

ESTD  1851

# SEVENHILL

CLARE VALLEY



## SEVENHILL

CLARE VALLEY'S FIRST WINERY,  
ESTABLISHED IN 1851.



## DISCOVER

THE HISTORIC ST ALOYSIUS  
CHURCH AND UNDERGROUND  
VAULTED CELLAR.



## WALK

THE 3KM HERITAGE TRAIL TAKES  
YOU ON A JOURNEY TO THE  
HISTORICAL SITES WHICH CAN BE  
SHORTENED TO 1.8KM AND TAKES  
UNDER AN HOUR TO EXPLORE.



## WINE

TASTE THE WINE TREASURES  
OF SEVENHILL AT THE END  
OF THE TRAIL.



## HERITAGE TRAIL

RETRACING THE FOOTSTEPS  
OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS  
AND BROTHERS.



### SEVENHILL CELLARS

111C College Road,  
Sevenhill, South Australia  
Phone: 08 8843.5900  
cellardoor@sevenhill.com.au  
www.sevenhill.com.au

Maps can be downloaded from:  
[WWW.SEVENHILL.COM.AU/  
WALKING-TRAIL](http://WWW.SEVENHILL.COM.AU/WALKING-TRAIL)

Visitors are welcome to take  
the history heritage trail  
between 10am and 5pm.



*Historic Sevenhill is one of the region's  
earliest settlements and the Clare  
Valley's first ever winery, founded  
in 1851 by a young Jesuit priest,  
Fr Aloysius Kranewitter and named  
in honour of the seven hills of Rome.*

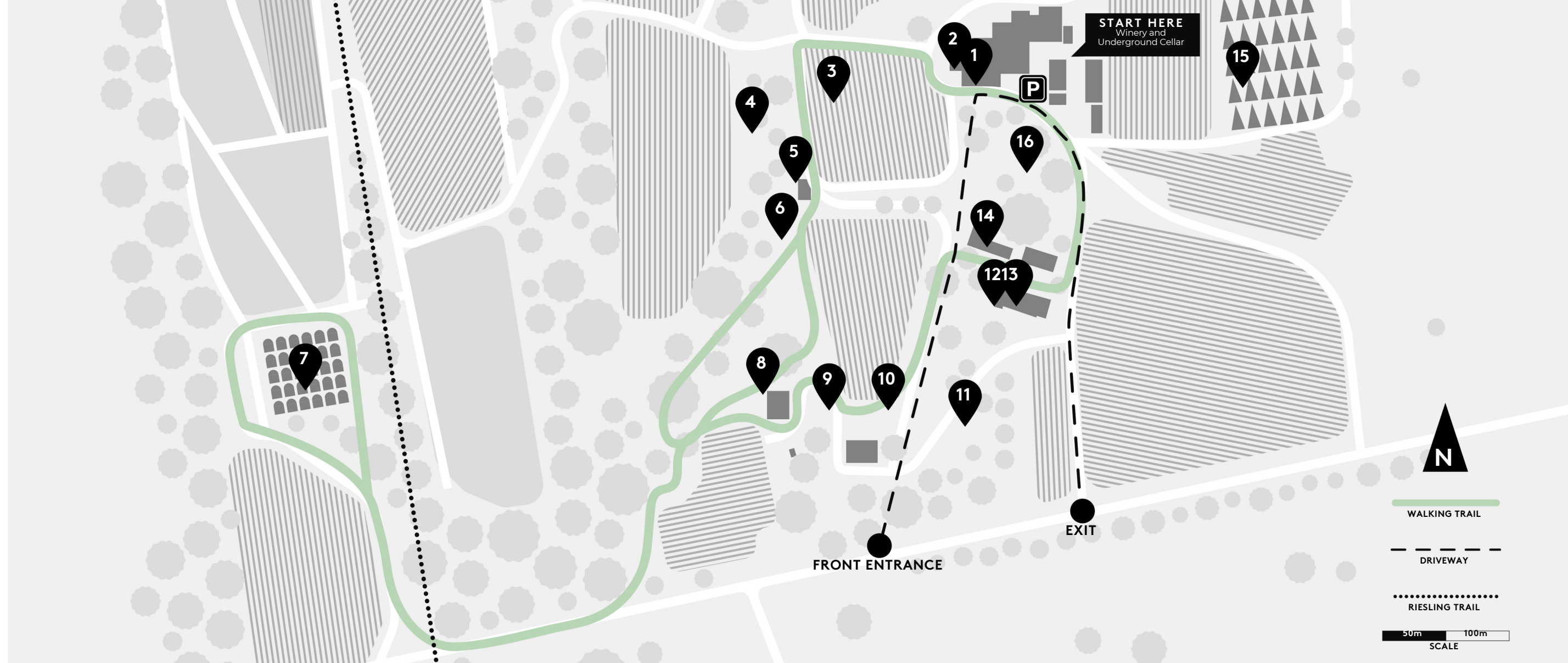
Originally the vineyards were established  
to produce sacramental wine, but over  
the years, wine production has grown  
significantly and award-winning Sevenhill  
table wines are now highly regarded and  
enjoyed around the world.

This walking trail winds its way through the  
original plantings and buildings. Significant  
sites are coupled with stories to help bring  
to life the lives of those who came from afar  
to create a new beginning.

The journey ahead is no more than 3 kilometres  
(including the Cemetery trail, or 1.8km without  
the Cemetery trail), but will span three centuries.  
It is an easy stroll, but care should be taken on  
occasionally uneven ground.

*Sevenhill Cellars was built by the Jesuits from stone  
quarried on the property. Make sure you visit the  
underground vaulted cellar when visiting the cellars.*





## 1 WINERY AND CELLAR DOOR

Excavated by hand, the vaulted cellar is located directly beneath the oldest part of the winery and where the Sevenhill winemaking journey began. Your trail begins and ends here, so please join us in the tasting room to sample

a little history in a glass once you return.  
**The Vaulted Cellar Shiraz is one of the lucky reds to spend time in the perfect stable environment of our underground cellar, where the wines mature slowly in oak barrels at the perfect temperature before being bottled.**



## 2 SLATE TANK

One of the original wine storage tanks from the 1850s and made from the famed Mintaro slate. The coolness of the slate helped maintain lower wine temperature, which is critical during the hotter months. The tank was used in the distillery that operated between 1936 and 1968 to produce spirit used in fortifying wines like Muscat and what was then called Port, Tokay and Sherry.

## 3 THE OLDEST VINES IN THE CLARE VALLEY

The gnarly old heritage Shiraz vines you are now looking at were planted in 1860 and are regarded as one of the earliest surviving plantings in the region. With great age comes lower yields but more intensely flavoursome fruit.

**Only the very best parcels of grapes make their way into a bottle of Sevenhill.**



## 4 SANDSTONE QUARRY

Virtually every stone building first constructed at Sevenhill was made from sandstone excavated from quarries on site. It was backbreaking, dangerous work that took the life of Br. Georg Sadler in 1865 when he was struck on the head with a piece of blasted rubble.

## 5 ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA SHRINE

Erected in 1870 without mortar or cement, the shrine was dry built of local sandstone and shale by Jesuit brothers at Sevenhill as a memorial to the leader of the founders of the Jesuit Order, St Ignatius.

## 6 STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Also known as the Way of the Cross or Way of Sorrows, this peaceful pathway is one of the most important devotions for many people of faith. Each of the 14 stations represent a specific moment of Christ's journey to his crucifixion and entombment.

## 7 CEMETERY

The resting place of parishioners, local pioneers and some indigenous people, the earliest gravesite dates from 1872. One of the most notable people buried here is Franz Weikert, a Silesian farmer who led a group of 146 immigrants to Australia, less than half of whom he led to the Clare Valley in 1848. Franz was accompanied on his journey from Europe by two Jesuit chaplains, Fr Aloysius Kranewitter, who would soon establish Sevenhill, and Fr Maximilian Klinkowstroem, who remained in Adelaide.

There is an option to skip the cemetery part of the heritage trail and go straight to the Marian Shrine (9). This will reduce the length of the trail by 1100 metres. (Feel free to drive to the cemetery from the Sevenhill carpark).

## 8 WEIKERT COTTAGE

When he first arrived in the region, Franz Weikert established a farm near Neagles Rock, south-west of the township of Clare. Fr Kranewitter lived there with the family. In early 1851, he purchased the land you are now standing upon. This cottage, originally a dairy, was expanded over three stages and completed in 1870. The Jesuits repaid Franz's earlier kindness when the cottage became his and his wife Fransiska's home once the elderly couple were no longer able to farm their land.

**Brothers would regularly set out from Sevenhill with their homemade produce and walk 27 miles to Burra to sell it. We named our 27 Mile Riesling as a tribute to their remarkable feat (and feet)!**



## 9 MARIAN SHRINE

Originally built as a smokehouse, this small building was converted to a shrine dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the 1950s by a group of Jesuits in the last stage of their formal formation. It is one of several sites that visitors, parishioners and retreatants come to for prayer and contemplation.

## 10 MADONNA OF THE VINES

Created by Adelaide artist, Andrew Parish, this sculpture was presented as a 65th birthday gift to Sevenhill's Jesuit Winemaker Emeritus, Br John May SJ AM, upon the completion of his 22nd vintage in 1994. It depicts the artist's vision of the Madonna walking among the vines and blessing them to ensure good wines follow.

**Our most revered premium Shiraz is named in Br May's honour as a tribute to his extraordinary commitment and 52 vintages at Sevenhill.**



## 11 ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RECONCILIATION

Two imposing columns of Mintaro slate, weighing 8 and 6.5 tonnes were purchased in June 2016 to recognize the Ngadjuri people as the traditional custodians of the lands first purchased by the Jesuits in 1851. In 2017, in consultation with Ngadjuri elders, consideration was given to the appropriate siting and scripting for the stones, and on 31st May 2018, the stones were erected in their current setting. On June 2nd 2018, the eve of Mabo Day, the base and surrounds were covered with red earth. In December 2022, two young Ngadjuri artists designed and painted the unscripted stone in traditional Ngadjuri pigments, depicting the amicable relationship between the Ngadjuri and the Jesuits and celebrating the wellsprings of life.

## 12 ST ALOYSIUS' CHURCH

Although it was always hoped a spire be erected, the steeple-less church has become a highly recognised landmark of Sevenhill and the entire Clare region. Building of the church was substantially completed in 1875, with the Southern transept and stairs added in the 1990's. St Aloysius Church features Mintaro slate floors, stained glass windows, and houses a sizeable painting of the Immaculate Conception by Zimmerman presented to the Jesuits by King Ludwig of Bavaria in 1848, and is where famed Australian poet, CJ Dennis was baptized in 1876.

**We felt our Sevenhill Spire's Lament Viognier was a poetic way of paying tribute to our much loved, steeple-less church.**



## 13 THE CRYPT

No other parish church in Australia has a crypt and it is the final resting place of 42 Jesuits whose names are carved into slate and marble headstones lining the walls of the vaulted chamber. Work began in 1864 and fortunately, were advanced enough to enter the remains of the unfortunate Br Sadler in 1865, although the Crypt wasn't fully complete until 1870.

## 14 SEVENHILL COLLEGE (no public access)

Along with the winery and church, the Jesuit residence and college were the first structures built at Sevenhill. It became the first Catholic secondary school in South Australia. Construction was complete in 1868 and it operated as a boarding school until 1886. It served as a house of Jesuit formation and a seminary. It was home to Christopher Reynolds (later to be the first Catholic Archbishop of Adelaide) and Julian Tenison Woods during his final studies for priestly ordination. It was also home to two brothers, Donald [who would later become a Jesuit] and Peter McKillop. When their more well-known sister, Mary [later to be named Australia's first saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop] visited them there, she stayed at Weikert Cottage. Today, the building is known locally as 'the College' and its primary function is to offer programs of retreats and spiritual formation.

**The first building erected in front of the steps of the present Church building was a 10 by 3 metre mud slab hut that would become the first Sevenhill Jesuit residence. Our Thatch and Clay Touriga pays homage to the first home on this land of our founders.**



## 15 PINE PLANTATION

Typical of the Jesuit's self-sufficiency, 1,000 pine trees were planted more than 50 years ago to make wooden boxes to transport wine in the pre-cardboard era. Close to this quiet area of contemplation, stands the World Youth Day Cross, erected in 2008 by WYD pilgrims who gathered at Sevenhill to celebrate the tri-yearly international festival.

## 16 SEVENHILL BR SCHREINER GREEN

A beautiful, shaded area of lawn named after the first Jesuit winemaker, Br John Schreiner, who arrived in the Clare Valley in April 1849, five months after Fr Kranewitter. Visitors can enjoy a cheese platter and glass or bottle of wine purchased from the Cellar Door. Various outdoor theatrical and community events take place on the Green throughout the year. Be sure to visit our website for details.

[www.sevenhill.com.au](http://www.sevenhill.com.au)