



Elderton BUZZ

OCTOBER 2020

1915 Helbig Shiraz vine, Greenock vineyard

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

2020 has been an extraordinary year. As spring has hit the Barossa, and the vines jump back into budburst, it is a pleasant reminder that a new season is coming. 2021 will be Elderton's 40th year of making wine for the Ashmead family in the Barossa. It will hopefully also be a reminder that the crazy and strange year that is 2020 is now almost behind us!

From bushfires all over Australia, Covid-19 creating turmoil, ridiculously low yields (but exceptional quality wines), restaurants closed, state and international borders closed and

generally so much isolation and tragedy – 2020 has been an unprecedented year.

At Elderton, we think we have made it over every hurdle that has come at us better than would originally be expected. Our team continues to do what we do best – grow grapes and make exceptional wines, and look after our customers with a welcoming smile and outstanding service.

With the holiday season rapidly approaching we hope that everyone has a safe, happy and healthy finish to

2020, but also a bright and prosperous 2021 surrounded by friends and loved ones and many good times.

The Ashmead family has some great wines coming in 2021, some exciting new additions to announce and many things to celebrate in the coming year. We look forward to seeing you in the Barossa, and hopefully all over the world with a smile and a glass of something delicious in hand.

Again, many thanks for your support, it is very much appreciated.

The Ashmead family

2018 HELBIG 1915 SHIRAZ

The 2018 Helbig 1915 Shiraz is the new release of the wine previously just named Fifteen – our remarkable and oldest single vineyard wine from our family owned vineyard in Greenock. Faced with some confusion, the Ashmead family decided to extrapolate the name to Helbig 1915, honouring the family that planted this vineyard on the north eastern corner of Greenock in 1915.

There has already been much written and said about the quality of the 2018 vintage and the winemakers of the Barossa are right to be excited by it. Good rains in winter were followed by a pleasant spring and a lovely Indian summer where the usual spikes in heat never really came. This allowed the harvest to come in gently, and the fruit, Shiraz in particular, looked superb.

SURVIVAL OF A VINEYARD

This vineyard is truly a remarkable site. Planted 105 years ago, the vineyard has probably only survived due to sitting at the bottom of a small basin up in the Western Ridge of the Barossa Valley.

This basin has allowed any free draining water to fill the sandy loam soils with moisture through the winter months

allowing good root and shoot growth, and keeping the vineyard in relatively good health through each growing season as the temperatures rise and the rain dries up.

Whilst these vines are almost as old as the Command vines in Nuriootpa (1915 v 1894), it is easy to see that the Centenarian vines in Greenock have done things pretty tough. The age of these vines only becomes evident when you get up close to them to witness the intricacy and complexity that only age gives to vines - as they certainly aren't as thick and robust as the Command vines which simply have a commanding presence.

These vines are looked after lovingly by Peter and Conrad (our Viticulturists), with hand pruning and full attention through the growing cycle, crop thinning and then careful attention at picking - ensuring that only the best fruit off this vineyard would find its way into the bottle.

IN THE WINERY

We ferment this very small parcel of grapes in large 1500 litre French oak barrels, where they sit on skins for about

5 – 6 weeks, and then get pressed into the best French oak that we can find.

This is truly a magnificent wine and stands apart from all the other wines that we make in size and matching structure. We really think it is something special and the wine will reward some very patient cellaring. If drinking young, decanting is a must, and should probably be done a day in advance to get the most out of it!

FROM THE WINEMAKERS

Production 1127 bottles

Palate Rich and structured, brooding with spicy plums and ripe fruit. A firm, long tannin structure underpins and carries the fruit through the palate.

Cellaring Up to a couple of decades from vintage, given good cellaring conditions.

We hope you enjoy this magnificent wine from a truly beautiful Barossa vintage.

A note of thanks to our good friends Troy and Tony Kalleske for allowing us to also use the Helbig name, which they have trademarked at Kalleske Wines.

***“This is very rich,
very intense and
very deeply fruited
with bold tannin
architecture.”***

97 points

JamesSuckling.com

HELBIG 1915



VINEYARD AND WINERY UPDATE

Jules and Brock checking a ferment at pumpover

VINTAGE 2020 WRAP-UP

There is excitement in the air for the quality of the 2020 wines, where colour and tannin are standouts in the reds and real vibrancy and purity is seen right across the board. Brock, Jules and Damo have been busy getting the 2020 whites and rosé into bottle and bedding down the 2020 reds into oak.

It is with some dismay that again we had a compromised yield due to drought, heat and wind. It is expected that across both 2019 and 2020 Elderton is about 60 – 70% down in average yields, meaning that these wines will be highly sought after simply because there is a real and definite shortage of wines to go around.

The team are excited about the 2021 harvest and have already assembled a group of excited and eager cellar hands for vintage. The winery has also never looked as sparkling new as it does today thanks to some hard manual labour!

RAIN POSITIVE FOR VINEYARDS

Now spring has arrived it is all systems go in the vineyard. Our long-term projects get put to the side, as our attention now turns to nurturing the vines through the coming growing season. We have been very grateful to have some good rains through August, September and early

October which ensures we have a full soil profile heading into the season. The weather forecasts are suggesting more rain to come for the next few months which will bring a totally different (and very welcome) set of challenges to the past few years.

Our cover crop has now been mowed and will breakdown to provide nutrients and make a mat to shade out weeds. This takes care of the midrow (the space between the vine rows). Undervine weeding calls for a different approach. Here we have had an exciting new development with Peter, Andrew and Steve all pitching in to help develop a

variety of tools that are allowing us to reduce herbicide use. It has been a bit of trial and error to find a system that is effective, but we are now finding some flow and will have the weeds under control just as the vines become sensitive to their presence.

It's a hectic but exciting time of year. The vines will start to grow rapidly over the next few weeks leading in to flowering. Over this time we are hoping to see some of the positive effects of our investment in soil health pay off with healthy, balanced vines producing the highest possible quality grapes.



Steve working hard in our Greenock vineyard

OUR WINES

We have released the 2018 Helbig 1915 Shiraz in this edition of the Buzz. This is alongside recent new vintage releases that we've shared by email or in Cellar Door including the Ode to Lorraine, Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon and 2020 Riesling and Rosé.

As previously mentioned, across both 2019 and 2020, Elderton is about 60 – 70% down in average yields. If you are interested in our 2019 and 2020 wines, please stock your cellar as the wines are released so that you do not miss out. We expect that there will be a number of months where some wines will be sold out, until the next vintage becomes available. If you have any questions about our wines, please contact our Cellar Door team on 08 8568 7878 or by email elderton@eldertonwines.com.au.

ELITE SINGLE VINEYARDS

2016 COMMAND SHIRAZ

Command is truly an expression of place, and we are proud to be the current custodians of a rare piece of Barossa Valley viticultural heritage. Single vineyard, planted 1894, the Command block is celebrating 126 years in 2020, and is considered an Ancestor vineyard by the Barossa Old Vine Charter.

Wears its heart on its sleeve, but there's no shame in that when it has a proud record of success...

97 points, Halliday Wine Companion

One of the best Commands I've tried.

96+ points, Robert Parker Wine Advocate

2017 ASHMEAD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

In 1997 the family sat down to discuss the viability of a 1944 Cabernet block - its saving grace was simply the pure brilliance of the fruit. It was, and is, always the standout Cabernet block on our Nuriootpa property. The eighteenth release of this continues our pursuit of making the Barossa's best Cabernet Sauvignon.

Full-bodied, rich and opulent...

95 points, Halliday Wine Companion

...a fine, elegant example of Barossa Cabernet.

92 points, Robert Parker Wine Advocate

2018 HELBIG 1915 SHIRAZ

Only 1127 bottles have been produced, from the 1915 Shiraz block at our Greenock vineyard.

...a very fresh delivery of ultra-ripe dark-berry and plum aromas, as well as chocolate and currants with some orange peel and asphalt. The palate is immensely concentrated and has very rich dark-plum, blackberry and chocolate flavors with a streak of roasted coffee and graphite at the finish. This is very rich, very intense and very deeply fruited with bold tannin architecture.

97 points, Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

2018 WESTERN RIDGE SHIRAZ

Special Release Available through Cellar Door or our online shop only. 1146 bottles produced.

The wine is intensely aromatic on the nose showing black/blueberry, vanillin oak, olive and warm spice aromas, leading to a magnificently weighted palate that's richly expressed with plush texture and expansive mouthfeel. A sumptuous shiraz, superbly structured by beautifully melded tannins and outstanding power.

96 points, Sam Kim, Wine Orbit

EXCEPTIONAL SITES

2017 ODE TO LORRAINE (CABERNET, SHIRAZ, MERLOT)

Named in honour of Lorraine Ashmead, co-founder of Elderton, the winemaking team at Elderton believe this is truly the hidden gem of our premium reds and one we know cellars brilliantly.

A glorious, superbly blended trio... It is heady with violets, cassia and woody spices. The full-bodied palate impresses with its gloss, its detail, neat acidity and firm tannins informing of its ageing potential. Harmony in a glass.

96 points + special value for money, Halliday Wine Companion

The aromas here are very expressive with ripe black cherries, raspberries and blackcurrants, as well as violets, blackberries and black-tea notes. The palate has ample flavor and structure with such deep, driving tannin and a seamless texture. Very compelling style that trades on the prowess of cabernet structure and freshness with some deep, shiraz richness.

94 points, Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com



2017 NEIL ASHMEAD GRAND TOURER SHIRAZ

A tribute to an amazing individual who was always willing to push the boundaries of expectations.

Beautifully layered nose of black cherry, blackberry...then the palate is spiced and graced with delicate vanilla, cinnamon and seductive, silky tannins.

GOLD medal, 2020 Decanter World Wine Awards

...a rich, ripe blackberry aroma, the palate rich and fruit-sweet, ripe and fleshy, with a juicy middle and soft-tannin finish. Lovelywine, rounded and cuddly. Delicious.

95 points, Huon Hooke

2019 WESTERN RIDGE GRENACHE CARIGNAN

There is something about this blend. It makes you sit up, take notice and relish the flavours and lightness of touch. And yet, there's laser precision to the acidity, the grainy tannins in tow, the gorgeous red fruit and spice flavours. It's the Barossa without the boom. Lovely wine.

95 points, Halliday Wine Companion

ESTATE FAMILY VINEYARDS

2017 BAROSSA SHIRAZ

You get what you come for. Blackberried fruit flavour, coffee-cream oak, whispers of earth and a sound, satisfying finish. It's dark and bold... Reliable as ever.

92 points, Campbell Mattinson

2018 BAROSSA CABERNET SAUVIGNON

...aromas of violets, blueberries, black cherries and dark berry pastry with attractive, cedar and fresh-tobacco notes. The palate offers very attractive chocolate, plum paste and licorice. Smoothly layered tannins with blueberry flavor and a little oak spice to close. Great concentration.

93 points, Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

2019 BAROSSA MERLOT

This has bright red-plum and blackcurrant aromas with some blue flowers, too. The palate has a smooth, velvety core of blueberries. Plenty of depth and blueberry flavor. Fresh and quite concentrated finish.

91 points, Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

2019 BAROSSA GSM

Attractive fresh raspberries and blackberries here, as well as some bergamot and black-tea notes. Then darker berries and earthy notes. The palate has an attractive blue-fruit thread with some crunchy red berries and light spice. Smooth and even.

91 points, Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

2020 BAROSSA ROSÉ

It is hard to argue that the world isn't going through a Rosé revolution at present. Perfect for backyard barbecues through to fine dining restaurants, this is a sophisticated dry Rosé that has been wonderfully crafted to enjoy in any setting.

2020 EDEN VALLEY RIESLING

This has a very fresh nose with some leafy and lemon-peel notes, as well as crushed stones. The palate has a bright, crisp and taut feel with dry, lime and lemon flavor. Taut finish. Young plantings of the estate's Craneford Vineyard.

92 points, Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

2018 EDEN VALLEY CHARDONNAY

A full and rich style with buttery peaches and cream, as well as mangoes, which really fill out the smooth, soft palate.

90 points, JamesSuckling.com

2019 GOLDEN SEMILLON

It's one big lemon-honey sherbet bomb for adults. Lovely flavours of lime marmalade, burnt toffee and ginger-lemon tea. The lusciousness and sweetness in balance thanks to the acid line.

93 points, Halliday Wine Companion





Jules, Cameron, Rebecca and Allister in the Cellar Door garden

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Elderton Tennis Classic (a Fast4 event) @ Nuriootpa & Cellar Door, 8 November 2020

Join us for a great day of social tennis. Compete in mixed doubles to win \$1000 of wine, as well as other fun prize categories, culminating on the grass court at Cellar Door!

Seasonal Lunch @ Cellar Door, 27 November 2020

Join us for lunch at Cellar Door, matched with stellar wines from our museum. **SOLD OUT**

Seasonal Lunch @ Cellar Door, 8 January 2021

Join us for lunch at Cellar Door, matched with stellar wines from our museum. Tickets available online now.

Seasonal Lunch @ Cellar Door, 12 February 2021

Join us for lunch at Cellar Door, matched with stellar wines from our museum. **SOLD OUT**

2017 Command Shiraz launch @ Cellar Door, 6 March 2021

A five course lunch celebrating the release of the 2017 Command Shiraz. Tickets on sale early 2021. Register your interest online now.

Barossa Vintage Festival, 14 - 18 April 2021

Ribs & Red @ Elderton's Barrel Hall, 11 June 2021

Join Cameron & Allister for a relaxed, 4 hour long lunch of ribs and showcasing premium wines from our cellar. A day when glasses are filled and fingers get sticky. It is not for the faint-hearted, but for those who like to indulge in some of the finest red wines the Barossa has to offer. Tickets on sale early 2021. Register your interest online now.

In 2021 the Ashmead family celebrates 40 years of winemaking at Elderton Wines!

Watch this space as we prepare events to celebrate our 40 years of winemaking! We will share details of more events as they are planned, but here is the first date to keep in mind:

40 vintages celebration - tasting and dinner @ Cellar Door, 1 May 2021

More details to come in early 2021

UPDATED PACKAGING

There have been a few changes to packaging for the Exceptional Sites range of wines, which will be sure to either make people smile or alternatively be a little downcast.

In sad news for some, but happy news for Lorraine, the beloved pink label is no longer on the Ode to Lorraine as of the recently released 2017 vintage.

Along with the pink label on Ode to Lorraine, the beloved 6-speed cap is no longer on the Neil Ashmead Grand Tourer Shiraz from the future 2018 release.

ELDERTON'S OWN BOTTLE

Across the range we are now using the Elderton 'Ashmead Crest' proprietary bottle (like we use for Command and Ashmead) for all three Exceptional Sites wines. This means it is the end of the super heavy bottle in this range.

The decision to move away from the heavy bottles was based around several factors.

Firstly, we take our sustainability pledge seriously and are looking to reduce our footprint in all areas of operation (vineyard, winery and Cellar Door).

We are also aware that airlines will not accept the big, heavy bottles and we dream of people enjoying these wines at the pointy end of the plane (when we are able to travel again).

Thirdly, we have had many comments from loyal Commanders that the bottle we did use for the Ode to Lorraine and Neil Ashmead Grand Tourer Shiraz were painful to fit into wine fridges.

And finally, Allister's wife Rebecca (who is in charge of production and logistics at Elderton) brought up the subject with him saying, "We make 16 different wines, use 10 different bottles, 10 different caps and have multiple label and box sizes." Allister, being smart and thinking 'happy wife, happy life', then quickly decided we did need to make some simplifications!

We here at Elderton are really pleased with the new packaging and hope that you can all get used to them reasonably quickly.

"...we take our sustainability pledge seriously and are looking to reduce our footprint in all areas of operation..."

GOLD MEDAL



After a long hiatus from entering international wine shows, the decision was made earlier this year to enter three wines in the Decanter World Wine Awards in the UK. All did exceptionally well, but the highlight was the 2017 Neil Ashmead Grand Tourer Shiraz winning a Gold medal.

High praise indeed, and still available in Cellar Door or on our website.



OUT AND ABOUT WITH ELDERTON

Send your snaps of Elderton out and about to jess@eldertonwines.com.au



1. Possibly the cutest puppy ever, finding a little bed in a Command box - meet Benny, who spends his time with great Elderton supporter Darren; 2. Cameron with Lauren, the 2020 Elderton Winemaking Excellence Scholarship awardee; 3. Tamzen enjoyed a 1984 Cabernet Merlot in September; 4. Angus and Cameron after the 6 hour bike relay at Melrose; 5. Some very cool new wedges, branded specially for Commander Justin; 6. The 2020 Helbig 1915 Shiraz during ferment in oak; 7. A stunning shot of a Command vine by Dragan Radocaj; 8. Peter, Conrad, Jules and Brock at our Craneford vineyard; 9. Allister, Dragan Radocaj, Fred Stolle, Lauren Mudge, Sandon Stolle, Leonora Radocaj and Matt Pick enjoyed a day of tennis, wine and food at Cellar Door.

