



Frank Hellwig

National Director of Viticulture

Frank Hellwig's interest in grapes and winemaking came quite by chance, but has evolved into a lifelong passion. Frank was born in Australia and by the time he was 16, he had moved with his family to eight different places in Southeast Asia, including Papua-New Guinea, Fiji and Singapore. Wishing to complete his education in Australia, Frank returned to his homeland and went on to study at the University of New England in New South Wales.

During his student years, he enjoyed part-time employment on dairy, cattle and cotton farms. After graduating with an Honours Bachelor of Rural Science degree, Frank started his first full-time job as a dairy consultant. When he and his new wife moved to Mudgee, New South Wales after she accepted a job there, Frank had the opportunity to join Orlando Wyndham, one of Australia's most successful wine producers and began what was to be an almost 10-year commitment to the company. He started in a junior position coordinating the delivery of fruit for winemaking, but was soon noticed for his exceptional management talents and he quickly assumed more supervisory roles, first as Vineyard Supervisor of Craigmoor Vineyard, and then as Assistant Vineyard Manager of Montrose/Stony Creek Vineyards.

In 1997, Frank became Vineyards Manager of the Mudgee area and was responsible for all vineyard operations, including the programs and resources needed to achieve optimum and sustainable production. Four years later, he was chosen by Orlando Wyndham to complete a graduate certificate in Executive Management at the University of Adelaide in South Australia. Soon after, Frank's role expanded to include the Hunter Valley and the famous Wyndham Estate Winery, Australia's oldest operating winery. This position made him responsible for the management of 360 hectares (approximately 900 acres) of farmland on six properties.

Considered one of the best viticulturists in the area, Frank was asked to be an associate judge of the Mudgee Wine Show, an experience that brought him into contact with some of the most prominent wine experts in Australia. With keen management abilities and an obvious passion for winemaking and viticulture, Frank was eager to broaden his professional experience. In October 2004, he relocated his young family to Canada after accepting his current position at Vincor International.

Frank is responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of all of Vincor's owned and leased land in the Niagara and Okanagan regions. His work involves evaluating vineyard production; ensuring quality control and adherence to VQA standards; maintaining a strong supply relationship with close to 100 grape growers; and coordinating the delivery and availability of grapes for all of Vincor's brands. His genuine, straightforward approach to getting the job done has made him a welcome addition to the Vincor team.