



Visitors in the Command vineyard, photo by Tom Roschi

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

As we move towards the end of 2022, on behalf of the whole Ashmead family and the team at Elderton, we want to wish all our supporters and friends a fantastic holiday season and a happy and healthy start to the new year ahead. Thank you for being a big part of our story.

2022 was a year where borders opened for good and it was awesome to see so many smiling, happy people walk into our Cellar Door.

Speaking of this, thanks to all of you that voted in the Halliday People's Choice Awards which saw us place third in the entire country for the best cellar door wine experience. Not bad considering there are about 2500 to choose from!

With your help we are aiming to go two spots better next year, so we hope for those that didn't make it to the Barossa this year, that we will see you in 2023!

Some more good news came across our desks recently, with the 2020 Ode to Lorraine winning a trophy in The Great Australian Red Challenge. It also just missed out on winning wine of show! Unfortunately, it is the smallest vintage we have ever had by a long way. So upon release please get in quickly to avoid disappointment.

Cheers,

Allister and Cameron

2020 HELBIG 1915 SHIRAZ – A TRULY EPIC WINE!

2020 was a challenging year to grow grapes in the Barossa. With early summer heat coupled with hundred kilometre per hour winds during flowering meant that either the flowers were effectively burnt off or they simply blew away.

Obviously, the results of this crazy weather meant that yields were substantially down. Across Elderton's three estate vineyards, we calculate that we were 70% down on a normal harvest.

Luckily however, the grapes that were there were very, very good.

THE TINIEST VINTAGE

Small berries on small bunches which were sparse on each vine meant that the concentration and colour of the resultant wines was off the charts – especially in a vineyard block that is already known absolutely for these traits, like the Helbig 1915 Shiraz is.

We were lucky we had enough wine to fill a single barrel, after pressing the two barrels that we fermented the grapes in.

AN EPIC VINEYARD

Before we talk about the wine though, we should really tell you more about the vineyard it comes from. Planted

by the Helbig family in 1915 on the Western Ridge of the Barossa Valley (north of Greenock), this centenarian vineyard was farmed by the Helbigs for 3 generations over 90 years.

Many of the Barossa's best and brightest winemakers had been taking fruit from this vineyard over the past generation until it was purchased by us in 2010.

*“We were lucky
we had enough
wine to fill
a single barrel...”*

The small patch of original plantings sits in a natural small valley where rains drain to it from all sides, providing the reason for it managing to survive for one hundred plus years in sandy loam over clay soils. The vineyard is looked after by our viticulturist, Conrad, who ensures that it is loved, tended to by hand and

achieves the absolute best that it can achieve.

Jules and Brock did a stellar job getting this wine through to bottle, which is not that easy when there is so little of it.

Production 537 bottles

Winemakers' comment The wine oozes the dark fruit power we expect from these old vines with a seamless transition into velvety long tannins on the finish.

AVAILABLE NOW

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

A limited release of 25 magnums (1.5L) were also bottled. Contact Jodhi at Cellar Door for more information about the magnums.

BEST RELEASE YET

It is the Ashmeads' feeling that this is the best Fifteen/Helbig to date, and for those lovers of great Barossa Shiraz it is one you should really not miss out on.

Even Nick Stock, who is one of Australia's most respected wine writers, when trying the wine in barrel last year commented that it should be sold for over \$500!

*“An impressively
proportioned wine
with considerable
fruit density and power.”*

*95 points,
Dave Brookes
Halliday Wine Companion*





Above our Craneford vineyard

WINERY AND VINEYARD UPDATE

VINTAGE 2022

The 2022 vintage began in mid-March, about three weeks later than 2021, with some younger Shiraz from our Greenock vineyard.

Our Riesling and Chardonnay from Craneford were picked three days after our first reds, which to the delight of our cellar team meant a little extra cleaning to ensure they weren't turned into rosé!

With much excitement we also took ownership of three Nico Velo tulip-shaped concrete fermenters from Italy. They arrived just in the nick of time to use on some old vine Shiraz from our Nuriootpa vineyard. These have been a fantastic addition to diversify our fermentation options and will build further complexity across our red wine portfolio.

Despite some challenges with Covid around the peak of vintage resulting in Cam and Al dusting off their Cellarhand tools, along with assistance from Bec and Zac, we are extremely happy with the white and red wines from the 2022 vintage.

The Riesling and Chardonnay display a wonderful purity of fruit with an ever-present yet salivating natural acidity.

The cooler season is exemplified in the reds, with both fragrance and freshness and soft seamless tannins a real hallmark of the wines. With these parcels now safely maturing in barrel, Jules and Brock are confident that you will thoroughly enjoy these releases over the years to come.

IN THE VINEYARD

Over the winter we have established a new trellis in half of the Command Shiraz vineyard in front of Cellar Door. You will see shiny new posts alongside the driveway on your way in!

We have opted to go with taller posts and extra wires. The aim of this is to give the vines more support. As harvest approaches and fruit increases in weight, the canopies can tend to roll over leading to bunches being exposed to the hot sun. Having extra wires gives the vines something to grab onto to prevent this happening.

Another bonus is giving us more options at pruning so we can achieve better vine balance and make the right decisions to maintain vine health on the old vines for many more years.

It's a nice amalgamation of new meets old, with the newer recyclable

metal posts giving us the best options for maintaining the 128-year-old vines.

The straw mulched area at Greenock has also been further expanded. We spread this thickly under the vines. It helps conserve soil moisture and maintains cooler soil temperatures. It is hugely beneficial in the hot and dry years but can have a slight increase in disease pressure in the wetter years (especially the year we are having so far!).

Although the current outlook is in that direction, in our climate it is the hot, dry years that will have far more regularity and consequence in the long run, so it is well worthwhile prioritising the vineyard condition for those seasons.

We are now into our third La Niña year in a row. Each one has been a very different beast; this year has been very wet late into September as well as slightly cooler than average. This has given the vines a particularly slow start with bud burst being later as well as initial growth being very slow. In contrast to last year, we are approximately two weeks behind in terms of growth stage. Thankfully, despite being cooler we haven't had any frost events so far. Fingers crossed hopefully none come our way!

OUR WINES

With both the 2019 and 2020 vintages well down in average yields we have moved very quickly through some of those wine (some selling out in just 4 months) and so have had a number of new vintage releases recently. If you have questions about our wines, please contact our Cellar Door team.

ELITE SINGLE VINEYARDS

2018 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 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, The 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

2016 ASHMEAD CABERNET SAUVIGNON *MUSEUM RELEASE*

AVAILABLE ONLY THROUGH CELLAR DOOR OR PHONE ORDER

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.

What, though, makes this wine impressive, is its sheer strut across the palate. Buxom and confident, yet dichotomously restrained (at least in a warm climatic context), it coats the inner sanctum with a smooth veneer of tannin and old vine glycerol.

96 points, Halliday Wine Companion 2019

2020 HELBIG 1915 SHIRAZ *NEW VINTAGE*

Only 537 bottles produced, from the 1915 Shiraz block at our Greenock vineyard. Magnums also available.

An impressively proportioned wine with considerable fruit density and power... It's no wallflower with a thick-shouldered, lumbering gait across the palate, super-concentrated black fruits, tight assertive tannins the provide savoury support and a hint of alcohol on the intense finish. One for the power hounds.

95 points, Dave Brookes, Halliday Wine Companion 2023

This is a wine for the long haul...

96 points, Erin Larkin, The Wine Advocate

EXCEPTIONAL SITES

2019 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.

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. 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

...opens with classic cabernet aromatics of blackcurrant, cedar aromas with herb garden and praline complexity. Well concentrated, there are rich cassis and blackberry flavours underpinned by fine but significant grainy tannins finishing long with cigarbox complexity.

95 points, The Vintage Journal Barossa Guide 2022 by Andrew Caillard MW and Angus Hughson

From a challenging vintage yet it has all come together beautifully. Blackcurrant merged with notes of leaf and chalky oyster shell. The palate is tightly focused with a balanced oak and tannin. Bright and lively with so much palate energy.

93 points, Ray Jordan



2021 NEIL ASHMEAD GRAND TOURER SHIRAZ *NEW VINTAGE*

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

Ultra seductive red wine. Cedarwood oak on blackcurrant, redcurrant and crushed, woody spices. It rolls softly through the mouth but still feels fresh; there's nothing gloopy about this. Complexity probably isn't its strong suit but gee the fruit is lovely. You just want to sit down, settle in, sink in and enjoy. Lifted aromatics, lots of fruit, silken mouthfeel and good carry through the finish; ticks in all boxes.

93 points, Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front

ESTATE FAMILY VINEYARDS

2020 BAROSSA SHIRAZ *NEW VINTAGE*

2020 presented a challenging year with minute yields, smaller than average berry size and intense flavour. Our Barossa Shiraz comes from many parcels across our three vineyard sites. These vineyards ripen differently owing to their different aspects, elevation and soil types. Our Greenock vineyard is on the western end of the Barossa, first to ripen for us and always brings a vibrant bouquet and punchy tannin to our blend. Our Nuriootpa plantings bring a depth of tannin and a lovely sweet spiced fruit element and our Craneford vineyard is a more elevated site on leaner soils ripening later in the season.

2021 BAROSSA CABERNET SAUVIGNON *NEW VINTAGE*

This is a fresh-faced style but what sets it apart is the depth of fruit. Blackcurrant flavours sweep through the palate, aided by briar, bay leaves, boysenberry and violets. Oak plays a minor role at most; dark fruit flavours have both hands on the steering wheel.

91 points, Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front

2021 BAROSSA MERLOT *NEW VINTAGE*

In 2021, after a couple of dry years, we experienced a more normal season with good spring rains to allow for a decent canopy and great growing conditions for our newer plantings of Merlot. We see abundant fruit and vibrancy in this edition of our Merlot, owing to the very favourable vintage weather with little rain and no heat spikes leading into harvest time.

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.

2022 EDEN VALLEY RIESLING *NEW VINTAGE*

There is no doubt that 2022 will be remembered as a great year for Riesling. We have kept our expression of 2022 as pure as possible, with as little intervention as we could. The result is a pristine example of Eden Valley Riesling. We are sure this wine will live a long time.

2021 EDEN VALLEY CHARDONNAY

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.

2022 GOLDEN SEMILLON *NEW VINTAGE*

Our Golden Semillon is not produced every year - only when vintage conditions are considered favourable for a later harvest of our Semillon, allowing the development of the unique characters required in this luscious style.

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.





A CHAMPION TEAM

Something that we don't talk about enough in the Buzz is the incredible team of supremely talented people that we have working here at Elderton.

With the Ashmeads at the helm (Cam and Jules, Al and Bec), the successes Elderton enjoy would not be possible without significant contributions from multiple people across the many components of our family business. This is a thank you to our remarkable bunch!

In the vineyard we have Peter, Conrad and Steve. And between the three of them we have an immense amount of learned knowledge, history in vineyards, mechanical expertise and a desire to produce the best grapes possible from our amazing vineyards.

Stationed in the winery we have Jules and Brock, winemaker extraordinaires, who, along with Damo in the cellar, craft wines from our remarkable winery. The fact they got through vintage 2022 with three weeks of solid covid interruptions to the team (and that Brock worked the whole vintage on crutches after tearing ligaments off the bone) absolutely speaks volume of the commitment and excellence that this small team has. A

special mention goes also to Zac who is on hand to keep all our equipment working.

In the office we have Jess who is a whizz on computers and writes like a champion, Bec who oversees dotting all i's and crossing all t's, Michael and Hana make sure the numbers add up and DW traverses the country convincing restaurants and friendly retailers to represent our family's wines.

Our sensational Cellar Door team of Jodhi, Karli, Ron, Carolyn, Fiona, and Jaime are the absolute best in the business, and I challenge anyone to find a better tasting experience in Australia! It would also be amiss to not mention Heather and Kirsty who are our cleaning angels. And we can't ignore Chris in the gardens either. What he can get done in a week blows everyone away.

And finally, we have the boys in the warehouse, Steve and Tom, with bulging biceps from lifting so many cartons of wine. This and the fact that stocktake is always right is a phenomenal achievement.

Thanks team. You all rock. Together let's bring on more good times.

WINE CLUB

We all love it when a parcel arrives at our door. And a delivery of Elderton wines is even better!

Great for a gift that keeps giving, or as a no-nonsense way to keep your wine fridge stocked with tasty treats, the Elderton Wine Club might be just what you're looking for.

Subscription packs of three, six or twelve bottles of Elderton wine, curated for value and enjoyment, are dispatched to your door four times a year.

Each pack shows variety and over a twelve-month period guarantees exceptional value through the quality of wines included. There is no freight charge on any pack and a small \$6 insurance fee for each delivery means peace of mind if there are any breakages.

SIGN UP VIA OUR WEBSITE

Packs range from \$110 to \$345 per quarter. The next delivery is scheduled for processing on 1 November.

[Eldertonwines.com.au/wine-club/](https://eldertonwines.com.au/wine-club/) for all the details and to join our Club or contact Ron on 08 8568 7878 or wineclub@eldertonwines.com.au with any questions.

CELLAR DOOR + UPCOMING EVENTS

As mentioned at the start of our newsletter, we were recently named #3 in the Halliday Wine Companion People's Choice Award for the Top 10 wineries offering the best winery experience in Australia.

We are certainly pretty chuffed to be number 3 in Australia. And we love that this is a people's choice award – it shows us that visitors to our Cellar Door really love the experiences we have on offer.

If you are planning your next Barossa visit, here's an update on what's happening at Cellar Door this coming summer and into next year.

CHEESE AND WINE PAIRING

A seated wine tasting flight featuring four wines paired with local and imported cheeses. This self-guided tasting is perfect for those wanting to relax and take their time discovering Elderton wines whilst enjoying a savoury food accompaniment.

COMMAND VERTICAL EXPERIENCE

Join us for a very special curated tasting vertical of four vintages of our Command Shiraz. This is your opportunity to see how four consecutive vintages from 2015 -2018 have evolved and translate to the glass.

ELITE TASTING EXPERIENCE

A unique and personalised wine tasting which offers guests the opportunity to enjoy a more in depth tasting with an exclusive look at the history and heritage of Elderton Wines. Visit the 128 year old Command vineyard, and taste many of the elite wines in our range alongside back vintage examples in a private tasting room with a selection of locally crafted cheeses.

“Cam’s deep knowledge and passion were generously shared and we had a great time. Do the ‘Elite [tasting]’ - it’s so worthwhile.”



MUSO VIA GOOGLE REVIEW

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit our website for more details on each of these upcoming events:

Brisbane Good Food & Wine Show
21-23 October 2022

Shiraz Masterclasses @ Cellar Door
21 Oct, 16 Nov, 14 Dec, 25 Jan, 8 Feb

Retrospective Series @ Cellar Door
5 Nov, 25 Feb, 22 April, 23 May

The Elderton Tennis Classic
@ Nuriootpa & Cellar Door
6 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!

Food & Wine Flights @ Cellar Door
23 Oct, 11 Dec, 5 March, 2 April, 14 May

Ribs & Red @ Elderton's Barrel Hall
Save the date - 9 June 2023

If you are planning a trip to the Barossa, we would love to see you here at Elderton! For any Cellar Door questions, please contact our team - 08 8568 7878 or elderton@eldertonwines.com.au.



Cheese and Wine Pairing Experience at Cellar Door

OUT AND ABOUT WITH ELDERTON

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



1. Bec and Jules celebrating the release of their new Small Victories Wine Co Sparkling; 2. Al with Clinton, our Singapore distributor, during a recent trip to Singapore; 3. Cam in Germany with Maxi (who did vintage here in 2017); 4. The family who runs together stays fit together! Charlotte, Bec, Al, Annabel and Sophie completed the City to Bay recently; 5. Our 2023 Commander Footy Tipping winners, Emma and Simon, with their prize and the gorgeous Pumpkin dressed for a great season all round with their team winning the GF, too; 6. Cam and Jules balancing work and play during a sales trip to the US in September, fitting in an NFL game in Jacksonville.



COMMAND BOXES AND THEIR SECOND LIVES

Inspired by an email from Commander Geoff, we would love to be able to share photos of how you are providing Command boxes their second lives!

Geoff, pictured left, commented that his box is, "Comfortable and at the right height. Advertising to those who walk past the garage." We certainly appreciate the advertising opportunity and are admiring your car!

Al snapped this bin at the offices of our Singapore distributors, CornerStone. We're impressed by the handiwork to put this together.

Email jess@eldertonwines.com.au to feature!

