

PROJECT DESCRIPTION – BRENNAN WINERY:
NEW WINERY, RESTAURANT, EDUCATION AND EVENT COMPLEX



Brennan Wines is an established vineyard and cellar door located at Gibbston Back Road, within the Gibbston Valley. The owners currently run a small cellar door, with wine making and barrel storage located within separate buildings on the site. Most staff have tended to be from overseas, with harvests and pruning typically bringing in workers mostly from Vanuatu.

In 2016, the owners started working on concepts for a new winery building that would accommodate a large barrel hall, wine making facilities, restaurant and cellar door with some conference/meeting facilities. The concept has progressed to the preparation of resource consent documents.

Post Covid 19, the owners have considered how to diversify further, recognising the need to help get New Zealanders trained to work within the vineyards. This addresses two post-Covid issues; one being the inability for migrant workers to travel to New Zealand, and the other being the redeployment of New Zealanders. It also contributes to the long term sustainability of the winery itself, and the wider viticulture industry within the Gibbston Valley (and elsewhere in New Zealand).

Gibbston Valley is world renowned for its wine making, and this is recognised in the Queenstown Lakes District Plan, which supports the growth of vineyard activities particularly within the Gibbston Valley. The proposal is complementary to the sustainable management of the Gibbston Valley.

The following outlines the activities proposed within the winery building. The building is architecturally designed and provides three levels providing space for wine making, cellar door and restaurant, events and meetings. The plans of the winery building are attached and marked [A].

Restaurant and cellar door:

The building provides a café / restaurant and tasting room of 681m² in floor area. This would provide casual dining and wine tasting. Depending on demand the restaurant will focus on casual day time dining, but will potentially open at night most likely up to three times per week as well as for evening functions. The cellar door will offer wine tasting up to seven days a week, catering for small wine tours as well as independent travellers.

The barrel hall

In addition to the storage of barrels, the barrel hall has been designed to accommodate small, intimate concerts, including its acoustical setting. There is space to place the barrels at the outer edges of the

hall, and accommodate up to 400 persons within an acoustically designed indoor setting. The events are aimed at providing an upmarket venue for high quality artists.

Education

The existing vineyard and the proposed winery complex will provide a hands on training facility to support training in the new building for winemaking, viticulture and potentially arts.

Class sizes would generally be small, with up to 15 students. There is indoor teaching space, with most of the learning undertaken within the vineyard. It is anticipated that training programmes would be run using local vintners, or educators from outside of Queenstown. Larger seminars, presentations, and the like could also be held, in the barrel room or other larger spaces within the building.

Weddings and events

In addition to the concerts identified above, the venue will also cater for weddings and private events (eg 50th birthday celebrations) of up to 300 persons, and it is estimated that these larger private events would be held up to 5 times per year. Smaller weddings or similar private functions that cater for 100-150 persons would be held more often. These events could be located within the restaurant and outdoor courtyard, or in the barrel hall.