

SE Good Life
 HD **Bumper year for Logan**
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KERRY SKINNER meets a winemaker at the top of his game.

Peter Logan has an extra spring in his step these days, but it's not only because of the continued success of his Mudgee-based **wine business**.

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Logan has a new woman in his life, a bonny baby daughter called Clementine. Clementine's birth during the busy 2014 vintage was the icing on the cake for Logan and his wife Hannah, who form one of the **wine** industry's most formidable partnerships.

"It's fantastic being a father ... jeez we got a good one," Logan says.

"I'm still getting used to fatherhood but once we realised that Clementine was so well adjusted and such a good sleeper, Hannah booked me a few trips to go selling **wine** again. I've been to Japan for two weeks, that's our biggest export market, Melbourne for a week, Brisbane and then to **China**.

"Japan was good but Europe generally is very tough for Australian **wine** at the moment ."

The situation in **China**, where Logan has **sold** a lot of **wine** in recent years, has also been turned on its head after the **Chinese** government introduced austerity measures.

"**Hong Kong** is one of our oldest markets but in mainland **China**, the government bought in their austerity measures, telling **Chinese** government officials not to flash around too much cash and that's where most of the **wine** was **sold**. It's hit a brick wall and is a trickle compared to what it was."

While the international market remains volatile, things are thriving on the home front, with Logan Wines this year crushing its 18th vintage since its establishment in 1997, when Logan and his late father Mal kicked off their first **wine** venture in Orange.

The **business** expanded to Mudgee, where Peter and Hannah Logan's family home can be seen from the state-of-the-art winery and cellar door complex. For Logan, it's been a steep learning curve but he is now at the top of his game.

"I've evolved a lot as winemaker, working with the fruit for so long, making **wine** for so long, being in the industry for so long. And all the trials we do each year have certainly helped me accumulate a lot of knowledge," Logan says.

Logan now produces **wine** under four labels - his top-shelf Ridge Of Tears; Logan, which concentrates on Orange; Weemala, and the entry-level Apple Tree Flat.

The introduction of the Ridge Of Tears wines and a new assistant winemaker, Duncan Lloyd, has taken Logan Wines to a new level. The innovative Ridge Of Tears label comprises two shiraz wines, one from Orange and one from Mudgee.

The fruit for each **wine** come from vineyards 70 kilometres apart, Mudgee from at an altitude of 564 metres and Orange from an altitude of 850 metres. Apart from that, they receive almost identical

treatment in the winery, fermentation in small concrete open fermenters, plunged by hand and basket-pressed straight to oak. For Lloyd, who hails from one of the great shiraz regions, the wines are a revelation, although totally different in structure and body.

Lloyd describes the Orange shiraz as "feminine" and the Mudgee version as "more brooding and earthy".

For Logan, the arrival of Lloyd has helped take some of the load off his already broad shoulders.

"Duncan is really excelling, he's very organised in the winery, he's got a very good palate and I'm learning from him as much as I hope he's learning from me," Logan says.

"He grew up in a winemaking family in McLaren Valley, has been around wine all his life and he's travelled and worked in some great places in Tasmania, Germany and France."

For now Logan is a contented man and it's steady as she goes, but who knows ... there could be a new wine in the pipeline to celebrate Clementine's birth, just like the Hannah Rose that Logan introduced for his rose-loving wife on their wedding day.

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