

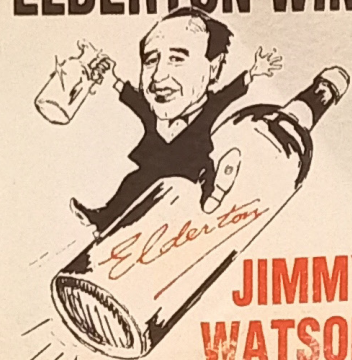


Elderton

BUZZ

SEPTEMBER 2023

ELDERTON WINS



**JIMMY
WATSON
TROPHY 1993***

TIME FLIES WHEN YOU ARE HAVING FUN!

It is hard to believe that it has already been 30 years since Elderton was thrown into national, and furthermore into international prominence, as a result of winning the 1993 Jimmy Watson at the Melbourne Wine Show. The trophy win for our 1992 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon forever changed the lives of our family.

The fact that we also had the runner-up in the show, with our 1992 Estate Shiraz, made the victory even more remarkable. These twin wines have continued to be hugely regarded since, in terms of both quality and quantity, as

has the whole Elderton range of proud Barossan wines.

Since this life changing win we have not rested on our laurels. We have gone through generational change, bought three amazing vineyards, built one of the Barossa's best winemaking facilities and relocated our award-winning Cellar Door to the family homestead. We continue to recruit a team of talented and dedicated people to help us continue to do what we love.

On top of all of this, we also have the best customers! Without all of you this

wouldn't be half as much fun!

Below: Neil and Lorraine Ashmead with the Jimmy Watson Trophy, 1993.



COMMAND, ASHMEAD - ARRIVED EARLY THIS YEAR

For the first time in our family history, the decision was made to change the release date of our beloved Command Shiraz and Ashmead Cabernet Sauvignon.

Normally released to the world on 1 March, from now on we will release these wines on 1 September.

Over the past couple of years, we have been bottling a little earlier (meaning less time in new oak), to ensure we capture more intense colours and brightness in these world-famous wines. It is our belief that this new timing will truly lead to better quality wines.

It is also our feeling that this is a better time of the year: it does not interfere with harvest, is cooler to ship the wines, and leading into Christmas there is something special to look forward to. We hope you share our enthusiasm here.

2020 COMMAND SHIRAZ

The 2020 Command Shiraz is a remarkable wine. Faced with adverse conditions at the start of summer, with 40+ degree temperatures and 100km winds coinciding with flowering, we knew in advance for the second year in a row we were faced with a much smaller harvest than hoped for (around 65% down on the norm).

Sparse and small bunches on vine, and small berries, all ensured that colours, flavours and natural tannin were ramped up in the 2020 Command.

We believe this has created a wine of immense proportions and will drink sensationally well into the long term given good cellaring conditions.

“...we capture more intense colours and brightness in these world-famous wines.”

3 GENERATIONS OF WINEMAKING

This is also the first Command that has been wholly made by our winemaking wonder team of Jules Ashmead and Brock Harrison.

Jules and Brock took over the reins halfway through 2019 and represent the beginning of the third generation of Command winemaking since inception.

The first was with James (Jim) Irvine consulting and wines made at Peter Lehmann's. The second was building our own winery, with Richard Langford as Senior Winemaker.

2021 ASHMEAD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

The 2021 Ashmead Cabernet Sauvignon is also now available and unlike last year there was some available past the day of release!

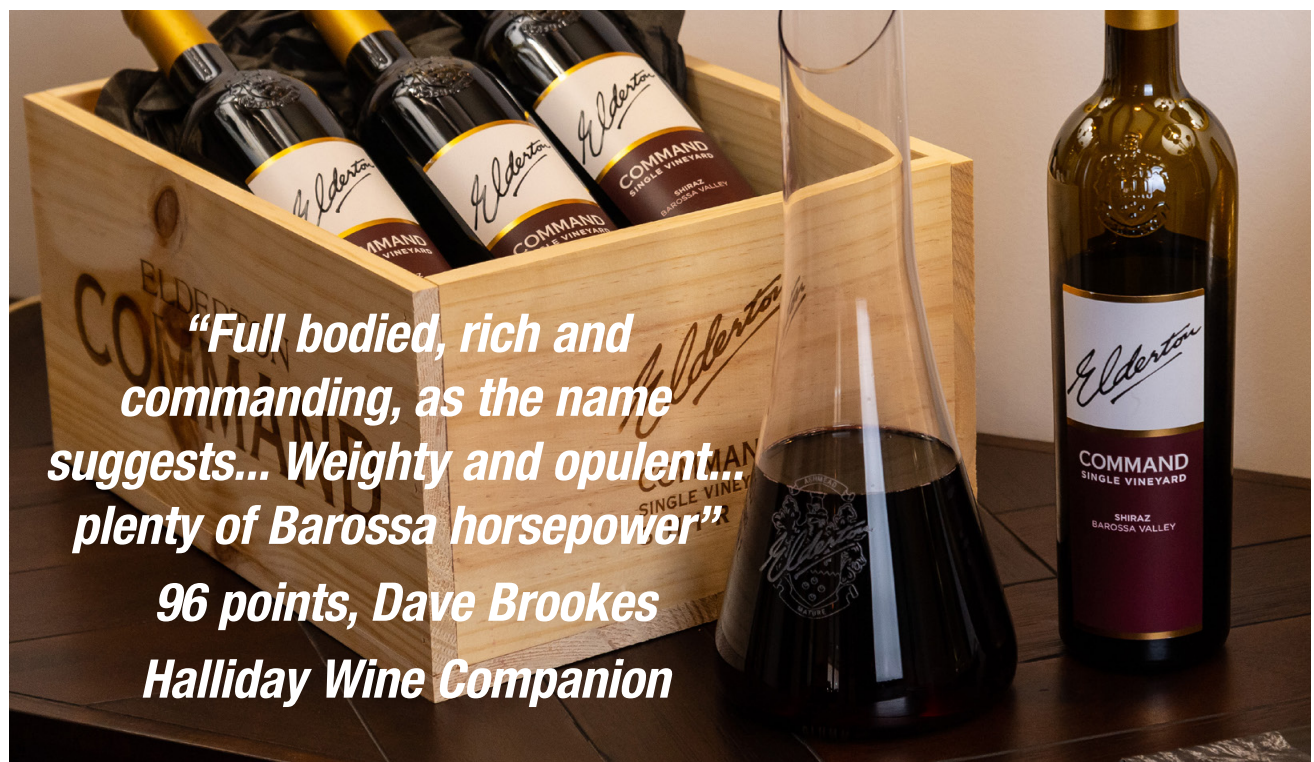
2021 provided perfect vintage conditions - this is top shelf Australian Cabernet that will put a smile on the face of any Cabernet lover.

WINES FOR THE AGES

Both wines have received some wonderful reviews from the elite press here in Australia, and with more to come we feel they are indeed worthy of their status as some of Australia's greatest wines, from some of the Barossa's greatest vineyards.

Available online or in Cellar Door. Throughout September, visit Cellar Door to taste both wines (not generally on tasting.)

The 2020 Command Shiraz is also available in magnum (1.5L) and 6L bottles. Contact Cellar Door for more details.



“Full bodied, rich and commanding, as the name suggests... Weighty and opulent... plenty of Barossa horsepower”

*96 points, Dave Brookes
Halliday Wine Companion*



AN OUTSTANDING VINEYARD, AN AMAZING VINTAGE

On 1 October, Elderton will be releasing the newest vintage of Helbig 1915 Shiraz, from 2021.

It is now just ticking over a dozen years since we took ownership of the Helbig vineyard on the Western Ridge of the Barossa, which has its earliest plantings going back to 1915. It is a stunning property of rolling hills and beautiful views down through the Barossa, towards the peaks of the Eden Valley to the east.

These 108-year-old Shiraz vines have battled through every element to survive, and today sit in one of the truly elite vineyards in the whole Barossa Valley.

We feel the 2021 Helbig 1915 Shiraz to be the best we have ever made under this label. We believe that after many years of farming this land, we now have this vineyard and this wine exactly where we want it to be.

IN THE VINEYARD

Conrad (our head viticulturist) has been instrumental in his absolute hands-on approach to this block. He has expertly hand pruned the vineyard on his own. And through the entire season has made judicious



“These 108-year-old Shiraz vines have battled through every element to survive...”

decisions, using sustainable practices to ensure the highest fruit quality and future longevity. Many have suggested that this is his absolute baby among all the blocks on our four amazing vineyards!

IN THE WINERY

Jules and Brock have left no stone unturned in the quest for excellence. Not content with the status quo, and in search of perfection, since 2020 we have had trials of fermenting in new French oak puncheons (500L barrels with the heads punched out of them), fermenting at cool temperatures, with hand plunging regularly for colour and tannin.

The result of this drive for excellence, in the vineyard and winery, is now evident in the latest release. We are confident that from the very few bottles we send out to the best wine press in the world, that this is destined for some truly great scores.

This is a wine for the true Barossa Shiraz enthusiast, however tiny volumes unfortunately mean that there will not be many lucky enough to have this in their cellar.

OUR WINES

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

ELITE SINGLE VINEYARDS

2020 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.

Full bodied, rich and commanding, as the name suggests, with thick-shouldered blackberry and plum fruits cut with baking spices, licorice, dark chocolate, earth and punchy cedar tones. Weighty and opulent with thick, gypsum-like tannin support, plenty of Barossa horsepower and a finish that trails off persistently with flavours of ripe berries, spice and cedar.

96 points, Dave Brookes, Halliday Wine Companion

From a vineyard planted in 1894, this beautifully composed Barossan 2020 Shiraz Command offers a tempting array of aromas...all well-balanced. Dry and firm, it is shapely thanks to layers of fleshy sweet fruits, with a firm, tannic backbone accented by aged meat and wood smoke. This is a keeper and built for the cellar.

95 points, Angus Hughson, Vinous

2021 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.

Full-bodied with an impressive balance of fruit power and grace, finishing long and black-fruited with abundant spice and charm.

95 points, Dave Brookes, Halliday Wine Companion

The 2021 Ashmead, a beautiful single vineyard Barossa Cabernet ...all with superb purity and focus. Beautifully proportioned, it delivers vibrant sweet fruits underpinned by firm, mouth-coating tannins.

95 points, Angus Hughson, Vinous

EXCEPTIONAL SITES

2021 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.

Beautiful wine with intense blackcurrant pastille, cedar, vanilla aromas with hints of panforte... Builds up firm with seductive juicy dark berry fruits and savoury complexity.

95 points, The Vintage Journal Barossa Guide 2023 by Andrew Caillard MW and Angus Hughson

...sense of elegance as the wine flows across the palate finishing long and fruit pure.

94 points, Dave Brookes, Halliday Wine Companion

A whole lot of flavour here...

93 points, Gary Walsh, The Wine Front

2022 NEIL ASHMEAD GRAND TOURER SHIRAZ *NEW VINTAGE*

A tribute to an amazing individual who was always willing to push the boundaries of expectations. Neil was a 'Barossa Road Warrior' like no other. Driving tirelessly from city to city with a car loaded with wine, doing tastings and dinners with whoever would listen, and generally spruiking the Barossa. It was his love of fast cars that made this pursuit a little easier, thus the unusual choice for the name of this Shiraz.

2021 ASHMEAD FAMILY RESERVE ANCESTOR VINE SHIRAZ

CELLAR DOOR & MAILING LIST ONLY

A wine that celebrates the Ashmead family's 40th harvest...

95 points, Dave Brookes, Halliday Wine Companion

It's full-bodied, rippling with tannin and chewy grip, still tastes fresh and lively, even though it's a wine of heft with the volume turned up to eleven... It'll be nectar to lovers of this style in the years to come. **95 points, Gary Walsh, The Wine Front**

Ancestor Vines on show here as the wine delivers not only raw power but also exceptional shape and purity of fruit.

94 points, Angus Hughson, WinePilot



ESTATE FAMILY VINEYARDS

2022 BAROSSA GSM

The conversation here is less about the carpentry and more about the fruit, which just so happens to be super fragrant and pure... **93 points, Dave Brookes, Halliday Wine Companion**

I really enjoyed this modern expression of Barossan Grenache blend. It showed that natural generosity of fruit seen in quality Grenache but also impressive underlying complexity that will build over time. **92 points, Angus Hughson, WinePilot**

2021 BAROSSA SHIRAZ

Archetypal Barossan shiraz, hitting all the marks: power, polished oak, florals, very ripe darker to bluer fruit tones and a lick of heat across a sumptuous finish. What's not to like?

92 points, Ned Goodwin MW, JamesSuckling.com

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

It's splendidly ripe and inviting on the nose... The palate displays excellent focus and drive, beautifully complemented by succulent fruit intensity and fine texture. Layers of chalky tannins provide structure and frame, finishing long and delectable.

94 points, Sam Kim, Wine Orbit

Impressive fruit and tannin ripeness and a lovely blackberry/blackcurrant pastille finish.

92 points, Dave Brookes, Halliday Wine Companion

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

2022 BAROSSA MERLOT

Our 2022 Merlot has great fruit weight with a lovely line of tannin to balance which adds a serious note to the finish.

Jules Ashmead & Brock Harrison, winemaker notes

2023 EDEN VALLEY RIESLING

Our 2023 Riesling is produced purely from our own plantings at Craneford and we are super excited about the consistency and stylish nature of this Riesling. On the palate, delicate lime and zesty pink grapefruit, with nuances of sweetness coating the acid line which leaves a generous, yet crisp and dry finish.

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.

Pale straw with aromas of nectarine, peach and citrus fruits with underlying hints of cashew oak, citrus blossom, clotted cream, soft spice, fresh biscuits, nougat and lemon curd. Cream-dotted citrus fruits flow on the palate, which shows excellent drive and a blast of lemon curd on the exit.

91 points, Dave Brookes, Halliday Wine Companion

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 *LAST STOCKS EVER*

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.





Jules, Peter, Steven, Conrad and Baloo in old vine Grenache at Mengler Hill

WINERY AND VINEYARD UPDATE

VINTAGE 2023 WRAP FROM JULES

Vintage 2023 was one we will remember for some time. Characterised by cooler and wetter-than-usual weather, our vines were in no hurry to ripen their crop.

This was a vintage to test both our vineyard team and us in the winery!

Having decided to go without herbicide for a large portion of our vineyard in the growing season leading into vintage, we did have a large amount of undervine growth which proved beneficial in taking up excess water and allowing us to continue vineyard passes to keep disease pressure down.

Our new vineyard on Mengler Hill kept us busy and we are excited about the flavour spectrum this new site will bring to our wines.

Knowing this vintage would likely be the latest start on record, we cautiously took our first pick from our Greenock vineyard, nearly two weeks later than last year.

This fruit showed all we expect, with abundant vibrant fruit and a delicious

freshness, which we would come to expect from this vintage.

Of note, our 2023 reds have a lovely fine yet long tannin profile, probably owing to their extended slow ripening.

The standout so far is our Riesling, with amazing depth of fruit flavour coupled with a very clean acid line - a great first taste of what this vintage brings.

IN THE VINEYARD WITH CONRAD

As winter gives way to spring, we find ourselves juggling almost every vineyard job imaginable. Having four sites at different stages doesn't help with the complexity! Pruning is the main task of winter. We wrapped up the last pruning in late August while prepping the sites for spring and the growing season to come.

Nuriootpa was pruned late this year, starting in early August rather than June or July. Vines are climbers so tend to want to grow the buds furthest along the canes first - elevating them upwards. By letting this process start before pruning, the retained buds start to grow a bit later, hopefully avoiding the dangerous spring frosts. The vines quickly catch up

to where they would normally be, so by November they will be back on track.

Sheep have also been taking care of a lot of the spring work for us, giving us a much-needed head start. They are keeping the weeds and grasses low, saving us a couple of tractor passes through September.

We have been enjoying starting to get to grips with the new property at Mengler Hill. It typically takes around three years to get a good grasp of a vineyard, but it's been great to start to understand what the vines are showing us. The quality of the wines is superb and the vineyard is stunning, so we are all eager to see what we can do with the site.

Forecasts are pointing to a hotter and drier summer than the past few years. This means there will be a bit of a shift in focus to bring irrigation and smart water use back to the forefront. After how difficult it was with the crazy rains last November, I have no doubt we are not alone in looking forward to the challenge of an El Niño year.

COMMANDERS HONOUR ROLL

Making great wine is what we do, but sharing our wine with people who appreciate what we do and continue to contribute to our success is truly remarkable.

In 2012, we decided that it would be great to acknowledge our most loyal customers, with the introduction of the Elderton Commanders.

Commanders receive great rewards including:

- First access to new vintage Command Shiraz and Ashmead Cabernet Sauvignon
- Exclusive access to museum releases
- Priority invitation to special events at the winery or your capital city of residence, including Commander special pricing for event tickets
- Access to the Commander Concierge service
- Access to the Ashmeads for drinking advice!
- One complimentary night in the Elderton Guest House, in Nuriootpa
- Complimentary, structured Masterclass at Elderton's Cellar Door, for up to six people

We take this opportunity to acknowledge this year's 10 year Commanders:

Ron Barclay

Carmel Bredhauer & Tim Vanderkop

Eugene & Helena Lewandowski

John Pyne

Thank you for your continued support of our family business!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Brisbane dinner - 26 October 2023

Join the waitlist by emailing karli@eldertonwines.com.au

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

Blush + Bloom @ Cellar Door lawns - 4 November 2023

Small Victories Wine Co are teaming up with Seppeltsfield Rd Distillers to host a spring garden party with wine, gin and cocktails. More details on smallvictorieswine.com/events.

The Elderton Tennis Classic @ Nuriootpa & Cellar Door 12 November 2023

Bookings are open for mixed doubles pairings for our Fast4 event. Join us for a fun day of tennis, wine and food in the Barossa!

Retrospective Tasting @ Cellar Door - 24 February 2024

Join the Elderton Cellar Door team for a rare insight into our museum cellar as we invite you to join us for a tasting experience where we will open six back vintage wines from across our range. Bookings online.

15CLUB lunch (invite only) - save the date - 9 March 2024

Gather Round Tastings @ Cellar Door - 1-8 April 2024

Visit for a self-guided wine flight featuring our Cellar Door team's selection of 'Six of the Best'. Accompanied by a local charcuterie plate. \$35 pp. Bookings online.

Retrospective Tasting @ Cellar Door - 25 May 2024

Bookings are open online.

Ribs & Red @ our barrel hall - save the date - 7 June 2024



Mengler Hill vineyard

OUT AND ABOUT WITH ELDERTON

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



1. Autumnal Cellar Door colours showcased in this photo of Cam and Al with David and Lucy from our Czech distributors; 2. Al hosted a dinner in the Mortlock Wing of the State Library of South Australia; 3. Cam in his Barons of Barossa regalia at the Declaration of Vintage; 4. Bec and Al at the Kingsford for KickStart charity luncheon held at Kingsford The Barossa for Kickstart for Kids; 5. Cam attended a wine lunch at Canberra Airport with some great Commanders including Stephen and John; 6. A flashback from the past when Kris and DeeDee from the US emailed with this photo of a 2000 Command magnum signed by Al in around 2003; 7. Brock with Tom Geyer, our current Elderton Wlnemaking Excellence Scholarship recipient, who worked vintage this year and won the Broken Shovel Award for the hardest working cellar hand over vintage; 8. Cam with Wallaby legends Adam Ashley-Cooper and Matt Giteau; 9. Andrew, our Domestic Wholesale Sales Manager, out and about in Melbourne!

