



A view over our Craneford vineyard

A BIG TICK FOR SUSTAINABILITY

There is little doubt that the Barossa old vine story is one that is quite unique and very much cherished by our local community. At Elderton, we have vineyards that date back as far as 1894 and have an abundance of old vines across the three vineyards that we farm.

This is one of the reasons that we have always taken sustainability seriously. It is our absolute desire for the third and subsequent generations of the Ashmead family to have the pleasure of being the custodians of these treasured vineyards.

At the end of 2021, we were immensely proud to be awarded a sustainable tick of approval for all three of our vineyards, and our winery, from Sustainable Winegrowing Australia. We believe this to be the widest acceptance of best and correct practice here in Australia.

In a world that often deficit farms through challenging and changing climatic conditions, we will continue to work towards making the best possible wines which represent the ideals that we hold dear here at Elderton: family, community, quality and sustainability.



Elderton Wines is a certified member of Sustainable Winegrowing Australia

A VINTAGE TO CELEBRATE: 2018 COMMAND

The 2018 Command Shiraz is finally available, and it is not to be missed!

As a vintage, the 2018 growing season started off well, with winter rainfall around 10% higher than average. However, spring rainfall was down by about a quarter and December was about half of the Barossa average.

These weather conditions allowed canopies in the vineyard to grow quickly and healthily, which in turn helped flowering and the resultant bunches were ideal.

January and February remained warm and dry, but the icing on the cake was the Indian summer of March and early April, without extremes nor rainfall, and was perfect for finishing off a very fine vintage.

In the winery, the fact that the vintage was long meant that absolute attention to detail could be afforded to every parcel of wine.

The Command looked sensational in ferment, with unbelievable colours and flavours putting a smile on the faces of the whole winemaking team.

“Not a shrinking violet, this is a wine that commands attention and respect.”

After maturing in new American and French oak puncheons, the wine remained in barrel for almost 3 years, and was bottled in early 2021.

This is a wine that screams big and beautiful Barossa Shiraz. Not a shrinking violet, this is a wine that commands attention and respect.

With 96 points from the Wine Advocate, James Suckling and Decanter (winning Gold in their wine show) and 95 from James Halliday (in a year where editor Tyson Stelzer was largely unkind to many Barossa producers) it is evident that this is a wine that has impressed the most discerning of palates.

“The 1894 planted Command Shiraz vineyard is really something that is just so special,” commented Jules Ashmead, our Head of Production.

“It simply knows what you want it to do and gets on with doing it outstandingly. It really does deserve its mantle as one of the great vineyards of Australia.”

With very small vintages of Command coming in 2019 (due to frost) and 2020 (due to high winds and extreme heat during flowering), we very much recommend you to put the 2018 Command in the cellar for future drinking greatness.



“There’s so much to love about this wine...”
96 points, Nick Stock on JamesSuckling.com



WINERY AND VINEYARD UPDATE

Baloo, Conrad and Peter inspecting our Craneford vineyard

VINTAGE 2022

As we navigate vintage 2022, we are extremely excited by the prospect of receiving some remarkable fruit from Peter, Conrad and Steve in the vineyards (and hopefully some good quantities as well.)

Brock and Jules have high expectations for the new harvest. Although Brock recently broke his ankle as a result of slam dunking the ball in local A-Grade basketball, so he might find the pace of vintage a bit hard to keep up with! He is also now highly unlikely to post the fastest shovel time in digging out an open fermenter, which is a highly sought after title in the winery.

Our vintage team have been assembled, mostly of Australian wine lovers. We also have one guy from Michigan who has been happily stuck in Australia through the pandemic. They are a keen and eager bunch, and we are sure they will do the job with required passion, intensity and hard work.

It really is the most exciting time, and we look forward to telling you more

about the vintage in due course, along with getting our early drinking whites to market by the middle of the year.

IN THE VINEYARD

Nuriootpa and Greenock were through veraison in mid-Feb (when the bunches change colour and start to accumulate sugar) and into ripening, while Craneford is a little behind with bunches just starting to colour up.

The season has been much cooler than in recent years and as such, at the time of writing, we are expecting to start harvest around two weeks later than last year. We will likely be picking well into Autumn for the later blocks at Craneford.

Long growing seasons are generally regarded as being some of the highest for wine quality so we are anticipating an exceptional year for quality.

It certainly has been a bit of a different growing season, but we are mostly pleased with how it's gone. The conditions have been cooler and wetter than average which the vines have thoroughly enjoyed.

It's been a long time since the vineyards have looked this healthy!

The hail event at Nuriootpa in October has continued to subtly affect us. As shoots have grown, and bunches developed, the extra weight has caused the occasional damaged shoot to snap off, causing a gradual loss of bunches.

Despite the higher rainfall this growing season, we have still been seeing value in the newly installed moisture probes. These continuously read the level of moisture in the soil at various depths and show exactly where the water is going.

We are combining the probe data with in-field observations and Vineyard Manager, Peter's, experience to know we are using the water effectively and not wasting a drop. No doubt the effects will be compounded in future seasons that are drier.

Read more detail about the vineyard throughout the year on Conrad's blog posts on the website at eldertonwines.com.au/blog/.

OUR WINES

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

2018 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 128 years in 2022, and is considered an Ancestor vineyard by the Barossa Old Vine Charter.

Gold Medal, Decanter World Wine Awards 2021

Take Ancestor Vines (planted in 1894), a great vintage, experienced winemaking, add 30 months of aging in American and French oak, and the result is the stunning 2018 Command Single Vineyard Shiraz. Boasting fabulous density and concentration... a rich, supple yet structured mouthfeel, and a long, mouthwatering finish.

96 points, Wine Advocate

A great release of Command, this carries the bold and deeply flavorful style of the vintage effortlessly, a vintage that played into the natural style of this rich Barossa Valley shiraz. There's so much to love about this wine, from the rich blackberry, red-plum and spice aromas and flavors to the silky, fine and long tannins. Floats long on the smooth finish.

96 points, Nick Stock on JamesSuckling.com

2019 ASHMEAD CABERNET SAUVIGNON *NEW VINTAGE*

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. Only 265 x 6-packs produced.

It holds its ripeness with poise, thanks to a vibrant acid line, joining with confident, medium-grained tannins to sustain a very long aftertaste. Dark chocolate French oak has been well played to build endurance without stealing the limelight. A very strong result for Ashmead in this drought season. Bravo.

95 points, Tyson Stelzer, Halliday Wine Companion 2022

2019 HELBIG 1915 SHIRAZ

Only 886 bottles 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. Limited stock remaining.

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

2019 ODE TO LORRAINE (CABERNET, SHIRAZ, MERLOT) *NEW VINTAGE*

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.

After a relatively easy-going few years, 2019 was a vintage to remind us that we are actually farmers at the whim of the weather. Owing to the warm and very dry ripening season, fruit flavours are intense and fermentation was managed carefully to ensure balanced tannin extraction. On the palate, you'll find dark red fruits and cassis with brooding spice and a subtle chocolate note. This wine also boasts a serious tannin profile owing to the vintage, with a boldness of fruit that lengthens the palate.

Winemaker comments from Jules and Brock



2019 NEIL ASHMEAD GRAND TOURER SHIRAZ

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

Layers of spicy red and black berry/cherry fruits are well defined on the bouquet. Firm, new French oak asserts its presence on the back palate in both high-cocoa dark chocolate impact and firm, dry tannin grip. It boasts the fruit carry to hold out, making this a Grand Tourer to go the distance.

93 points, Tyson Stelzer, Halliday Wine Companion

The palate has a very sleek and freshly vivid feel and such attractive build of spice on the finish. This has power with grace and the French oak really works well, as does the aging on lees. Reminiscent of Penfolds RWT and certainly a clear winner in the value stakes.

93 points, Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

ESTATE FAMILY VINEYARDS

2019 BAROSSA SHIRAZ

Here's an impressive Barossa shiraz that somehow manages to combine regional power with some elegance and style. There is no doubting the rich fruit on display from three estate vineyards with forest berries, dark chocolate and hints of spice all on offer. But there is also some restraint from mineral tannin structure and astutely judged vanillin oak. Very impressive; very stylish, very affordable.

Winsor Dobbin

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

2020 BAROSSA MERLOT

In 2020 we harvested a small volume from our new plantings of Merlot in Nuriootpa. We are excited to see the quality of this new Merlot parcel as it comes into production. This wine is powerful, with some serious tannin to balance the fruit power of any normal vintage.

2020 BULLET SHIRAZ *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

2021 EDEN VALLEY CHARDONNAY *NEW VINTAGE*

As a single site wine, our Eden Valley Chardonnay will always show typicity of the vineyard, whilst varying with what each season brings. We are on a constant learning journey adapting to what the season brings. Our Chardonnay is a serious interpretation, from an excellent vintage.

2021 BAROSSA SEMILLON *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.





2019 ASHMEAD – BLINK AND YOU MAY MISS IT!

2019 really was a tough year for the Ashmead family's iconic Nuriootpa vineyard.

For the first time in the 40 years of Ashmead family involvement with the property, the vineyard was hit with multiple catastrophic frosts.

This ensured yields were down by approximately 70% right across this prized vineyard (including Command, Grand Tourer Shiraz and the vines that make the much loved Ode to Lorraine).

The almost 80-year-old Cabernet vines, which are generally the lowest yielding vines on the whole vineyard, were also unfortunately heavily impacted by the frosts.

Thus the 2019 harvest is the smallest we have released in our history, with only 265 x 6 packs produced.

Whilst old vine Cabernet Sauvignon is normally characterised by its small berries and petite bunches, 2019 took this to a new level. Harvest decisions for 2019 were based around the flavours in the developing berries balanced with a close eye on vine health.

*A very strong result
for Ashmead in this
drought season.*

Bravo.

*95 points, Halliday
Wine Companion*



The 2019 Ashmead Cabernet Sauvignon was hand harvested and fermented in our open concrete fermenters. Because of the small amount of fruit we picked, we didn't come close to filling the fermenter!

"We worked hard to balance the fruit in the tiny berries whilst not over-extracting the ever-present tannins so typical of Cabernet Sauvignon," note Jules and Brock in their winemaking comments for the vintage.

"The freshly pressed wine went straight to new French oak for malolactic fermentation, followed by around 18 months further maturation."

2019 is one of the prettier Ashmead Cabernets that we have produced and is deliciously seductive right now, but will age beautifully in good cellars for 10 – 15 years. With third party endorsement from Halliday Wine Companion at 95 points, along with a 92 from Robert Parker's Wine Advocate, this is a wine that we do not expect to remain in our warehouse for very long. Get in quick if you want / need it!

MORE THAN JUST STEAK AND SHIRAZ

In May we are teaming up with Justin Miles, Executive Chef at Windy Point restaurant for a five course dinner matched to our wines.

In case you aren't able to join us, Justin has kindly shared a recipe for you to cook at home. This will match beautifully with our Command Shiraz.

INGREDIENTS

4 x 250g Mayura Wagyu rump (or equivalent)

4 tablespoons Newman's horseradish

1 tablespoon crème fraîche

250mL whipped cream

50g golden oyster mushroom

400g cocktail potatoes

200g brussels sprouts

4 pickling onions

200mL glaze or reduced stock

2 heads of garlic

METHOD

1. Wrap garlic heads in tight foil ball and place in 150C oven for 2 hours. Remove allow to cool, peel and remove tender bulb. Mash to paste – set aside.

2. Cut cocktail potatoes skin on to nice even shaped cubes. Place in boiling, salted water for 20 minutes. Drain and run through a little oil, season – set aside on small oven tray.

3. Halve onions width-ways (skin and tails remain on) and sear with a little oil in a heavy based pan for 8-10 minutes on low-medium heat till bases are burnt. Place in a small bowl and cover with cling wrap to soften. After 15 minutes peel off skin and separate individual layers to get little rimmed burnt onion petals – add to potatoes on oven tray.

4. Mix horseradish, whipped cream and crème fraîche together in a bowl till combined, season and set aside.

5. Sear portioned rump on BBQ or heavy based pan for 2 minutes on each four sides – set aside on another oven tray.

6. In same pan or BBQ lightly sear mushrooms – set aside on same oven tray as rump.

7. Halve brussels sprouts and in same pan sear on cut side till burnished golden – set aside on same oven tray as rump and mushrooms.

8. Preheat oven to 200C.

9. Place potatoes and onions in oven for 20 minutes till golden.

10. Add oven tray of rump, mushrooms and brussels sprouts to oven once potatoes are golden and cook all for further 7-11 minutes.

11. Warm glaze/reduced stock.



12. Time for plating! Spoon horseradish mixture into onion petals. Add meat, brussels sprouts, mushrooms. Place garlic puree on potatoes, then add to plate. Finish by pouring glaze/reduced stock over meat to serve.

13. Pair with a glass of Command Shiraz and enjoy your meal!

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

We'd love to see your dining at home experience! Email through your photos to jess@eldertonwines.com.au or share with us on Facebook or Instagram with the tags @eldertonwines and #barossa.



OUT AND ABOUT WITH ELDERTON

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



1. Cam, Jules and the boys have a new pup, Fox Godzilla Ashmead;
2. Brock and Jules represented our team at the Melbourne Wine Show where Small Victories Wine Co was awarded a trophy for Best Single Varietal White;
3. We know you all love to see what Lorraine is up to, so here is a photo of her with Al;
4. Mac, Angela and Des enjoyed a Command magnum late last year;
5. Al telling Peter Gago all about life at a recent tasting at Penfolds. It was a great experience all round;
6. The Ashmead family enjoying Christmas together at Vintners Bar & Grill.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Curated: A Commanding Culinary Event, 5 May 2022

Celebrating our respective 40-year anniversaries, we're partnering with Windy Point for a special collaboration dinner. A five course dinner, featuring contemporary cuisine highlighting local produce, perfectly paired with current release wines and some limited, rare bottles from the Elderton museum. Book on Tasting Australia's website.

Ribs & Red @ Elderton's Barrel Hall, 10 June 2022

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.

Melbourne Good Food & Wine Show, 3-5 June 2022

Sydney Good Food & Wine Show, 24-26 June 2022

Brisbane Good Food & Wine Show, 21-23 October 2022

The Elderton Tennis Classic (a Fast4 event) @ Nuriootpa & Cellar Door, 13 November 2022

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!