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Elderton

BUZZ

MARCH 2017

2013 COMMAND: BLINK AND YOU WILL MISS IT

The Ashmead family are constantly amazed by the 1894 Command Shiraz vineyard that is on the Elderton estate in Nuriootpa. Since the inception of Command in 1984, these vines have produced some of the nation's greatest and most interesting Shiraz. This vineyard is now 123 years old and remains in remarkable health; it is amazing to think growers in the Barossa were pulling out vines like these 35-odd years ago.

With the newest release, the 2013 Command, conspiracy theorists all over the world are probably peddling the notion

that the Barossa's best vintages all end in even numbers. As a generalisation, it isn't necessarily a bad one to follow, however all generalisations have their blatant inaccuracies and it is our belief that people will truly miss out if they follow this theory in 2013.

When asked to declare the better vintage out of 2010 and 2012 our winemaker, Richard, typically responds '2013'. High praise indeed for the latest release, and proof you shouldn't judge a Barossa wine simply by its vintage year, be it odd or even.

Following on from the exceptional vintages of 2010 and 2012 (2011 wasn't released), the 2013 more than holds its own. A very small, dry and early vintage where yields right across all of our vineyards were less than a tonne an acre, the vines struggled. With little access to water through the dry and hot summer, yields were the lowest ever produced from the Command vineyard, yet it still provided us with some amazing quality grapes. The result of this excellence has cost us in quantity however, as we were 80% down on a normal harvest in 2013. *continued over page*



2013 COMMAND

cont...

The 2013 Command shows aromas of blackberry fruit, aniseed and spices which carry through to the palate which is rich, warm and generous. We think this is another Command for the ages, but almost too delicious to keep your hands off! Whether you drink or cellar is a question for later though, just don't miss out on this amazing odd numbered vintage!



MUSEUM RELEASE

Late last year Cameron and Allister made a decision to share some of the wine the Ashmead family are lovingly cellaring in the Elderton museum.

Introducing the Museum Release 2008 Command Shiraz

The 2008 Command Shiraz upholds the Ashmead family's vision of producing wine which shows its terroir, has respect for history and stays true to its origin. Richard Langford, Elderton's winemaker, noted upon its release, "It will be a long lived wine!"

For those who wish to stock their cellar, this special release 2008 Command comes in a museum release wooden 6-pack.

You can purchase this in Cellar Door, via phone, mail order or on our website.

NEWEST TRIBUTES TO OUR FOUNDERS

It is with great pleasure that Cameron and Allister announce the latest releases of the wines dedicated to their parents, Lorraine and Neil Ashmead. The brothers believe that family is everything, and understand the parallels to wine, where history, provenance, hard work and excellence are all vital for success and happiness.

The Ode to Lorraine has become known as the hidden gem in the Elderton portfolio, showing off what amazing things can happen with the judicious blending of some of the best Cabernet, Shiraz and Merlot from the Elderton Estate. The 2014 follows on with this trend of excellence, and is the tenth

release since being named in honour of our matriarch. This is certainly one to put down in the cellar for some time.

It is great to also release the 2015 Neil Ashmead Grand Tourer Shiraz after the 2014 version sold out in less than a month last year. The 2015 is already looking great, with both the quality of the wine as well as the new packaging to make it look like the perfect pair with the Ode to Lorraine. This is the seventh release of this wine since 2008, and sadly 2017 marks 20 years since Neil's passing.

Both of these wines are available now, and along with the newly released 2013

Command and 2014 Ashmead, make the most impressive quartet of releases we have ever seen at Elderton.



VINEYARD AND WINERY UPDATE

Wow, what a wild year of weather we have had. Great rainfall through winter was much appreciated, and kept going all through spring. We even had flooding in the vineyard, which only happens every 10 years or so. Summer has been mild, and thus vintage is about a month later than the last 5 seasons have offered. Vineyards are looking great, with good crops of beautiful looking bunches. At the time of writing we are expecting better than average yields and an exceptional vintage for the Barossa's intrinsic varietals of Shiraz, Cabernet, Grenache and Riesling.

Richard has assembled his cellar team from Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Canada and China this year. They are eagerly waiting for the grapes to ripen and be delivered into the winery to be the next instalment of wines to wow the lovers of what we do.

Also in the middle of our Nuriootpa vineyard, work on our new Cellar Door has now started. The Elderton Homestead, the childhood family home to brothers Cameron and Allister, is now being refurbished to be one of the most spectacular Cellar Doors that this country has ever seen. Plans are finalised, and everything points to a Spring opening. We can't wait to show it off.



STOP THE PRESS?

Around the same time that a fledgling plan for Elderton was beginning to take shape in the early 80s, a new station on American TV played their first ever music video called 'Video Killed the Radio Star'. 36 years later, it seems we are ready for a new song called something like 'Social Media and the Internet are Killing Classical Wine Journalists!' Whether you like it or not, things are a-changin'.

It does make perfect sense that people should take cues on things to consume from friends and loved ones, as these are the people who know you the best. At Elderton we have often argued for Eldertonians to find a retailer, a sommelier or even a winery that you know and trust, and talk to them about what you like and let them find the wine to make your day/year/decade. Now, add friends, parents or colleagues to this list.

We have also grown up here at Elderton and believe our history, hard work and dedication to grape growing and winemaking is a much more compelling story than constantly telling you that we got 95 points from so-and-so. We know our wine is good, and if it isn't it simply does not get released.

Over the coming years, we think that the press will play less and less of a part of our story, and that our wines and our confidence in them will continue to flourish. It is our intention to continue building that confidence in everyone who has ever enjoyed a bottle of wine from us, with or without (insert a number from 90 up, here) points. We encourage people to continue sharing their love of wine (especially ours!) with their loved ones, as this is what the best of life is all about.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 Commander Seasonal Lunches
@ Cellar Door *Commander-only events*

13 April, 11 August, 10 November 2017

To book contact Jodhi 08 8568 7878 or
jodhi@eldertonwines.com.au

Barossa Wine Chapters Auction
21 April 2017

During Barossa Vintage Festival (19 - 23 April)

Melbourne Good Food & Wine Show
2 - 4 June 2017

Ribs & Red @ Cellar Door, 9 June 2017

After sellout events in 2014, 2015 & 2016, join us for the fourth annual lunch. Book on our website.

Sydney Good Food & Wine Show
23 - 25 June 2017

Perth Good Food & Wine Show
14 - 16 July 2017

Brisbane Good Food & Wine Show
27 - 29 October 2017

The Elderton Tennis Classic (a Fast4 event)
12 November 2017

A new event, join us for a great day of social tennis in The Elderton Tennis Classic. Compete in mixed doubles to win the inaugural cup and \$1000 of wine, as well as other fun prize categories, culminating on the grass court at the new Cellar Door!

Visit our website for more details: eldertonwines.com.au/upcoming-events

ASHMEAD, GLAD YOU'RE BACK!



One of the greatest pleasures we derive as family winemakers is to see the joy on people's faces when they discover something unexpected. More often than not, this joy is often associated with tastings of our Ashmead Cabernet Sauvignon. The 2013 Ashmead sold out in less than a month last year, meaning we have been deprived of seeing this joy in our Cellar Door, and in our travels, for quite some time now. This is one reason we are so happy to see the release of the 2014 Ashmead Cabernet Sauvignon.

It is now globally accepted that the Barossa Valley is synonymous with the production of amazing, world-beating Shiraz, but less well known is the amazing Cabernet that can and does grow in the Valley and upon our surrounding hills. Cabernet definitely plays second fiddle to Shiraz, and it is thus unexpected that something that can so easily and proudly sit beside the best of Bordeaux, Napa and

Margaret River can, and does, come from the Ashmead family's Nuriootpa vineyard.

Most people are unaware that the Barossa has some of the oldest soils in the viticultural world. And when combined with many of the oldest Cabernet vineyards that exist on the planet, a temperate Mediterranean climate, and the skilful hands of our winemaker – something truly beautiful can occur.

The 2014 Ashmead is that wine. Sourced from vineyards around 80 years of age, and lovingly looked after in the best French oak we can buy, the 2014 is a real beauty. The vintage itself wasn't without its challenges: the wet start to winter quickly faded to a dry and hot spring and summer. We were saved with some rainfall in early February which gave the vines a chance to enjoy the last month to six weeks of vintage. Small berries were the hallmark of 2014, ensuring colour and tannin profiles are a highlight.

The 2014 Ashmead is a cracker of a wine. Loaded with dark berry and chocolate characters, the wine has silky tannins and should drink well with good cellaring for the next couple of decades. We look forward to showing it to you in our Cellar Door or during our travels in the year ahead, and hopefully we see a few smiles when we do!

GALLERY



1. Allister and Cameron with legendary Fred Stolle at Vintners Bar & Grill; 2. Eldertonian Stuart showing his friend from New Zealand how great Elderton wines are; 3. Elderton are now sponsors of Tennis SA and we were chuffed to see our logo out the front of Adelaide Oval during the cricket; 4. Cameron and Fraser at the Barossa Christmas Parade; 5. The fabulous 2016 Masters & Commanders golfers celebrating at Cellar Door.

6. Bel, Kari, Felix, Archer and Tush at the Christmas Parade; 7. Louise has made good use of an old wine box to nest new chicks; 8. Allister with Taylor and Jodie Krikke at the Relay for Life fundraiser in WA; 9. Ashmeads who lunch; 10. Richard, Andrew, Tush and Murray enjoying Masters & Commanders golf.

UPDATE

If you are on our mailing list, but do not currently receive our email updates, event invites and special offers, we would love to hear from you. To update your details you can contact Cellar Door via 08 8568 7878 or email elderton@eldertonwines.com.au.

SHARE

To share photos of you and your friends enjoying Elderton, email jess@eldertonwines.com.au.



1. Brett and Richard checking on barrels in the winery; 2. Cameron and Jules at our Christmas party; 3. Allister and Cameron in Cellar Door with Mr Yoshino, a Japanese journalist; 4. Richard sporting a Nuriootpa Tigers guernsey, our local footy team who we are proud to sponsor; 5. Cameron with sons Angus, Wills and Louis during a recent family holiday to Queensland.

6. Congratulations to Jess and her baby bump; 7. Jodhi, Tush and Kari at our Christmas Party; 8. Tim, Corey, Tush, Ash and Roo at Masters & Commanders golf; 9. Bec and Jules with Fred Stolle; 10. Cheesehead Annabel cheering on the Greenbay Packers!