



G. Elderton

BUZZ

MARCH 2021

ELDERTON'S RUBY CELEBRATION

"At twenty years of age, the will reigns; at thirty, the wit; and at forty, the judgment."

– Benjamin Franklin

In 2021, the Ashmead family are celebrating 40 harvests from our coveted vineyard in the township of Nuriootpa. From very humble beginnings, Neil and Lorraine took a massive leap of faith to relocate their young family to the Barossa and to rescue the derelict old vineyard on their property, which is now the envy of the world.

and Al, and their wives Jules and Rebecca at the helm. Whilst it is a very different wine company now, the age-old edicts that good fruit comes from good vineyards, and look after your customers so they look after you has never changed.

Whilst turning 40 means it is time to reflect on how far we have come, it will also provide us ample opportunity to celebrate (with many parties planned), but more importantly to continue to work towards writing the chapters of our future.

We hope you will be able to raise a glass with us this year!



CELEBRATING 40 VINTAGES

Forty years later and it is the next generation running the show, with Cam

COMMANDING RESPECT

Way back in 1894 the Scholz family planted a Shiraz vineyard on the banks of the North Para River in Nuriootpa to allow the family a modest farming income. At the time, little did they know that this vineyard would be highly celebrated 100+ years on, for being one of the most remarkable vineyards in Australia and the world.

Sitting on alluvial river silt, over red and brown based clays with limestone beneath, this is a vineyard that today is on the eve of its 127th birthday! It is a vineyard whose resultant wine continues to astound, to surprise and to bring joy to fine wine lovers around the globe.

The vines have gnarled, thick trunks that have withstood everything the weather gods have thrown at them (through five generations of three different families). Their root systems are deep and intricate, ensuring they can find the water and minerals needed to produce the best fruit possible, in whatever conditions each year brings us.

It is amazing to think that only a generation ago vines like these were being targeted to be bulldozed through the State Government funded Vine Pull Scheme (circa 1975 – 85). Today these vines are cherished by the Ashmead

family. Our expert viticultural team works with this block to produce the best fruit that the Ashmead's have in their incredible estate grown arsenal.

The wine these vines produce is Command Shiraz.

2017 COMMAND SHIRAZ

On 1 March we launched the 2017 Command, and, as you can tell, it is a wine of which we are immensely proud.

A wetter than average growing season, which was very much welcomed by all growers in the Barossa, the vintage itself started and finished more than a month later than what had occurred in previous harvests. With some small rain events through early summer and perfect Indian summer conditions following from late February, it gave the vines ample opportunity to ripen perfectly. Whilst not a boisterous Barossan vintage, the 2017 shows remarkable composure and poise through its typical muscular frame.

As our Head of Production Jules Ashmead notes, "Command is the sum of several small batch picks to ensure we capture every part of the vineyard at optimum flavour concentration. We hand harvested this fruit over three weeks. The long and gentle ripening

season, peppered with some showers after a winter flush with rain, ensured for intense fruit concentration in the finished wine, with a depth of seamless tannin yet elegance only achieved in great years."

Like most Command vintages, the 2017 will drink well from release but will reward mid-term cellaring.

ENJOY A GLASS IN HAND

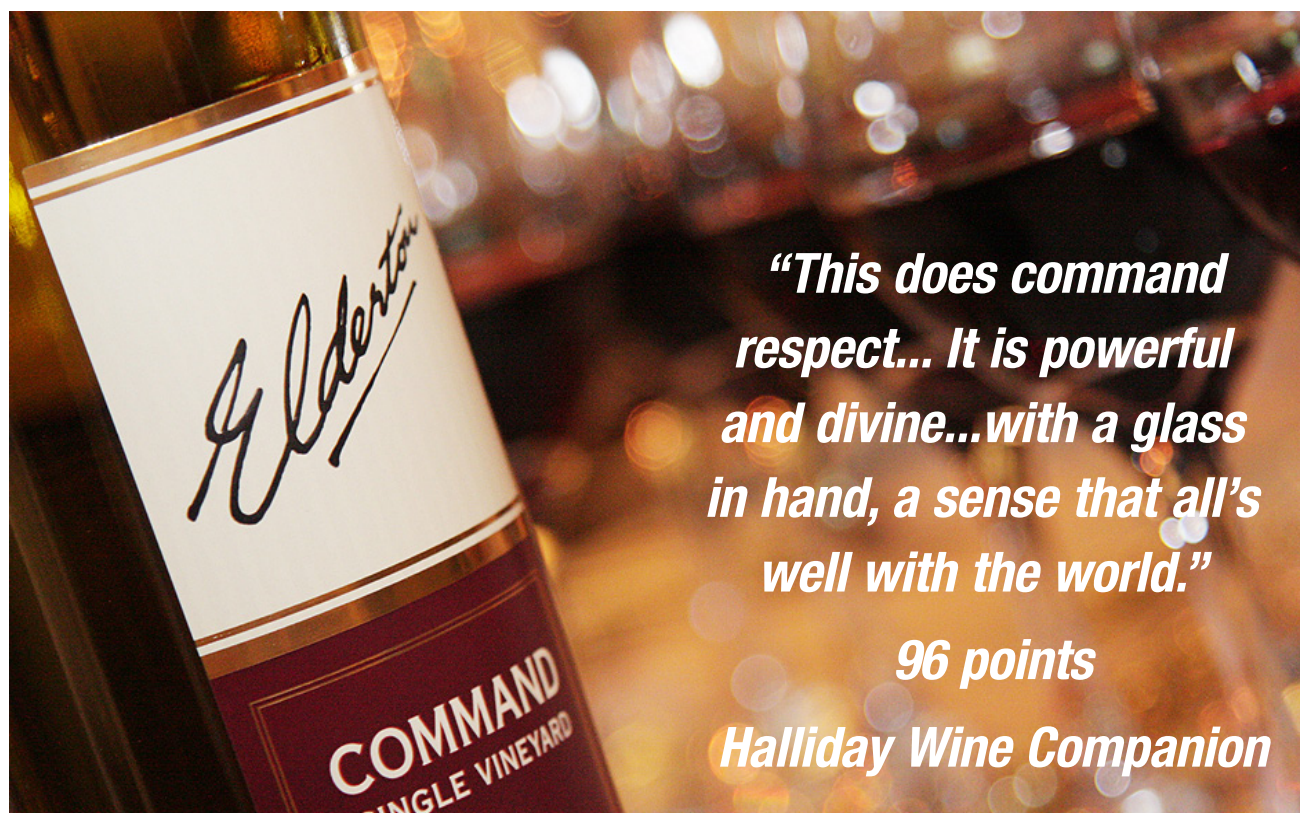
Halliday Wine Companion 2021 remarks, "96 points. This does command respect thanks to the fruit coming off 123yo vines and the care with it from that moment right through to the winemaking. It is powerful and divine. Lush with the dark fruit coated with chocolate, pepper and coffee. The palate feels all velvety with the tannins neatly placed, the oak integrated and with a glass in hand, a sense that all's well with the world."

Sounds like something we all need right now.

AVAILABLE NOW

750mL bottles and gift boxed magnum 1.5L bottles are now available online and in Cellar Door. This vintage will also be hitting the shelves of great wine retailers and wine lists around the country soon.

Cheers!



"This does command respect... It is powerful and divine...with a glass in hand, a sense that all's well with the world."

***96 points
Halliday Wine Companion***



VINEYARD AND WINERY UPDATE

Jules, Brock and Allister checking ferments

MILD SUMMER POINTS TO GOOD THINGS

As the seasons have warmed, compressed vintages with all varieties and blocks ripening together have become increasingly common. However at this point of vintage 2021, there is a spread of different growth stages pointing to a nicely spread-out vintage.

The weather this summer has been extraordinarily gentle. With only a couple of days pushing 40°C, water held in the soil has declined gently, enabling us to be precise and timely with irrigations.

When the weather does get hot we usually start the day off early to get short irrigations onto the vines. As the day warms up, the vines close their stomata which means they are no longer able to take up water.

By irrigating early in the day and doing short cycles we let the vines take up water to replenish themselves from any heat the day before. This helps us be more efficient as we lose so much less to evaporation and every drop helps the vines along.

The soils are now looking dry which coincided well with veraison; the timing is perfect to keep berry size compact to make more flavourful wines.

The early signs for vintage are optimistic. In early February during veraison, the berries were already flavourful and we expect mild conditions to continue through harvest. No promises on anything though, there is still so much that can change and at this point we are largely at nature's mercy.

VINTAGE 2021

Vintage 2021 began on 12 February, with the first white grapes coming into the winery. In the last week of February we began picking Shiraz at Greenock and Nuriootpa, along with our Chardonnay from Greenock.

Our Craneford vineyard is lagging behind the Barossa Valley sites, which may test our nerve on waiting to pick that Cabernet before autumn rains (hopefully) arrive!



Old vine Grenache at Greenock vineyard

OUR WINES

1 March saw the global release of the 2017 Command Shiraz. Normally at this time of year, we also release the new vintage of Ashmead Cabernet Sauvignon as well, but the 2018 vintage was not produced. So we are releasing the 2015 Ashmead as a museum wine 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 Neil Ashmead Grand Tourer Shiraz, Barossa Shiraz, Eden Valley Chardonnay and Golden Semillon.

And just a reminder, both the 2019 and 2020 vintages were 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. If you have any questions about our wines, please contact our Cellar Door team.

ELITE SINGLE VINEYARDS

2017 COMMAND SHIRAZ *NEW VINTAGE*

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 127 years in 2021, and is considered an Ancestor vineyard by the Barossa Old Vine Charter.

This does command respect thanks to the fruit coming off 123yo vines and the care with it from that moment right through to the winemaking. It is powerful and divine. Lush with the dark fruit coated with chocolate, pepper and coffee. The palate feels all velvety with the tannins neatly placed, the oak integrated and with a glass in hand, a sense that all's well with the world.

96 points, Halliday Wine Companion

2015 ASHMEAD CABERNET SAUVIGNON *MUSEUM RELEASE*

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. With no 2018 vintage made, we hope you enjoy this museum release.

Boy, this is one of the best I have tasted of this classic Barossa old-vine cabernet sauvignon. Such a seamless and elegant wine, with true varietal cabernet of a type you only get in the very best vintages.

97 points, Ray Jordan, The West Australian

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, James Suckling's Top 100 Wines of Australia 2020

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



2018 NEIL ASHMEAD GRAND TOURER SHIRAZ *NEW VINTAGE*

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

The Barossa stamp is firm and clear. Chocolate and smoke, soused black plums. Char-grilled meat flavours and all manner of spices. It's rich and full-bodied...

93 points, Halliday Wine Companion

This has aromas of currants, blackberries, spiced bread, orange peel, red plums and espresso. The palate delivers blueberries, laced with espresso and velvety tannins. The texture is very supple and smooth, building into a creamy and fleshy presence at the finish.

93 points, Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

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

2018 BAROSSA SHIRAZ *NEW VINTAGE*

There's rich and intense fruit on offer here, from raspberries to red plums to blackberries and assertive American-oak influence. The palate has a very rich and plush feel with bold, fleshy blackberry flavors, as well as some chocolate, smoked meat and spice.

91 points, Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

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 *LAST STOCKS*

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 *LAST STOCKS*

If you love this wine, best stock up now! Only a few cases remaining and it'll be a number of months until the next vintage is ready. This is a sophisticated dry Rosé, a Grenache / Mataro blend, 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

2019 EDEN VALLEY CHARDONNAY

Generous rockmelon and ripe peach are supported by well-rounded acidity. Additional layers of texture from battonage and enticing creamy toasty oak from barrel fermentation, further enhances the impressive core of fruit, leading to a long finish.

Winemaker's comments, Brock Harrison

2020 GOLDEN SEMILLON

A bold, lemon and honey nose with poached-pear, peach and lifted lemon-marmalade notes, as well as bergamot. The acidity holds rich, sweet lime-marmalade flavors in fresh mode. Some pastry to close.

91 points, Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com





UPCOMING EVENTS

visit eldertonwines.com.au/upcoming-events for more details or to book

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 events as they are finalised, but here are some dates to keep in mind:

Barossa Vintage Festival, 14 - 18 April 2021

40 Vintages Celebration - Tasting and Dinner @ Cellar Door, 1 May 2021

Join us to celebrate 40 Vintages of Elderton Wines! An evening of amazing wines from across four decades, with stories from the Ashmead family, all accompanied by a fabulous menu.

Cork v Screwcap Masterclass, @ Cellar Door, 16 May 2021

An opportunity to engage in the great closure debate. Look at some rare vintages of Command Shiraz and Ashmead Cabernet Sauvignon to compare how these wines age under different closures. This will be a structured, sit down tasting accompanied by chacuterie and cheese.

Melbourne 40 vintages celebration, 27 May 2021

Melbourne Good Food & Wine Show, 28 - 30 May 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. 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.

Sydney 40 vintages celebration, 24 June 2021

Sydney Good Food & Wine Show, 25 - 27 June 2021

Seasonal Lunch @ Cellar Door, 23 July 2021

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

Perth 40 vintages celebration, 29 July 2021

Perth Good Food & Wine Show, 29 - 31 July 2021

Ashmead Museum Lunch @ Cellar Door, 14 August 2021

Join us for this special opportunity to enjoy some rare vintages of our flagship Ashmead Cabernet Sauvignon from the family's cellar. A relaxed afternoon of great wine accompanied by a three course lunch of rich, warming seasonal flavours and generous hospitality.

Seasonal Lunch @ Cellar Door, 17 September 2021

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

Brisbane 40 vintages celebration, 21 October 2021

Brisbane Good Food & Wine Show, 22 - 24 October 2021

The Elderton Tennis Classic (a Fast4 event)

@ Nuriootpa & Cellar Door, 7 November 2021

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, 19 November 2021

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

CELEBRATING 40 VINTAGES

While we celebrate 40 vintages of Elderton Wines this year, the history of the vineyard and Cellar Door date back many decades. We are proud to be custodians of such an important part of the Barossa's viticultural history:

- 1894 Scholz family plants vineyard on banks of North Para River
- 1916 Tolley family purchases Elderton property
- 1918 Tolley family begins to build the homestead
- 1980 Ashmead family purchases Elderton property and vineyard restoration begins
- 1981 Ashmeads move onto the property
- 1982 First wine produced under Elderton label with the help of Peter Lehmann
- 1983 Severe floods occur; Jim Irvine hired as contract winemaker
- 1984 First vintage of Command Shiraz produced
- 1993 Elderton wins Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy at Royal Melbourne Wine Awards
- 1997 Neil Ashmead passes away
- 1998 First vintage of Ashmead Cabernet Sauvignon produced
- 1999 Allister Ashmead returns to Elderton
- 2000 Elderton 1995 Command Shiraz named in Top 100 Wines, Wine Spectator;
Elderton 1996 Command Shiraz wins World's Best Shiraz trophy at the International Wine & Spirits Competition (IWSC)
- 2002 Elderton purchases Citrus Cellars and builds its own winemaking facility
- 2003 Cameron Ashmead returns to Elderton; Richard Langford recruited as winemaker
- 2004 Elderton 2000 Command Shiraz named in Top 100 Wines, Wine Spectator
- 2005 Elderton named in Top 100 Wineries, Wine & Spirits
- 2007 Craneford vineyard purchased
- 2008 Elderton named in Top Wines of the Year, Decanter; Elderton named in Top 100 Wines, Wine Spectator
- 2010 Greenock vineyard purchased; 2006 Command Shiraz wins Best in Class at IWSC; Solar installed on winery
- 2011 30 vintages of Elderton Wines
- 2013 Launch of range of wines from Greenock vineyard
- 2017 Cellar Door in family homestead opens
- 2019 Jules Ashmead appointed Head of Production; Brock Harrison recruited as winemaker
- 2021 40 vintages of Elderton Wines



Ashmead family, 2021

OUT AND ABOUT WITH ELDERTON

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



1. Brock in a soil pit with Peter and Jules looking on - this helps guide our irrigation plan by tailoring to the soil types in each vineyard; 2. Sophie, Annabel and Charlotte were excited to meet Irena and Locky (from The Bachelor and Australian Survivor) at Vintners Bar & Grill after they had enjoyed a tasting with Allister at Cellar Door; 3. Cameron on a shark diving tour out of Port Lincoln; 4. Willi and Nancy at the recent February Seasonal Lunch at Cellar Door; 5. Brock and Jules tasting some 2019 wines in barrel to see how they are progressing; 6. The Ashmead family and the Elderton crew at our 2020 Christmas party, held at The Farm Eatery; 7. Liz and Stephen, John and Stefanie with Allister at the 2020 15CLUB dinner at Cellar Door; 8. The third generation of the Ashmead family: Louis, Annabel, Charlotte, Wills, Sophie and Angus having some fun during a family photo shoot in January!

