

Day 6: Friday November 18

Relbia & Tamar Valley West. Report by Graeme Lofts

Our final day of touring began with a scenic bus ride along the Tamar River through Launceston to Josef Chromy Wines on the other side of town. What a beautiful setting for a winery, restaurant and cellar door. Shortly after our arrival we were seated on a single long table overlooking the lawns, garden, lake and vineyards. The table was immaculately set up with pre-filled tasting glasses and tasting notes. Our hostess, Cellar Door Manager Sandy Liang enchanted us with her enthusiastic, entertaining and humorous approach. After tasting the NV Cuvée, 2018 Vintage Sparkling, Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir that had been initially poured, we were invited to taste others and, of course they were all outstanding.

Fittingly, our lunch venue was at the Alida Restaurant, named for Josef Chromy's late wife Alida. The restaurant is located inside the unique Penny Royal attraction, surrounded by towering cliffs and waterfalls. Lunch consisted of share plates, accompanied by a glass of Josef Chromy wine. When the first share platter arrived we were all wondering if there would be enough food. Little did we realise just how many other platters would follow. They just kept on coming, and coming, and coming! The selection was outstanding, including grilled calamari salad with Vietnamese dressing, eye fillet satay, fried potato gnocchi, maple & miso Huon salmon and much, much more. Once again, our appetites were more than satisfied.

With full stomachs and the knowledge that our tour was almost over, we headed back up the Tamar River for our final stop, Tamar Ridge. Seated in the tasting room overlooking the picturesque Tamar River, we were guided through a tasting of wines from Tamar Ridge, Pirie and Devil's Corner, all owned by the Brown Family Wine Group.

We arrived back at the Tamar Valley Resort relatively early, allowing us four hours to relax or stroll through the remarkable Swiss Village at the resort before the closing dinner in the Lakeside Function Room. It was only a 2-course dinner, which was just as well, with all the food that had been consumed over the last few days. It provided a great opportunity for everyone to reflect on the tour and enjoy each other's company.

Most people were heading to the airport on the following day and both Don Hyatt and Doreen Phang had helped them organise transfers from the resort at very low cost. Final goodbyes took place on Saturday at breakfast in the bistro or in the resort foyer while checking out and waiting for the bus to the airport.