

Duxton snaps up Stanley assets

CAMERON ENGLAND



DUXTON Vineyards has bought the Stanley Winery near Mildura from Accolade Wines, adding another 2400ha to its holdings.

Duxton, part of Ed Peter's Stirling-based Duxton consortium of agricultural interests including two listed companies, already crushes about 5 per cent of the Australian wine grape harvest, and Mr Peter said the acquisition made good sense.

Duxton was already a significant customer of the winery, and Mr Peter said the company intends to continue to use it for wine production and storage.

This transaction cements Duxton's presence in the region and will hopefully show that Duxton is committed to the long-term prosperity of the Sunraysia region," Mr Peter said.

Accolade said the company would transfer the production of the Stanley wine range to its Berri Winery.

The company said it recently created more than 40 new jobs at Berri through a \$40 million investment in a new bottling plant and warehouse facilities.

"The sale of Stanley Winery marks a significant milestone in the restructuring of our Australian operations and, with the expansion of our Berri facility, lays the foundation for efficiently growing sales of our portfolio of brands in domestic and export markets," Accolade Wines executive chairman Ari Mervis said.

Duxton said it expects to discuss potential employment opportunities with Stanley Wine employees prior to completion of the sale, which is expected to occur in September 2019 subject to regulatory approvals.

Mr Peter said the company would continue with its bulk wine focus at Stanley.