



Elderton

BUZZ

OCTOBER 2021

Old vine Grenache at our Greenock vineyard

BRIGHT SKIES AHEAD

As we draw closer to the festive season in our 40th year of making wine at Elderton, we hope that you, your family and friends are happy, safe and well.

It has been another crazy year with lockdowns and closed borders, but one in which we at Elderton remain forever grateful that our family vineyards and winery and all of our wonderful staff are still going along well.

A positive about being stuck in the Barossa Valley is it reaffirms how special this community is and how lucky we

are to live here. It also allows the time to sit and think strategically about how we can ensure Elderton is in an even better place for the next generation and beyond. No stone will ever be left unturned.

Some things we've been working on include; ensuring we are using more sustainable and regenerative farming techniques, with a science-based methodology for using our precious water resources in the vineyard.

Our winemaking team have been looking to new fermenters (hopefully

arriving before vintage) for the ability to make even better wines and have more options on the blending bench.

As our 40th harvest celebrations have been severely hampered this year, it is our absolute intention to get to 50 in an even better place. We look forward to continuing and sharing this journey with you.

From all of us here at Elderton, thanks for your remarkable support and friendship.

2019 HELBIG SHIRAZ

It is with great excitement that we now bring you the release of our sixth vintage of the Helbig 1915 Shiraz!

Previously just known as Fifteen, this is a wine sourced from a small single vineyard of truly remarkable Shiraz up on the Western ridge of the Barossa, planted by the Helbig family in 1915. Three generations farmed this beautiful part of the Barossa, before the Ashmead family was lucky enough to buy it after harvest in 2010.

This block has quickly become one of our family's most treasured and prized possessions (obviously alongside the Command Shiraz and Ashmead Cabernet vineyards). Over the past ten years we have come to understand what it is capable of.

HANDMADE WITH LOVE

Hand-tended in the vineyard and winery, the Helbig 1915 Shiraz is a wine that is unmatched in our portfolio.

Conrad, our Viticulturist, prunes each of the vines by hand, carefully setting them up for the season ahead. Following selective hand picking, the wine is fermented in a 1500 litre French oak barrel that requires rotating on a regular basis.

VERY LIMITED RELEASE

There were only 886 bottles of the 2019 vintage produced, as production was

hampered by early season heatwaves and high winds during flowering.

As a result, the 2019 is a dense and dark wine which still manages elegance and structure. Flavours of plum, mocha and cool tar are supported with beautiful French oak and there is a firm tannin structure that underpins the wonderful fruit through the palate.

“...the 2019 Helbig 1915 Shiraz has abundant presence on the palate, with fruit and tannin seamlessly aligned.”

As our Winemaker Brock Harrison notes, “Our 2019 Helbig 1915 Shiraz is hand picked, fermented in a large format oak barrel (1500 litres) and left on skins in this closed vessel for several weeks. This results in very gentle and slow extraction of the bold tannins synonymous with the Helbig fruit. The wine was then pressed and spent a couple of winters in some of our favourite French oak.”

FROM THE WINEMAKERS

Production 886 bottles

Palate Elegant and structured, spicy plums and a touch of cool tar with supple oak to balance. A firm, long tannin structure underpins the fruit through the palate.

Winemakers' comment Although an exceptionally low yield, the 2019 Helbig 1915 Shiraz has abundant presence on the palate, with fruit and tannin seamlessly aligned.

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

AVAILABLE NOW

750mL bottles and gift boxed 3 bottles packs are now available online and in Cellar Door.

A limited release of 24 magnums (1.5L) and 2 imperials (6L) was also bottled. Contact Jodhi at Cellar Door for more information about these bottles.

The Ashmead family recommend mid to long term cellaring for this wine, but if you are to open it young, the wine demands a long decant before drinking.

A must for the serious Barossa Shiraz lover!

Cheers,

The Ashmead Family

“The palate has impressive depth with such velvety texture and really rich black-fruit flavors that are so long...”

96 points

Nick Stock, August 2021





WINERY AND VINEYARD UPDATE

Jules and Brock in the 1894 Command block

VINTAGE 2021 WRAP-UP

What a treat was the vintage of 2021! After a mix of tricky spring conditions and dry heat put our vines under stress for both V19 and V20, it was a relief to have some volume on healthy vines in the lead up to 2021 harvest.

There was the ever-present threat of rain from the mild La Nina warnings, however to our delight this did not result in the predicted rain which gave us the opportunity to pick all our blocks at their optimum time.

Our season kicked off with various blocks from our Greenock vineyard. We have a couple of Shiraz blocks at Greenock which give a lovely perfume when not left on the vine too long. These are normally our first to come off.

We also took an earlier pick from our Nuriootpa vineyard, on 23 February. This block gives a more structural element for our Shiraz.

Grenache was the only variety to fall victim during flowering resulting in very little fruit for our Grenache based blends. Harvesting continued solidly until mid-

April, when we picked our last batch of Cabernet from Eden Valley.

We are really happy with the power of the wines from 2021. They have an intensity, yet a freshness of fruit overlaying this power that is delicious. There will be some fantastic reds bottled later in the year too, capturing that vintage-borne freshness!

We are super excited about our 2021 vintage releases – Brock is calling it ‘the unicorn vintage’.

IN THE VINEYARD

Wow what an amazing winter we've had! The rains were slow to come, but after a brilliant July we have had the wettest season since 2016. The warmer weather has pushed an early budburst (mid-August for some varieties) so now it's all hands on deck to get everything tidied up and ready for the growing season.

There have been a few fun projects we have had developing through the winter too.

After our past experience cutting out herbicides at Greenock, we decided

to purchase a twin-sided finger weeder. This cultivates the area under the vines to pull out weeds. While we had a similar approach last year, the new equipment has allowed us to cover the ground far quicker, with superior weed control and reduced diesel use.

Our first phase of native vegetation plantings happened in June, establishing 350 plants of various native species. These will provide shelter for a range of beneficial insects that help keep pests down in the vineyard. Along with this, they will help bring diversity to the landscape and act as hosts for many other birds and insects, so will broadly improve the biodiversity of the area.

At Greenock we have an exciting 4-hectare development almost ready to plant. We will be planting Shiraz cuttings from the Command vineyard, as well as a small area to Cinsault. Unfortunately, it will be a couple of years before we see any crop from these, grape growing is a patient game...

Read more detail about these projects on Conrad's blog post on the website at eldertonwines.com.au/blog/.

OUR WINES

We are excited to be releasing the 2019 Helbig 1915 Shiraz and 2021 Barossa Semillon 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 2020 Eden Valley Chardonnay and 2020 Bullet Shiraz.

And as we've mentioned previously, 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 questions about our wines, please contact our Cellar Door team.

ELITE SINGLE VINEYARDS

2017 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 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

...this wine has nailed it with a slightly less overt and more restrained style than previous vintages, although still within the established style of Command... The wine has been crafted into such a seamless and smoothly textured wine...

96 points, Ray Jordan on winepilot.com

2017 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.

Full-bodied, rich and opulent...

95 points, Halliday Wine Companion 2020

2019 HELBIG 1915 SHIRAZ *NEW VINTAGE*

Only 886 bottles have been produced, from the 1915 Shiraz block at our Greenock vineyard. Magnums and 6L also available.

...very rich dark-plum, blackberry, currant, chocolate and black-fruit aromas, as well as freshly turned dark earth, dark, sweet spices and graphite. The palate has impressive depth with such velvety texture and really rich black-fruit flavors that are so long and dusted with cocoa powder throughout. Speaks to this powerful, dark-fruited section of the Barossa. Drink over the next decade or more.

96 points, Nick Stock on JamesSuckling.com

EXCEPTIONAL SITES

2020 ASHMEAD FAMILY RESERVE FIELD BLEND

CELLAR DOOR & MAILING LIST ONLY

Every now and then we have an opportunity to make something truly exceptional, that sits outside of the normal expectations of a style we make.

Lovely brightness and life in the glass. The aromas are of dark cherries, blueberries, pot-pouri, spice and cedar, there's a real attractiveness and seductiveness on the nose... The palate has a liveliness and vigour and there is a lovely purity and drive to the fruit flavour.

95 points, Aaron Brasher, The Real Review

2018 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.

It has a delicious sweet plummy blackcurrant fruit intensity... It's very long in the mouth with a delicious, sweet fruit character. Sinewy tannins thread through the ripe fruit, leading into a dry, focussed finish. This is one of the best yet under this label.

95 points, Ray Jordan on winepilot.com

It has a rich and complex tapestry of aromas and flavours, bringing warm spices and chocolate/mocha notes into play alongside black fruits and firm tannins.

94 points, James Halliday, The Weekend Australian Magazine



2018 NEIL ASHMEAD GRAND TOURER SHIRAZ

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

The winemaking approach has been all about preserving the fruit vibrancy and allowing it to express all that is appealing about the Barossa in a good year. It's a bright and brilliant wine with real palate energy.

94 points, Ray Jordan on winepilot.com

2019 BAROSSA CABERNET SAUVIGNON

The palate has a fresh, elegantly delivered tannin structure with blueberry and cassis flavors and some pastry-like layering at the finish.

91 points, Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

2019 BAROSSA MERLOT

...a very impressive wine... all the plushness you'd expect on the palate, but also structure...

Wine of the Week, Winsor Dobbin

2020 BULLET SHIRAZ *NEW VINTAGE* *CELLAR DOOR & MAILING LIST ONLY*

Having suffered through a small vintage in 2019, and with early forecasting suggesting 2020 was going to be similar, the Elderton team used our local network to source grapes for this label which is exclusive to you, our Commanders and Eldertonians, who are remarkable supporters of the Ashmead family.

2021 EDEN VALLEY RIESLING

Super fresh lemon and quartz, flinty elements from this great vintage. So vividly fresh and floral with flavors in the realm of lemon and white peach. Bright, balanced acidity. Still taut with natural acidity, this is an each-way bet. Drink now or hold.

93 points, Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

2020 EDEN VALLEY CHARDONNAY

This has vivid peach and lemon aromas with nicely framed, cedary oak adding hazelnut and spice. Lemon peel, too. The palate is smoothly fleshy with a gently creamy peach and lemon core. Smooth, even and so juicy with a fresh lemon and hazelnut-flavored finish.

90 points, Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

2021 BAROSSA SEMILLON *NEW VINTAGE* *CELLAR DOOR & MAILING LIST ONLY*

This is our third release of dry Semillon, from our Greenock vineyard. The 2021 Barossa Semillon is rich, textural and expressive. A supple and generous palate with creamy weight intertwined with notes of lemon curd, grassy tones and a generous yet vibrant finish.

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.

91 points, Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

DUKE OF WELLINGTON CELLAR TAWNY *CELLAR DOOR & MAILING LIST ONLY*

Special Release Duke of Wellington was the name of our tawny port made through the 1980s and we have revived the name for this wine. It is a tribute to Lorraine's late father (named Wellington, nicknamed Duke) who originally found and bought the Nuriootpa property in the late 1970s.





CELLAR DOOR

visit eldertonwines.com.au/experiences for more details or to book your tasting

Cellar Door visitation from our interstate and overseas Commanders and Eldertonians has certainly been hampered this year and our planned celebrations for 40 vintages have had to be postponed. However, we are looking to celebrate 40+1 next year, so keep your eyes peeled for those details as they come to fruition in 2022.

If you haven't had a chance to visit this year, we hope you will be able to soon. We have some new experiences, and of course our popular 'old' experiences, for you to enjoy. We've also done some rearranging our furniture and now have more seating (including the comfiest couch) so if you prefer you can enjoy a seated tasting, rather than needing to stand at the bar!

We are proud to share the following achievements this year:

We have been named finalists in the *South Australian Best of Wine Tourism Awards* for the fourth year in a row. We won the Wine Tourism Services category in 2018 and are hoping to do so again this year. The winner will be announced later this month.

We were included in The Australian/Vogue Living article '10 of the best adventures to embark on in Australia' in May. This outlined a day trip with luxury tour operator Coast & Co, with whom we partner to provide a first-class tasting experience to visitors. For more details on this day trip, contact Jodhi at Cellar Door.



WINE AND CHOCOLATE MATCHING

A seated, decadent wine tasting featuring six wines paired with premium chocolates produced by one of Australia's master chocolate makers, allowing you to make up your own mind as to the best chocolate to serve with wines of the Barossa.

\$25 per person, allow 30-45 minutes



BAROSSA SHIRAZ MASTERCLASS

The Barossa is world renowned for Shiraz for a very good reason. In this private Masterclass, hosted by one of our passionate Cellar Door team, we explore the diversity of Shiraz and the distinctive characteristics of three of our estate grown Shirazes.

\$35 per person, allow 30-45 minutes



BEHIND THE VINES TASTING

The ultimate wine tasting experience for discerning wine lovers. Hosted by an Ashmead family member, we promise you a rare, authentic experience which includes a walk in the vineyard and culminates in a tasting in our 'Duke' Wine Cellar.

\$300 per person, allow 3 hours

OUR VISION

One thing that Covid has allowed Cameron and Allister to do, as they're not travelling to visit interstate and international distributors, is sit down in the same room and think deeply about the winery that they want Elderton to be.

We have always cast an unwavering eye over things that we can do better, but this process has been about developing a vision and all-encompassing strategy that leaves little doubt about our aims.

The entire Ashmead family, along with our amazing team, are resolute that this second generational family wine business is continually looking to improve, with an enduring focus on the quality and sustainability of our vineyards and winemaking, and also the experiences available through visiting cellar door.

Our vision is: Winemaking and experience excellence, from distinguished and sustainable estate grown vineyards in the Barossa.

We are now in process of finalising a strategy document that covers every facet of our business, including things such as PR and communication, family, employee empowerment, industry involvement, community and charity - the things that we can do explicitly to make Elderton the most remarkable wine producer in Australia.

CELEBRATING SMALL VICTORIES

As you may have noticed, there have been some new happenings in the last few months with the Ashmead family's love of winemaking.

With two generations and 40 harvests behind us, we have taken time over the last couple of years to think about the future.

Rest assured Elderton is not going anywhere! We will always be at home in the Barossa, making the wines you love from Barossa fruit grown on our family vineyards.

But Bec and Jules have taken the lead to start making some more modern, fresh and intriguing wines whose sole purpose is being utterly delicious and ready for drinking the instant you get them home or order them in your local restaurant!

And so in vintage 2021, Small Victories Wine Co was born.

If you love delicious, crisp white wines, rosé and bright, mid-weighted reds then you must check out smallvictorieswine.com. The theme of serious fun is spread across this entire range.

Bec and Jules have also partnered with two charities, Variety – the Children's Charity and Trees For Life. 50% of tasting fees at Cellar Door will be donated to charity. And with every wine purchase



you are making a difference as they donate a portion of each bottle sold.

For those that have loved the Elderton Rosé and Western Ridge Grenache Carignan please note these wines have migrated into the Small Victories range. We implore you to join their mailing list so that you do not miss out!

We will keep everyone updated for a little while longer through our Elderton communications about what is going on at Small Victories Wine Co, but if you do want to continue to hear about this new project please join the Small Victories mailing list for all their updates.

Finally, in what we think is super exciting news, we are now building Small Victories Wine Co a cellar door space at the homestead in Nuriootpa. Hopefully it will be up and running in early 2022, so watch this space...



OUT AND ABOUT WITH ELDERTON

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



1. Al captured this visitor during the winter, "If only we could get it to hold bottles of Command in its pouch" was the accompanying caption!; 2. Angus, Annabel, Wills and Charlotte helping with labelling in the warehouse during the school holidays (2/3 of the third generation); 3. Brock presenting the Broken Shovel Award for the hardest working vintage Cellar Hand to Lauren; 4. Scott and Cam twinning at Ribs & Red this year; 5. Frankie and his groomsmen enjoying a glass of Ode to Lorraine as they celebrate Frankie marrying his sweetheart Loraine in Hong Kong earlier this year; 6. The winemaking and vineyard team at Murdoch Hills in the Adelaide Hills on the 2021 study tour; 7. Christina, our Commander Footy Tipping winner with her prize; 8. Eldertonian, Edmund, sharing a photo from his visit to Cellar Door; 9. Allister with Commander, George, and his family at our recent Darwin dinner.

