



TAKE THE BLOSSOM TOUR

In 1902, Spencer Hall planted 10 acres of almonds along Aldinga and Giles Roads. ② He chose Brandis, Nonpareil and Papershell varieties. Remnant trees still blossom and yield fruit today.

Richard Strout then developed a large-scale grove of Strout, Johnston and Papershells on Strout Road ① in 1909.

It was not until Walter Brown started planting in 1927 that the Chellaston variety was widely used. His 40-acre plantation was at the corner of Aldinga and Delabole Roads ③.

Mr. Ellis, a real estate agent for W F Bullock, travelled to America in 1933 and recognised the similarity between Californian almond growing areas and the Willunga region. On his return, he encouraged local farmers to plant on a much larger scale. The Almond Groves Company was formed in 1934 and planted 240 acres on the corner of Colville and Almond Grove Roads ④. By the time of the first Almond Blossom Festival in 1969, there were around 2300 acres of almond trees in the district.

During the 1970s, irrigation improved yields, but cold wet weather affected pollination at blossom time and the pressure of urban expansion saw the bigger growers moving to the Riverland. Today, the few remaining family almond groves in Willunga ① ④ ⑤ ⑥ stay viable by marketing produce directly to consumers.

