



2019 COMMAND SHIRAZ - A TEST OF FORTITUDE

The first of March brought us the newest release of our Command Shiraz - from vintage 2019. This is the 33rd Command since the inaugural vintage way back in 1984.

The Command Shiraz block proudly sits in front of our original family homestead and now cherished Cellar Door.

Over the four decades that we have farmed this block of 1894-planted Shiraz,

we have seen wet and dry seasons, cool and hot years, big winds and hail. But until 2019 we had never experienced catastrophic frost. Sure, we had been minimally touched up in past seasons, but never like late 2018.

The Command vineyard was hit worse than any other block, on any of our vineyards. As such, yields were around 80% lower than what we would normally

expect, and certainly what we were hoping for. Luckily the old vines kicked in and gave us fruit that was truly worthy of having the Command label applied to it.

We now have a mini frost fan that should mitigate some of the effects of future frosts.

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cont...

Whilst not a lot of wine was made in 2019, the wines of the vintage are very solid and there is little doubt that the Command vineyard was the shining light from our stable.

Dave Brookes from James Halliday's Wine Companion thought the wine outstanding, offering 96 points and commented, "Rich and commanding as always, with intense dark plum, blackberry and black cherry fruits, fruitcake spice, black strap licorice, high-cocoa dark chocolate, cedar and roasting meats. Full bodied and pure with superb fruit depth, superfine gypsum-like tannins and a concentrated and balanced finish that lingers admirably."

OUR THOUGHTS

The Ashmead family's view of the 2019 Command is that whilst we never want to see vintage conditions like this again, we are immensely proud of how the vineyard was able to recompose itself

and produce such a fine wine from a tough start to the year.

The wine is big and rich, yet supple and delicious enough to enjoy early, but we also believe it will cellar gracefully for another 15 - 20 years.

"there is little doubt that the Command vineyard was the shining light from our stable"

It is our only hope that the people who love this wine the most are able to get their hands on some of it, as it will not be around for long.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Spanning from the North Para River on the western side of our Command vineyard to Cellar Door at the eastern end, we see a gradual increase in clay content which corresponds with a decrease in vigour over the vineyard. For this reason we harvest the Command fruit in several picks, aiming to achieve the perfect balance in each pick. In 2019 we harvested the Command fruit over a week from 13 - 18 March.

The 2019 Command Shiraz is bold, structured, rich, powerful and elegant. Silken layers of tannin carry the fruit to a long and seamless finish.

Drink now or cellar confidently for 15 - 20 years from vintage

AVAILABLE NOW

750mL bottles are now available online and in Cellar Door.



"Rich and commanding as always... Full bodied and pure with superb fruit depth..."

***96 points,
Dave Brookes
Halliday Wine Companion***



WELCOMING WILTON HILL TO THE FAMILY

We continue to invest in the future of Elderton.

Late last year the Ashmead family was ecstatic to hear the news that we were the successful bidder on one of the Barossa's most remarkable vineyards.

Perched high up on the Eden Valley side of Mengler Hill, the vineyard has existed for over 100 years and has a long track record of producing exceptional wines that have equal amounts of richness and grace.

With old vine Shiraz, Cabernet and Riesling, and some outstanding plantings of Grenache also on the property, Wilton Hill encompasses everything that we love about the Barossa.

Since announcing the news, we have been inundated with congratulatory notes from many of Australia's and the world's most highly regarded wine publications, and from much of the esteemed winemaking community here in the Barossa.

With the highest points of the vineyard sitting around 550 metres above sea level, the manicured vines have an enviable view over stunning sunrises down through the Eden Valley and majestic sunsets

looking down and across the Barossa Valley.

The vineyard has shallow, skeletal, grey sandy loam with quartz gravel over weathered rock and yellow clay-based soils. The mix of these soil types, more rainfall than the Barossa average and the higher altitude allowing slow ripening are highlights of the vineyard.

“We are fortunate to bring this amazing vineyard into our treasured estate holdings.”



Wilton Hill has a proven ability to create wines that are elegant, packed with flavour and full of finesse.

We are fortunate to bring this amazing vineyard into our treasured estate holdings. Both Al and Cam believe this vineyard will help in our vision to be one of the world's most revered producers of full-bodied red wines that are proudly Barossan. This vineyard will become a cornerstone, along with our Greenock vineyard, and of course our original Estate vineyard in Nuriootpa.

Along with the talents of our experienced and passionate vineyard, winemaking and cellar door teams, Wilton Hill will also cement our position as a real contributor to the Barossa's future success story through growing and making some of Australia's most delicious and sought-after wines.

While we will continue to honour contracts for the people who have supported this vineyard in the past, we are looking to release small amounts of great things in the coming year. Watch this space!

Left: bush vine Grenache at Wilton Hill

OUR WINES

If you have questions about our wines, please contact our Cellar Door team on 08 8568 7878.

ELITE SINGLE VINEYARDS

2019 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 129 years in 2023, and is considered an Ancestor vineyard by the Barossa Old Vine Charter.

Rich and commanding as always, with intense dark plum, blackberry and black cherry fruits, fruitcake spice, black strap licorice, high-cocoa dark chocolate, cedar and roasting meats. Full bodied and pure with superb fruit depth, superfine gypsum-like tannins and a concentrated and balanced finish that lingers admirably.

96 points, Dave Brookes, Halliday Wine Companion

This 2019 Command Single Vineyard Shiraz is hugely concentrated... The fruit has such intensity that a couple more years isn't going to bother it in the least. By "a couple more years," I am of course meaning 10 or 15 plus.

95 points, Erin Larkin, The Wine Advocate

A rich and dense wine but it remains compacted and very polished with plush tannins and a fresh, tangy finish... Really attractive now but can age well too.

JamesSuckling.com

2020 ASHMEAD CABERNET SAUVIGNON *NEW VINTAGE*

Only 759 bottles produced of this 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.

Fruit pure with a graceful line across the palate, chocolaty oak, fine tannin and an elegant cassis-laden exit.

95 points, Dave Brookes, Halliday Wine Companion

EXCEPTIONAL SITES

2020 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.

Trophy Winner - Best Wine \$25-\$60

The Great Australian Red Challenge 2022

Great depth. Great softness. Great balance. This is a ripe, full-bodied red wine with plum, blackberry and violet flavours purring powerfully through the palate. There's creamy vanillin oak here too, and an associated smokiness, and rather than overwhelm these characters just add some polish; a sense of seduction. This is a fine Barossa red wine.

93 points, Campbell Mattinson

Full-bodied with silky tannins. Fresh and well-ripened with a cool character mixing with subtle spice at the finish.

93 points, JamesSuckling.com

2021 NEIL ASHMEAD GRAND TOURER SHIRAZ

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

Gold Medal, Royal Melbourne Wine Show

Ultra seductive red wine... 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

2022 BAROSSA GSM *NEW VINTAGE*

After a couple of years not making a GSM, we are excited to bring this wine back in 2022! This blend is bright, elegant and textural with juicy raspberry notes and musk with a creamy backbone and a savoury finish.



2020 BAROSSA SHIRAZ

Our Barossa Shiraz comes from many parcels across our three vineyard sites. 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.

Big, bold and beautiful. And for good measure, tension between the cooler Eden Valley component (Craneford) and the richer flavours of the Barossa floor.

94 points and Special Value, James Halliday

This is a red wine that will please a lot of folks. It's generous, it's creamy, it has that feel of bourbon-and-sweet-plum and it slips down smoothly. Right in the groove, this one.

92 points, Campbell Mattinson

2021 BAROSSA CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Full-bodied with silky tannins. Juicy and fresh...

92 points, JamesSuckling.com

This is a fresh-faced style but what sets it apart is the depth of fruit...

91 points, Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front

Excellent richness and concentration for a wine of its price.

91 points, Huon Hooke, The Real Review

2021 BAROSSA MERLOT

Chocolate and raspberries. This delivers a good volume of flavour and does so in generally soft style. Peppery/bracken notes add a bit of savouriness to the equation though sweet fruit remains the main game here. This is better than most merlots going around.

90 points, Campbell Mattinson

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

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.

Fair bet that this matures long and well. Intensity of both flavour and acidity is noteworthy, as is associated length. Lime and zesty lemon characters drive through the palate, the energy high, everything lively. The acidity here is arguably a touch assertive/coarse but give it time and matters will soften.

91+ points, Campbell Mattinson

2022 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. This vintage has a complex palate with creamy, limey flavours and a lovely subtle toasty note on the finish, balanced with lively acidity.

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

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*

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.





Steven keeping the weeds down at Craneford

WINERY AND VINEYARD UPDATE

PRE-VINTAGE THOUGHTS FROM BROCK

A cool and wet start to spring set up our four magnificent vineyard sites nicely heading into summer and the 2023 vintage.

The cooler conditions resulted in flowering across all of our Barossa and Eden Valley sites being around 2 – 3 weeks later than average. This means we are in for a later start than normal this vintage.

On the upside, Adelaide has some amazing events such as Fringe and WOMADelaide that most winemakers miss out on at this time of year, so we don't have to ditch our social lives just yet!

Summer saw the occasional burst of heat, and at the time of writing only one extended period of 35+ degree days.

Despite the tricky conditions, overall vine health is excellent with our new plantings out at Greenock really benefiting from the cooler and wetter spring. The warmer and drier weather conditions over the next few weeks will be important to progress ripening,

to hopefully avoid the 'all in at once' scenario.

The winery is looking clean and sparkly and ready for the challenge that awaits with vintage. Our first pick was on 15 February with Chardonnay for our E-Series being picked and delivered to the winery in pristine condition. We are already excited for vintage 2023 after seeing the quality of juice coming out of the press!

IN THE VINEYARD WITH CONRAD

What a wild season it has been so far! Barossa as a whole has been exceedingly lucky with how things have gone.

The rainfall through the end of last year was more than double the long-term average. There were signs of waterlogging on some patches and we were struggling to get tractors into vineyards for fear of getting bogged!

But the vines have loved the volume of water and are well set up to hold through to harvest, after the ground finally dried up.

There were rumours of disease outbreaks around the region, but our vineyards have happily stayed clean and healthy.

The cooler weather meant flowering was delayed and seemed to drag on this year. Thankfully this was in a dry spell, so fruit set and yields looked to be good. Unfortunately, some other regions flowered during the December storms and haven't fared so well.

The addition of Wilton Hill vineyard has added an extra element this year. There are always quirks and features to vineyards that can take a while to get to know. The site is stunning and wines made from the vineyard are sensational, so we are all keen to see some fruit come in to the winery.

We would ordinarily be talking about starting harvest before the Buzz comes out, but with the cooler weather things aren't likely to really be kicking off until late March for Barossa. The slow ripening will hopefully give Jules and Brock some really amazing fruit to work with in the winery. Fingers crossed the warm, dry weather holds.

2020 ASHMEAD

Blink and it's already gone!



The release of the newest vintage of Ashmead Cabernet Sauvignon is always looked forward to by the Ashmead family and all of our amazing staff. Collectively we are fixed on the idea that great Cabernet exists in the Barossa, and it is always good to be able to show off the best of the best of the Barossa when the new vintage is released.

Sourced entirely from a single block planted circa 1944, these low yielding vines always excel in providing us with the best Cabernet of all of our estate vineyards.

From the 2020 vintage only 759 bottles were produced. With the official release of the 2020 Ashmead Cabernet on 1 March, unfortunately very few people will ever get to see this wine.

Due to high winds and heat at flowering between late spring and early summer, we were only able to produce minute amounts of this wine, which needed to be spread around the entire world (most of which stays in Australia though). It was offered first to our most loyal supporters - the Commanders - and sold out in about a week.

The bittersweet news is that it is very, very good! Luckily the 2021 vintage that follows is, in the Ashmeads' humble opinion, even better and volumes will return to healthy numbers where more lovers of this wine will get to enjoy it.

Probably still best to make a note of it in your diary to make sure you don't miss out when the 2021 vintage is released!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Retrospective Series @ Cellar Door - 22 April, 27 May

**Post Vintage Barrel Tasting @ our barrel hall
13 May 2023**

Join the Ashmead family along with the Elderton Winemaking and Viticulture teams for the first glimpse of the 2023 vintage! Taste pre-release wines and enjoy two courses over lunch. Book on our website.

Melbourne event - save the date - 18 May 2023

Melbourne Good Food & Wine Show - 19-21 May 2023

**Ribs & Red @ our barrel hall
9 June 2023**

A day when glasses are filled and fingers get sticky. For those who like to indulge in slow cooked ribs and some of the finest red wines the Barossa has to offer. Book on our website.

Sydney event - save the date - 22 June 2023

Sydney Good Food & Wine Show - 23-25 June 2023

Perth event - save the date - 20 July 2023

Perth Good Food & Wine Show - 21-23 July 2023

15CLUB lunch - save the date - 9 September 2023

Brisbane event - save the date - 26 October 2023

Brisbane Good Food & Wine Show - 27-29 October 2023

**The Elderton Tennis Classic @ Nuriootpa & Cellar Door
save the date - 12 November 2023**



OUT AND ABOUT WITH ELDERTON

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



1. Cam, Paul, Al, Bec, Steve, Jules and James at the Barossa Cellar which houses a museum collection of the best wines of the Barossa;
2. Cameron, Lorraine, Nina and Jules supporting the Riverland during the floods, enjoying lunch at the Swan Reach Hotel;
3. Hugo pretty happy to know he's got a birth year 1915 Helbig Shiraz for future enjoyment;
4. Jules, Cam, Louis, Wills and Angus enjoyed a cold winter visit to Europe in January. This photo is at Munich's Isar River;
5. Cam hosted a wine tasting for Artisen Blue in Kuala Lumpur;
6. The winning teams from each division of the 2022 Elderton Tennis Classic did the traditional jumping in the pool;
7. Steve and Al checking out the new catwalks for the Nico Velo concrete tulip fermenters. Jess calls these fermenters the wine minions;
8. Conrad driving the truck for the 2023 Declaration of Vintage in Tanunda;
9. A rainbow showing our Cellar Door must be the pot of gold you're seeking!

