



# Bill Moularadellis – the river king



## on the grapevine

with **Charles Conlan**

Bill Moularadellis is the managing director of the highly successful Kingston Estate winery situated on the Murray River in the Riverland region of South Australia.

This area on the South Australian/Victorian border is large and relies on irrigation to grow vast quantities of grapes that, in the main, filled the cheaper end of the market: casks, flagons and cheap sparkling wine.

Bill's parents, Sarantos and Constantina, who established the estate in 1979, handed control to their son after he graduated from Roseworthy in 1985.

Bill's vision was to produce premium wines in the Riverland. His first commercial red in 1986 received little attention in Australia due to the popular belief that the area could only produce bulk wines with little substance.

Not one to accept being ignored, he went to the overseas markets where wines were judged on merit and not subjected to any prejudices.

Sales were made to the USA, Sweden and the UK

– and on it went.

In 1998 the company commenced a development of its own vineyards.

The centrepiece of this large development was the extensive planting of two emerging grape varieties: merlot and petit verdot.

Both varieties have been identified as perfectly suited to the warm Riverland region climate, producing wines of rare richness and structure.

The Echelon range is Kingston's flagship wines – it epitomises the enthusiasm and dedication of the Moularadellis family to South Australian winemaking.

**Kingston Echelon Petit Verdot 2002** won top gold at the 2003 Royal Melbourne Show.

**Kingston Echelon Petit Verdot 2007** (\$25) – made from the exceptional parcels picked, with mainly free-run juice used and some light pressings to add further body and texture.

**Kingston Echelon Shiraz 2007** (\$25) – highlights the varietal characteristics of shiraz.