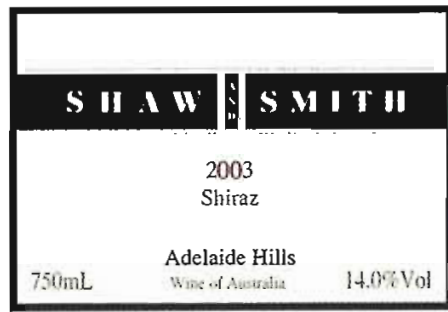


SHAW & SMITH



ADELAIDE HILLS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA,
AUSTRALIA

JBG Architects with Chris Connell
1999–2000

Natural beauty and a temperate climate make the Adelaide Hills an ideal place for winemaking (especially for Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, and Pinot Noir); grapes were planted here as early as 1839. In the early 1980s, the industry took off, and

the authorities set a limit on the number and size of new wineries to preserve the quality of the environment. Martin Shaw, a winemaker who had previously worked at Petaluma and in Europe, established a winery with his cousin, Michael Hill Smith, in 1989 and they relocated to this former stud farm ten years later.

“We didn’t want to build a whacking great tin shed out here because what happens if you grow out of it?” says Shaw. “You have to build another big shed or extend it, which doesn’t look good.” The practical, low-cost solution was a row of interconnecting modular units, each 33 feet wide, with an insulated double skin of colorbond on the outside and easy-to-clean zinc on the inner face. There’s a fluid flow of space within the production areas, which occupy all the bays to the rear of the office and hospitality areas.

From afar, the seven slate-gray gables resemble a minimalist artwork or a row of Monopoly houses. The lawn and vineyards slope gently down to a lake,

a clump of gum trees and a distant prospect of Mount Lofty. The original five-bay façade is faced with glass and shaded by a steel pergola that serves as an outdoor room for entertaining. Two blank-faced modules were seamlessly added to accommodate an increase in production, but the winery is only half-way toward its mandated ceiling of 150,000 cases, so there may be more bays to come.

Shaw and Smith collaborated with Jamie Gladigau on the architecture, and with interior designer Chris Connell on the understated banqueting/meeting room and tasting area. Splashes of orange and ochre animate the entry area, where a tall window frames the barrel store beyond, and a clear slot in a translucent glass partition provides a peep hole from the offices, eliminating the need for a reception desk. “We believe a winery visit is about winning hearts and minds, and we’ve gotten a lot of press coverage,” says Smith. “We don’t receive a lot of visitors—70 on a weekend is typical—but it’s nice to hold a party for 30. Though the building is inexpensive, it expresses the character of the lighter, more sophisticated premium wines we produce.”

Weekend tastings by appointment. Tel: +61 8 8398 0500. Lot 4, Jones Road, Balhannah, South Australia. www.shawandsmith.com



