

HISTORY ALONG THE RIESLING TRAIL

The Riesling Trail traverses the Clare Valley Wine Geographic Indicator region, with a rich historical past, as well as much natural beauty, to offer.

Whether settlement, natural features, or SA's early history engage you, there are many places and features of interest.

1. Commencing at **Auburn** at the Southern Trailhead, Meller's Quarry, located east of Horrocks Highway, can be seen from the Interpretive sign just north of Auburn. Stone from this quarry was used in many significant Adelaide buildings, especially along North Terrace. A striking artwork, 'Gathering', approximately halfway along the Trail between Auburn and Watervale, is carved from this stone.

2. **Leasingham's** Interpretive sign commemorates 'The Copper Trail', by which copper ore was taken from Burra to Port Wakefield in the 1850s by bullock and mule drays, returning with supplies for the Burra miners.

3. **Watervale** is the home of the world-famous Watervale Riesling, again commemorated with an Interpretive sign. Local wineries, notably 'Annie's Lane at Quelltaler', have fine examples of this and other wine varieties. 'Quelltaler', German for 'Springvale', a short distance from the Riesling Trail on the eastern side of Horrocks Highway at Watervale, has a museum within its magnificent historic cellars. Crabtree of Watervale, a close detour from the Trail, is another source of Watervale Riesling, and well worth visiting.

4. Travelling north, **Penwortham**, approximately the halfway point along the Riesling Trail itself, has many historic features. Penwortham is both the home of the explorer John Ainsworth Horrocks, and his resting-place in St Mark's Cemetery. The tree in which he lived for a time and Horrocks' Cottage are both marked by signs, with the Cottage open on the first Sunday of each month. Time out from travel along the Trail in Penwortham is a journey back into SA's rich past. The Penwortham area was known for its produce, helping the Clare Valley to obtain the title '*Garden of the North*'.

5. **Sevenhill** is the home of the Jesuit Community, incorporating Sevenhill Cellars and St Ignatius Church. Refugees from Silesia, the Jesuits have been at Sevenhill since 1851, having first settled near Neagle's Rock in Clare in 1848. Again, the Interpretive sign briefly tells the Jesuit story; elaboration of this can be gained by a stop there, walking the many paths on the property; visiting the ruins; tasting at the cellar-door; visiting the church with its external crypt on the northern side. The Sevenhill Cemetery also tells the tale of early settlement; access to this is from the Riesling Trail carpark on College Road, Sevenhill.

6. Railway history comes to the fore at the **Quarry Road Bridge** on your journey north. Rail was important for both movement of grain and livestock, as well as passengers. The original Quarry Road Bridge was destroyed by the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires, and replaced courtesy of the kindness of then BHP Long Products, Whyalla. Without this bridge, traversing the entire length of the Trail would not be possible. An Interpretive sign showing the construction of the original bridge shows great ingenuity in engineering.

7. The **Clare** Trailhead, near the former Clare railway station, boasts a crane left from early rail days. The complex marks the main start/finish point for Trail users, and is the easiest access point to the Clare town centre, by heading west along Lennon Street next to the crane.

8. Travel along the **Riesling Trail extension** still to the north will bring you to an artwork commemorating the important role of sheep to the development of the area. This feature engages both adults and children, and is photographed by many. Well worth a visit and only about 400 metres north of the crane.

9. Continuing to the northern end of the Trail, you will pass through prime grazing land as well as some of the many vineyards that are the region's wine backbone. **Barinia**, a previously important rail terminus, marks the northern end of the Trail, with the infrastructure there yet to be developed.

10. Should natural rock formations, flora or fauna interest you, there are Interpretive signs marking these features at various locations. These recent signs carry QR CODES, which will reveal more information about the geology and flora of the region.