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Granite Belt releases Strange Bird
Alternative Wine Trail Launch

Wine drinkers looking for something beyond chardonnay and shiraz, now need travel no further than to Queensland's wine capital on the Granite Belt.

Believed to be the first of its type in Australia, the new Granite Belt Alternative Wine trail showcases sixteen alternative grape varieties designed to appeal to those who want something different.

The trail is an initiative of the Granite Belt Wine & Tourism. It was unveiled by celebrity wine and food commentator Peter Howard at this week's Brisbane Good Food & Wine Show.

In launching the trail, Peter Howard posed the question "What's the collective noun for a group of alternative wine makers?" The answer: "Strange Bird." He said, "At last, here is something for those wine lovers who have ABC days (Anything But Chardonnay)!"

Eye catching imagery incorporating the Strange Bird (right) has been created to attract the experienced and adventurous wine drinker to visit.



On the trail current **Strange Bird wines available** are those made from: Barbera, Chenin Blanc, Colombard, Durif, Gewurztraminer, Malbec, Marsanne, Mourvedre, Nebbiolo, Petit Verdot, Pinot Gris, Sylvaner, Tannat, Tempranillo and Viognier.

Of the Granite Belt's fifty plus wine producers, the following twenty one wineries – including Sirromet at Mount Cotton - have "Strange Birds" on offer:

- Ballandean Estate
- Banca Ridge/Qld College of Wine Tourism
- Boireann Winery
- Bungawarra Wines
- Casley Mount Hutton Winery
- Golden Grove Estate
- Granite Ridge Wines
- Hidden Creek/Rooklyn
- Jester Hill Wines
- Kominos Wines
- Lucas Estate
- Mason Wines
- Pyramids Road Wines
- Ravens Croft Wines
- Ridgemill Estate
- Robert Channon Wines
- Sirromet Wines (Mount Cotton)
- Summit Estate
- Symphony Hill Wines
- Tobin Wines
- Whiskey Gully Wines

Download a copy of the Strange Bird map and brochure from www.granitebeltwinecountry.com.au or phone 1800 SO COOL. *Expect to be surprised!*

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1. The history of the Queensland wine industry dates back to the 1860s - and like all good wines it has developed with age.
2. 35% of Queensland's 1500 hectares of wine grapes are in the state's premier wine region - the Granite Belt.
3. 64% of Granite Belt plantings are of Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Merlot with an increasing number of plantings of alternative grape varieties proving popular. Verdelho, Viognier, Tempranillo and Durif are rising stars.
4. The Granite Belt is home to approximately 50 wine cellar doors, the state's most awarded winemakers, plus the Queensland College of Wine Tourism - the first of its type in the world.