

Wine from the earth, with the help of kind folk

A couple's vision of chemical-free viticulture invites the community to get involved.

Drive just over an hour north of Melbourne and you'll find Zig Zag Rd Winery, a beautiful four-hectare vineyard and winery in Malmsbury with views of the lush Belltopper State Forest.

Henry, Harriet and (little) Alby Churchill are the recent stewards of this property. The couple worked in agricultural sustainability before exchanging their corporate suits for muddy boots nearly three years ago.

"We had an urge to do more and align our roles to our purpose," Henry Churchill says. "Harriet and I are both from the UK and we just had a child at the time when we took over the vineyard and winery, so it has been an intense adventure over the last three years, to say the least."

While their experience in winemaking and viticulture was minimal when they inherited the 50-year old vineyard and classic wine label, they were driven by their passion for regenerative, natural farming practices.

"For us, and lots of vineyards in the Macedon Ranges, it's about staying local and doing things on a smaller scale," says Churchill. "We're able to do everything by hand, treat every vine individually, and put the care into the soil and landscape to create a farm that is thriving in biodiversity."

"It's much more work, but we're building a community of friends who share our vision. And the grapes that are produced like this are chemical-free and wonderful!"



With the cellar door and wine tastings resuming after COVID-19 restrictions, the couple are launching their Wine Folk membership for just 50 people who love good wine, share their philosophy, are contemplating a similar tree change, and want to connect with other wine people.

Wine Folk members receive illustrated posters and delightful video and audio clips featuring the sounds of the season.

They can also take part in a discovery day at Zig Zag Rd Winery to meet the team, get closer to the wine story and taste the varietals, with the more curious members

invited to get their hands dirty (or wine-stained) by helping out on working bees.

"We're just interested in finding like-minded people who get our vision and want to come with us on this adventure and journey."

They also recently launched their wine label 'Kind Folk', producing experimental and innovative amber/orange, cloudy and barrel-fermented wines, to celebrate those who are inspiring them to pursue their vision.

"The idea behind that is, rather than having notes of 'stone fruits and cherry', we list the names of the kind people helping us



'It's about staying local and doing things on a smaller scale.'

Henry Churchill

The Churchills (with son Alby, above) are rejuvenating the Zig Zag Road Winery.

out," says Churchill. The idea recognises the energy and heart of the people who have helped produce each and every bottle, and the kindness shown to the couple by winemakers, viticulturists and friends.

"The Wine Folk membership is the next step in this journey, as we recruit more people into the wine adventure," he says. "Really, it's Wine Folk for kind folk, and we'd love like-minded people to get involved."

What's more, he adds, those who become members might just find their name on the back of one of Zig Zag Rd's beautiful bottles of wine.

Wine Folk by ZIG ZAG RD

Love wine, and passionate about the story behind wine?

Become a Wine Folk club member

Our memberships offer seasonal wine to your door, vineyard working bees, discovery days at the winery, and much more.

We're limited to 50 memberships, so first in best dressed.

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