



IRRESISTIBLE Robin Gibb at Sandalford Winery.
PICTURE **MATTHEW TOMPSETT**

Sunday night fever at winery

CONCERT

Robin Gibb

Sandalford Winery
Sunday, October 31

REVIEW **KENT ACOTT**

When Robin Gibb stood before his fans at Sandalford Winery on Sunday night, he let his music — and that of his famous brothers — do the talking.

There was nothing pretentious or ostentatious. He walked on stage in a simple grey jacket and black T-shirt, took the microphone and sang more than 20 songs in a little over 90 minutes. He left his audience shouting for more.

Of course, it helps when you can draw on a song catalogue that features some of the world's biggest pop songs of the past five decades.

Robin and his brothers, Barry and Maurice, began writing songs as the Bee Gees in the 1960s.

And it was the songs from those early days where Robin really shone. Massachusetts, the group's first No.1 single from 1967, and To Love Somebody, from about the same time, were mid-concert showstoppers.

And when he sang I Started a Joke and New York Mining Disaster it was easy to see why he was regarded as the group's lead singer before brother Barry discovered his falsetto voice and "that movie" (Robin's own reference to Saturday Night Fever) became such a success.

The fact that so many of the Bee Gees' songs rely on Barry's upper register for their distinctive sound did not deter Robin. He tackled them head on, with mixed

results. Some sounded too different but others, including Night Fever and Jive Talkin', were triumphs.

Robin also tried his hand at songs written by the brothers but made famous by other people and, perhaps strangely, it was Islands in the Stream, written for Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers, that got the biggest audience response.

Robin barely moved from centrestage, acknowledging the audience between songs with a simple wave or a thumbs up. There was some banter. He talked about his first visit to Western Australia when, as a small boy, he migrated from England and passed through Fremantle as part of his family's journey to Brisbane. Robin is now 60 and his voice is probably not as pristine as it once was. But as a concert performer, he showed his vast experience and the confidence that comes with lifetime of success. It was infectious and impossible to resist.

Welsh support act Bonnie Tyler, is almost 60 and her voice has never been pristine.

Her raspy tones — the product of an operation to remove nodules from her vocal chords back in the 1970s — have become her trademark sound, as typified by her hit It's a Heartache.

She belted out song after song in a raw 45-minute set that included Creedance Clearwater Revival's Have you Ever Seen the Rain, Ryan Adams' Straight from the Heart and Paul Stanley's (from KISS) Hide Your Heart.

But it was the "sweeter" song Lost in France that proved to be the concert highlight. Tyler provided the perfect precursor to the main event. **t**