



WA launches first ever region-to-region winemaker exchange



Cadaretta Winery winemaker, Virginie Bourgue, and The Yard Winery & Cherubino Wines winemaker, Larry Cherubino

The Wine Industry Association of Western Australia and the Washington Wine Commission have announced the first ever region-to-region winemaker exchange. The two regions are both cool-climate regions dominated by boutique producers making small lots of ultra-premium wines, and also produce higher acid, more refined wines, and have reciprocal harvests – one in September/October and the other in February/March. Walla Walla's Cadaretta Winery winemaker Virginie Bourgue is the first to take part in the exchange in The Yard Winery and Cherubino Wines in Western Australia.



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Vinro Wine Filtration comes to you

Skigh McManus (right) runs a mobile filtration business which should please not only winemakers but also all of those accountants out there who are pleading with their winemakers to outsource various activities in the



name of cutting costs and making a profit.

"We're bringing very affordable filtration technology to small to medium sized wineries that otherwise may not be able to afford it," said Skigh, who has been in the industry for more than 10 years including a stint at Howard Park and vintages in Bordeaux, New Zealand and Canada.

"The business is unique in Western Australia and we have received a great response since we launched last year. I saw a need for this type of service on a trip to France two years ago and the response has confirmed that hunch."

Vinro Wine Filtration's crossflow filtration can process 8,000 litres per hour on average, from five cents a litre. The business is contracted to many wineries in the area including one at Frankland where Vinro filters all 60,000 litres of the wine for just \$3,000.

Born and bred in Denmark, Skigh, 27, is based in Margaret River but will be expanding into South Australia in coming months.

Skigh's clients include Plantaganet, The Yard Wine Company, Juniper Estate, Capel Vale Wines and Wise Wines.

Last year Vinro filtered 1.5 million litres all up, for about 35 different clients.

One of Skigh's clients, Juniper Estate winemaker Mark Messenger, says he is very happy with the end result of the wines compared to other filtration methods.

"There has been no flavour scalping compared to other forms of filtration," Mark said. "We also used Skigh's reverse osmosis filter for alcohol reduction in the troublesome '06 vintage and we saw a huge difference. It actually increased the richness and depth of flavour. Because Skigh has worked in the industry he knows his way around everything. And he cleans up after himself!"

Skigh says a bonus of the business is being exposed to so many great wines.

"I've looked at more wines in the past 12 months in Western Australia than I had in the previous five years," he said. "And I can

confirm that the region is making very good wine. The future looks great."

Skigh says the '08 vintage looks very promising with balance and flavour the keys.

For further details telephone Skigh on 0428 103 900, email skigh@vinro.com.au or visit www.vinro.com.au