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Hunter Valley to get \$130m seven-star hotel with medi-spa and vineyard

A finance veteran has attracted 70 investors, including prominent winemakers, to back his \$130m seven-star Hunter Valley resort development.

LISA ALLEN · The Australian Business Network · 3 min read · May 19, 2026 — 1:00 PM



Dominic Lambrinos and Brian McGuigan. Picture: Dominique Cherry

Finance veteran and hotel owner Dominic Lambrinos is developing a seven-star, \$130m hotel and medi-spa on an NSW Hunter Valley vineyard, betting the region lacks a world-class resort.

Mr Lambrinos, who owns hotels in Poland and Oman, has attracted 70 investors, including high-profile winemakers Brian McGuigan and Col Peterson of Peterson Wines, to fork out a total of \$18m towards the construction of the 65 pavilion-style villas set within a commercial vineyard of 165 acres planted with shiraz, chardonnay and semillon.

"This is the first new-build luxury resort development of this scale in the Hunter Valley in two decades."

— Dominic Lambrinos

"One of these investors has put in \$2m – investors get 10 per cent to 12.7 per cent returns depending on how much they invest," he added.

The hotel, to be known as Laval Hunter Valley, will charge from \$940 a night per luxe villa, including breakfast and a mini-bar with alcoholic drinks, and is taking bookings from October, with the project expected to be completed by mid-2027.



Brian McGuigan

Mr Lambrinos has been yearning to do a major development in Australia, but it hasn't always been smooth sailing. The co-founder of Chifley Financial struck a deal to buy Paul Bangay's Victorian estate Stonefields with celebrity gardener Jamie Durie and another partner, Kim Jacobs, two years ago. But the \$11m deal fell through due to community backlash against the trio's plans to build a luxury hotel on the site.

"Out of every one hotel I undertake there's probably 50 other sites which I decide not to proceed with," Mr Lambrinos said. "Stonefield's case was just one of them, but of course it was a famous property, and I had a famous partner."



Laval Hotel's interior.

In the Hunter Valley, Mr Lambrinos is pressing ahead with plans for the Laval Hunter Valley resort, with civil works already completed, saying that he will plant 21,000 native plants and more than 6700 vines across the estate, which was formerly part of the Lindeman's Estate and Ben Ean Estate.

Mr McGuigan sold Mr Lambrinos the site for \$25m and confirmed he was a small investor in the project as well as an advisor. The hotel gardens and interiors will have \$3m worth of Gillie and Marc sculptures both on the grounds and featured in the luxe rooms.

"We started work on the hotel three years ago, and we needed a professional," Mr McGuigan told The Australian.



The Laval Hotel in the Hunter Valley boasts a swimming pool anchored by a Gillie and Marc sculpture.

"We looked for a person of the same sort of mindset, and fortunately we ran into Dominic. We were able to talk him into a deal whereby we would sell him the land," Mr McGuigan added.

While Mr McGuigan and Mr Peterson won't own the resort, they will be around to help with relationships in the Hunter Valley "because we know about tourism," Mr McGuigan said.



Dominic Lambrinos on his Hunter Valley estate.

"Tourism has been crucial to many companies' successes. We decided we should not get involved in the hotel; it would be too complicated," Mr McGuigan added.

The resort, which features a 175-year-old fig tree, will have a 25-metre red-tiled swimming pool and poolside bar fronting the Shiraz vineyard. One of the key drawcards, according to Mr Lambrinos, will be the 1000sqm spa which will offer guests non-surgical facelifts, threads and Botox with a cosmetic surgeon on site.

Winemaker Jon Osbeiston, who is curating the wine experience at Laval, said that in putting together the wine program, he wanted to honour that 185-year winemaking legacy by bringing to the forefront the varieties that have defined the uniqueness of the Hunter Valley.

"Both Semillon and Shiraz are the varieties that put the Hunter Valley on the world stage, and they will feature heavily in their representation with vintage verticals of individual producers providing what we hope will be an unrivalled range.

"There will be a comprehensive list of other Hunter varietals together with other leading Australian producers meshed with a selection of leading international producers.

"Drawn from a planned 10,000-bottle cellar and expressed through a list of around 1,000 wines, the collection will work with some of the best producers that the wine world has to offer."

ORIGINAL SOURCE

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