Wine, whose wine industry career has included co-founding and leading the creation and development of Craggy Range, based in Hawkes Bay and Martinborough.

ANZFWE has also secured the purchase Pyramid Valley Wines in Waikari, North Canterbury, and a small piece of land in the Gimblett Gravels appellation in Hawke's Bay.

"I feel somewhat humbled that we will become caretakers and curators of what I consider to be two of the greatest Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vineyards in the world" says Mr Smith of Pyramid Valley and Lowburn Ferry.

In commenting on the new partnership Mr Smith said: "Our friendship and love of New Zealand, great sport and great wine has led to a business that we are both seriously excited about. For me it's the ultimate wine project: highly crafted close relationships with the land, wines and our people and some discerning investment in what will make these properties amongst the wine world's most revered and successful long term estates."

Roger and Jean Gibson say they "always believed our site was special, and we look forward to seeing Lowburn Ferry grow into greater things under ownership and stewardship of Steve and Brian."

Lowburn Ferry is a premium pinot noir producer, with a string of international accolades to its credit. **Lowburn Ferry Home Block Pinot Noir 2014** was **Champion Wine of the Show** at last year's **Air NZ Wine Awards**, and most recently has been listed in **Air New Zealand's Fine Wines of New Zealand** - a definitive list of the finest wines of NZ as selected by six of the country's leading wine experts.

Lowburn Ferry's new owners plan to plant more grapes on parts of the 27ha of land they are purchasing, whilst the Gibsons will continue to live on the Lowburn Valley property which has been subdivided. The sale is subject to the New Zealand Governments Overseas Investment Office approval.



Photo caption: Central Otago winegrowers Jean and Roger Gibson, have sold their Lowburn Ferry vineyard and wine brand. Photo credit: Martin Frolich

For more information, or high resolution photos, contact:

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