



The Wine Advocate, Issue 238, Sept, Joe Czerwinski

The Ashmead family doesn't have a long, multigenerational tale going back to Silesian immigrants to tell. Founders Neil and Lorraine Ashmead purchased their Nuriootpa property in 1979 as a homestead, with the 72-acre vineyard included as part of the sale. Within a few years, they started Elderton Wines, operated by their sons, Allister and Cameron, since 2003. From an early obsession with oak, the winemaking has evolved in a positive way, so while there is still plenty of oak used in the upbringing of the robust red wines, it's better integrated and fits the wines better than ever before. Not reviewed this issue but definitely worth a search is Elderton's 2015 Fifteen Shiraz, from a parcel of Shiraz in Greenock planted in 1915.

2014 Command Shiraz

96 points

From vines planted in 1894, the 2014 Command Single Vineyard Shiraz aged in a combination of French and American oak (80% new). Aromas of smoky campfire and vanilla lead the way, followed by expressive raspberry fruit. It's full-bodied and lush across the palate, creamy in texture, impressive in its concentration and balanced by a crisp, fruit-driven finish. Quintessential Barossa Shiraz.



2014 Ashmead Cabernet Sauvignon

94 points



All Cabernet, all new French oak (a mix of hogsheads and puncheons) and all Barossa, the 2015 Ashmead Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is a beautiful example of Barossa Cabernet. The nose features mint and cassis notes that are almost floral. The palate is full-bodied but elegant, firm but silky. The finish is long and lined with fine-grained tannins and a touch of aristocratic austerity. And the entire package is varietally distinct and built to age for two decades from the vintage. Well done.

2016 Neil Ashmead Grand Tourer Shiraz

92 points

A blend of Nuriootpa and Greenock fruit went into the 2016 Neil Ashmead Grand Tourer Shiraz, which was aged in 50% to 60% new French oak. It doesn't come across as that oaky, instead showing scents of peppery spice and roasted meat, which lend a savory edge to the raspberry fruit. It's medium to full-bodied and a bit tart and open-knit, suggesting early consumption.



2015 Ode to Lorraine CSM

92 points

The 2015 Ode To Lorraine is a blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Shiraz and 5% Merlot, all grown around the family base in Nuriootpa. Leafy, minty notes accent cassis and cherry fruit on the nose, while the medium to full-bodied palate is buttressed by dusty-ripe tannins and a long, juicy finish. It's a well-executed version of the classic Australian Cab-Shiraz cocktail, with a twist of Merlot.



2017 Western Ridge Grenache Carignan

91 points

There are just 100 cases of the 2017 Western Ridge Grenache-Carignan, a full-bodied, creamy-textured red that's loaded with dusty cherries, roses and tea-like notes. It's plush and a bit warm on the palate, with a silky finish.

2016 Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon

91 points

A blend of fruit from Nuriootpa (75%) and Eden Valley (25%), the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon features lovely varietal aromas of mint, tobacco and cassis. Full-bodied but firm and slightly austere, it does turn silky on the finish. Fine with steak now, it should age well for over a decade.



2016 Golden Semillon

90 points

Sourced from Greenock, the 2016 Golden Semillon is a sweet wine concentrated by cutting the vine canes and letting the fruit partially desiccate on the vines. It offers crystalline-pure pineapple and passion fruit flavors with no evidence of botrytis. There's ample weight and unctuousness on the palate and a dry, chalk note on the finish that helps balance out the 130 grams per liter of residual sugar.

2016 Barossa Shiraz

88 points

Aged in older American oak, the 2016 Shiraz is a blend of estate fruit from Nuriootpa, Greenock and Eden Valley. Faint herbal notes on the nose add nuance to raspberry and cranberry fruit. Full-bodied and creamy-textured, the wine finishes with spicy, peppery notes and a tart edge.

