



regions with more than 90 “characters” – iconic local winemakers playing exaggerated versions of themselves. Complicating things further, filming took place during harvest time in January through March – which made the schedule harder but made the content absolutely Grange quality.

“There was a lot of collaboration between us, the winemakers and the production team about what went into the script and what rang true,” Earl said.

The crew captured up to 30 different locations for each of the six 30-minute episodes but it wasn’t as arduous as imagined. Most of the regions are just 45 minutes’ drive from the capital city of Adelaide.

“Really, we didn’t have to go very far. It’s like going around the corner to buy bread and milk,” said Earl.

Busting myths about the physical and intellectual accessibility of Australia’s wine regions is one of the main edicts of Plonk.

Plonk – the brainchild of team members from widely acclaimed Australian political sketch comedy

program *The Chaser’s War on Everything* – shows that enjoying wine is a rounded experience and involves exploration.

“People aren’t going to watch it and try to make their own wine, but they do go to these regions, they get excited about wine, join a wine club or mailing list,” Earl said.

“We’re a whole generation of people who want to get into that world but don’t know where to begin. Plonk shows that these places are accessible.”

South Australia is, in Earl’s mind, the best example of this yet.

“What I learned about South Australia is there are amazing things happening all year round,” Earl said.

“The passion of the wine industry, diversity of the regions, appreciation for food and wine, music and culture; this extends well beyond ‘events season’.

“It is breathed and pulsated all year round.”

Although the show is satirical, the joke is always on the television production

crew and never the wine industry.

Still, the many winemakers, grape growers, politicians, chefs and associated professionals who represented the state during filming were in themselves great characters who told the stories of an iconic part of South Australia.

Cameos from Yalumba Wines chairman Robert Hill Smith, wine icon and Hill of Grace creator Stephen Henschke and famed d’Arenberg winemaker Chester Osborn are peppered throughout the series.

Earl also recalls the joy of meeting Brother John of Sevenhill winery in the Clare Valley where sacramental wine is made.

“Meeting an 80-year-old Jesuit priest who has been making wine since before I was born was a real thrill,” he said.

Earl, Taylor and Tyler will be touring Australia for question and answer sessions regarding Plonk season 2 as guests of Wine Communicators Australia, starting in Adelaide on Tuesday 21 April. Further dates are available in Melbourne and Sydney.