



Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

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FIRST 'OYSTER WINE' VINES PLANTED IN AUSTRALIA

NSW Minister for Primary Industries and Small Business and Member for Burrinjuck Katrina Hodgkinson has planted Australia's first Picpoul de Pinet grapevine at Cowra.

Originating in the Languedoc region of France, Piquepoul Blanc is a white grape variety which has traditionally been grown within sight of oyster leases and was recently described as the 'default wine for oysters' by an American wine critic.

"It is an exciting day for the NSW wine industry to have a newcomer to our world-renowned wine industry," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"I congratulate Steve Feletti of the Moonlight Flat Oyster Company for his dedication and passion for bringing Piquepoul Blanc to Australia, and for Windowrie Wines of Cowra for being bold enough to share his vision.

"The NSW wine industry contributes more than \$500 million to the economy and produces around 35 per cent of all wine produced in Australia. I look forward to sampling the fruits of this particular vine with a few of the State's finest oysters in a few years' time."

Mr Feletti discovered Piquepoul Blanc at the tiny Mediterranean oyster village of Bouzigues, along the Languedoc coast where this variety and oysters are inextricably linked.

"Two things struck me about the Piquepoul," Mr Feletti said.

"First, it was a perfect sensory match with oysters, and second, it appeared that no one in Australia's fine dining scene was aware of this variety. It will be sensational with our Clair de Lunes and Angasis.

"After a daunting midwinter mission to beg, cajole and borrow cuttings from the Pinet district, then shepherd them through Australia's strict quarantine process, today is a very exciting day, like the birth of another child."

The Picpoul de Pinet variety will be commercially grown in partnership with Cowra wine company Windowrie Wines under the watch of principal Jason O'Dea.

"I am a strong advocate for the NSW wine and shellfish industries, and I look forward to this very fruitful partnership flourishing," Ms Hodgkinson said.