

wine by design

A cellar door used to mean an upturned barrel and a blackboard price list. Now the innovative buildings that house some wine centres are drawcards in themselves



the national wine centre, adelaide, south australia

Designed by Cox Richardson Architects, this building crosses Renzo Piano's sweeping curves with Glenn Murcutt's functional wood and corrugated steel. The interior is just as impressive, with well laid-out displays of wine history and culture, interactive games, restaurants, bars and tasting areas.

From the exterior, the building seems to turn away from its remarkable setting and look inwards, rather than out to the beautiful public gardens – an approach that has failed to win the praise of some Adelaide residents.

The National Wine Centre is open seven days. Corner Hackney and Botanic Roads, Adelaide SA (08) 8222 9200; www.wineaustralia.com.au

palandri, margaret river, western australia

Designed by Donaldson + Warn, the Palandri winery and cellar door on the Bussell Highway – the main road through picturesque Margaret River – has stirred controversy in the region.

According to Christopher Vernon, lecturer in landscape architecture at the University of Western Australia, Palandri's design "overtly acknowledges the winery's industrial reality" and "challenges Margaret River's landscape status quo" – the conviction that wineries should be subordinate to the wider, bucolic landscape.

Palandri is open seven days a week. Corner Bussell Highway and Boundary Road, Cowaramup WA (08) 9755 5711; www.palandri.com.au

shadowfax wines, werribee, victoria

The ultra-modern Shadowfax winery attempts to create harmony between its structure and surroundings. Designed by Wood Marsh Architecture, it's truly one of the most remarkable cellar doors in the country.

Four plate-metal, A-frame structures stand in a clearing in the bush. In one, light pours in through huge, coloured-glass panes and rows of Shadowfax wines are perfectly arranged behind the tasting counter. At one end of the room, an enormous vermilion metal tube contains a spiral staircase that leads down to the cool, wide-vaulted cellar.

Shadowfax Wines is open seven days. K Road, Werribee VIC (03) 9731 4420; www.shadowfax.com.au



shaw and smith, balhanna, south australia

The sleek, minimalist lines of Shaw and Smith winery contrast with the soft, rolling, vine-covered landscape of the Adelaide Hills. Owners Michael Hill Smith and Martin Shaw wanted the concept of a traditional shed but taken to a modern extreme.

Melbourne-based designer Chris Connell and Tanunda architect Jamie Gladigau of JBG Architects achieved it with a grey Colorbond exterior and galvanised steel and wooden-slat pergola surrounding the see-through glass structure. Paintings by David Band hang on the painted interior walls.

Shaw and Smith is open on weekends 10am–4pm. Lot 4, Jones Road, Balhannah SA (08) 8398 0500. ■

Words by Max Allen. Photographs by Ken Martin, Adrian Lander