

PRUNING AND VINE HEALTH FOR VINEYARD LONGEVITY

Mia Fischer from SIMONIT&SIRCH and Mark Sosnowski from SARDI, together with the AWRI have developed a full-day workshop on winter pruning. This workshop will focus on the latest research and best-practice guidelines for maintaining the long-term vine health, productivity and economic viability of vineyards. The workshop includes an interactive in-field demonstration where participants can discuss challenges specific to their region and receive expert advice to address these challenges.



Mia Fischer from SIMONIT&SIRCH will present the SIMONIT&SIRCH four fundamental principles and pruning methodology. This will include how the methodology can be used to ensure the long-term sustainability and profitability of new and established vineyards that require reworking to treat trunk diseases. A vineyard demonstration will provide region-specific advice, respond to questions raised by attendees, and emphasise the important links between pruning methodology, premature vine decline and trunk disease.

Mark Sosnowski from SARDI will present the latest research findings and best management practices from Wine Australia-funded research on trunk diseases. This will include techniques for disease identification, application and timing of pruning wound protection for increased effectiveness. The importance of good practices in reworking vineyards with trunk disease, considering short- and long-term impacts, will be highlighted. A vineyard demonstration will reiterate methods to assess disease severity and undertake remedial surgery.

Participants: This is an interactive workshop that is best suited to practitioners who value good pruning practices and trunk disease management. It is aimed at practising viticulturists and is limited to a maximum of 25 participants per session to ensure an intensive learning experience.

Cost: \$495 per person, including GST.

What to bring: This workshop will include vineyard demonstrations. Participants should dress appropriately for the season with weather-proof clothing, safety glasses, a high-vis jacket, pruning gloves, boots and a change of shoes.

Biosecurity procedures: Footwear and small hand tool disinfestation protocols will be in place as per Vinehealth Australia guidelines. It is a condition of participation in the workshop that participants comply with instructions given by vineyard managers and workshop presenters.

Registration is required to secure a place in the course. **Book early to avoid disappointment.**

For more information, contact AWRI Events
Ph: 08 8313 6600 | E: events@awri.com.au

EVENT PROGRAM

Time	Agenda	Presenter
8:15am – 8:45am	Registration	
8:45am – 8:55am	Introduction/logistics of the course	AWRI
8:55am – 10:35am	Theory: winter pruning	Mia Fischer
10:35am – 11:05am	Coffee break	
11:05am – 12:05pm	Theory: trunk diseases	Mark Sosnowski
12:05pm – 12:50pm	Vineyard demonstration: trunk diseases	Mark Sosnowski
12:50pm – 1:20pm	Lunch	
1:20pm – 3:20pm	Vineyard demonstration: S&S spur or cane pruning	Mia Fischer
3:20pm – 4:20pm	Follow-up and question time	Mia Fischer and Mark Sosnowski
4:20pm – 4:30pm	Course feedback survey	AWRI

Booking is essential. Please register via the link below to the session you wish to attend.

MCLAREN VALE

Thursday, 4 August
8:15am – 4:30pm

Fox Creek Wines
90 Malpas Road,
McLaren Vale SA 5171

[Register here](#)

ADELAIDE HILLS

Friday, 5 August
8:15am – 4:30pm

Ashton Hills Vineyard -
126 Tregarthen Rd,
Ashton SA 5137

[Register here](#)

BAROSSA VALLEY

Friday, 29 July
8:15am – 4:30pm

Vine Inn Barossa,
14-22 Murray St,
Nuriootpa SA 5355

[Register here](#)

YARRA VALLEY

Tuesday, 26 July
8:15am – 4:30pm

Yering Station - 38
Melba Hwy, Yering VIC
3770

[Register here](#)

MORNINGTON PENINSULA

Wednesday, 27 July
8:15am – 4:30pm

Morning Sun Vineyard -
337 Main Creek Rd,
Main Ridge VIC 3928

[Register here](#)

ORANGE

Tuesday, 2 August
8:15am – 4:30pm

Swinging Bridge - 701
The Escort Way, Orange
NSW 2800

[Register here](#)

MARGARET RIVER

Tuesday, 9 August
8:15am – 4:30pm

Xanadu Wines - 316
Boodjidup Rd, Margaret
River WA 6285

[Register here](#)

PRESENTER BIOS



Mia Fischer (SIMONIT&SIRCH)

Mia Fischer is an oenologist and viticulturalist who studied in Stellenbosch, South Africa. She worked for almost a decade in ultra-premium wine production, under the guidance of Professor Denis Dubourdieu. The SIMONIT&SIRCH pruning method (established by Marco Simonit and Pierpaolo Sirch) aims to strengthen and preserve vine structure, establish uniformity and reduce susceptibility to trunk disease (such as Eutypa and Esca). This is achieved by optimising the vine's vascular system, looking at the type and quality of winter pruning wounds made year-on-year in order to re-establish and promote improved productive and vegetative balance, even budding and shoot development, as well as better lignification. This leads to more uniform ripening, improved grape quality consistency and increased resistance to seasonal stress, extending the ageing potential and productive lifespan of the vines. After obtaining firsthand experience in the SIMONIT&SIRCH principles and practices in South Africa and witnessing the benefits for wine quality, Mia subsequently joined the company, gaining additional experience in other countries. She has operated in both Australia and USA as a consultant and trainer and country manager.



Mark Sosnowski (SARDI)

Dr Mark Sosnowski leads the Horticulture Pathology sub-program at the South Australian Research and Development Institute and is an Affiliate Senior Lecturer at the University of Adelaide. Over the past 19 years, he has been responsible for research on managing Eutypa and Botryosphaeria dieback diseases in grapevines and almonds in both Australia and New Zealand. He is the Australasian regional representative on the International Council for Grapevine Trunk Diseases and was the chair from 2014 to 2017. Dr Sosnowski draws from his extensive international experience and collaboration to provide industry with the latest information for effective management of grapevine diseases.