

# The Advertiser

South Australia

## Riesling's Renaissance in Eden

Bryan Littlely, 30th August 2002



*Robert Hill Smith and Jeffrey Grosset with a bottle of mesh among the vines*

SECRECY is usually paramount in winemaking.

But it has gone out the window for two of South Australia's top winemakers in a bid to lift the profile of riesling.

In a national first, acclaimed riesling maker Jeffrey Grosset, of Clare, and Barossa's Robert Hill Smith have joined forces to make a blended riesling for commercial release. **mesh** is the funky name for the "new generation" wine, to be released next month.

Before it even hits the shelves, wine marketers are predicting the drop is likely to start a trend towards collaborative wines.

"Those guys are keeping the element of fun and surprise in wine," wine marketer Bob McLean said yesterday. "If the industry doesn't do that, it will go backward because the clients will get bored."

Mr McLean said the blended wine was a smart idea.

At harvest this year, Mr Grosset took the fruit from every second row of two Eden Valley vineyards. Yalumba took the rest, and each winery plied their trade to make their special rieslings.

The two parcels of wine were then blended, the result being 22,000 bottles of **mesh**.

Half of the wine is earmarked for overseas markets and Qantas has already added the blend to its list.

The partnership brings together two passionate and acclaimed riesling vignerons - both motivated by the desire to create an exceptional wine that will enhance the reputation of riesling as one of the world's noblest grape varieties and the Eden Valley as one of Australia's great riesling regions.

"This is about having some fun, but there is an outcome and objective in mind," Mr Hill Smith said. "This is not a gimmick, this is about sharing intellectual property and promoting a region and the grape variety it's renowned for.

"It also shows Australian can collaborate without trying to white ant each other. We see this riesling partnership more as an adventure than a joint venture."

