



## NEW WORLDS FROM OLD

### Scion Vineyard and Winery

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PORTRAIT PHOTO PETER DUNPHY

In so many ways the Rutherglen scene remains staunchly traditional, and perhaps justifiably so: their fortified wines are a unique contribution to world wine culture. However, within this framework there's great scope for creativity and innovation, which is the bold mission of Scion Vineyard and Winery.

Scion is the project of Jan and (her son) Rowly Milhinch, descendants of G.F. Morris, the founding father of one of North East Victoria's greatest winemaking dynasties ('scion' literally means 'offshoot of a noble family'). It's fitting then that Scion creatively pushes

the boundaries of, rather than abandons, Rutherglen's traditions — which is not to say they're doing anything by halves.

From a tiny eight-acre vineyard (planted to durif, brown and orange muscat and viognier), Scion produces wines that are fresh in style, evincing a lightness of touch: a description that applies as equally to their fortified wines as their table wines. From orange muscat they've created 'Fleur', an off-dry white beautifully styled as a 'verandah wine'. Due in part to a comparatively early harvesting of the fruit, Scion's dry durif hails from a world far more gracious than those awesomely big durifs that seem to

go where angels fear to tread. Even more surprising is their fortified sweet durif that sees no oak and is fortified with a neutral spirit, giving it a (strange to say) compelling delicacy. It's a ruby-red wine best drunk chilled while eating dark, dark chocolate... you can imagine the rest.

If Scion has a signature wine, it's their fragrant, youthful Beaumes de Venise-styled Single Vintage Muscat, but Rowly's personal favourite is their Melba Muscat. Blended by Mick Morris and 'tweaked with some very old Morris gear', it combines Scion's first vintage of muscat with Fairfield's final vintage

(Fairfield being the original Morris family vineyard, now owned by matriarch Melba Morris-Slaymen). Endowed with symbolism, Melba Muscat encapsulates Scion's inherited past, as well as its future dreams: classically Rutherglen, and yet containing the seed of fire.

*The cellar door is open on weekends and public holidays from 10am-5pm. Slaughterhouse Road, Rutherglen, Victoria  
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