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Elderton BUZZ

Colossal Praise from Halliday

MANY WINE LOVERS WOULD HAVE ALREADY SEEN THE GREAT SCORES AWARDED TO ELDERTON IN THE 2011 EDITION OF JAMES HALLIDAY'S AUSTRALIAN WINE COMPANION RELEASED A FEW MONTHS BACK.

We were pleased to see that we had again received a 5 star rating as a winery, with the following scores also being recorded:

95 Points – 2008 **Ode to Lorraine**

95 Points – 2007 **Command** Shiraz

94 Points – 2008 **Ashmead** Cabernet Sauvignon

94 Points – 2009 **Eden Valley** Cabernet Sauvignon

92 Points – 2007 **Estate** Shiraz

92 Points – 2009 **Eden Valley** Riesling

92 Points – 2009 **Eden Valley** Shiraz

91 Points – 2009 **Adelaide Hills** Sauvignon Blanc

Along with these amazing scores, the 2008 **Ode to Lorraine** was included as one of the top Cabernet blends released this year, and we were also awarded Value accolades for all of the Eden Valley wines.



10 of the Best

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE 10TH VINTAGE OF THE ASHMEAD CABERNET SAUVIGNON HAS NOW BEEN RELEASED. IT IS AMAZING TO THINK HOW QUICKLY THE TIME HAS GONE SINCE WE EXCITEDLY (AND NERVOUSLY) RELEASED THE 1998 VINTAGE IN LATE 2001, BUT OVER THE LAST DECADE THE ASHMEAD HAS FIRMLY ENTRENCHED ITSELF AS ONE OF THE GREAT CABERNETS IN AUSTRALIA.

Named after the family who rescued the vineyard during the vine-pull scheme in the late 1970s, and who still own and manage the vineyard and winery today,

the **Ashmead** Cabernet is a wine to challenge people's perceptions about Cabernet and where it should be grown in this very wide continent of ours.

Grown from a suffering old block of Cabernet vines on the Elderton Estate, and believed to be in excess of 65 years of age, the excellence of the **Ashmead** is a result of careful nurturing of some of the world's oldest Cabernet vines, combined with absolute attention to detail during the winemaking process.

As a result, we have the 10th release showing the hallmarks of being an absolute classic. The wine has the rare combination of power and grace, giving richness of fruit flavour and gorgeous silky tannins.

Whilst the 2008 vintage is often much maligned in South Australia, here at Elderton we were lucky that the stars

seemed to align. We believe the vintage to be absolutely superb (similar to 1992 which was not heralded as a great Barossa year, but was the vintage of our **Estate** Cabernet that won the Jimmy Watson Trophy and our **Command** Shiraz that was scribed as being one of the top 80 reds in the world by Robert Parker – and both are still drinking superbly today!).

The 2008 release is dedicated to Sophie Victoria Ashmead (second daughter of Allister and Rebecca) who was born at the end of vintage 2008, on 28 May. Sophie, like her older sister Charlotte, is a very lucky girl to be born in a wonderful vintage, and thus we fully expect the 2008 **Ashmead** Cabernet will be drinking magnificently at her 21st.

As per past vintages, this is a very small release and those wishing to secure some for their cellar should be quick.



Vineyard and Winery Update

In the vineyard... we experienced great rainfall in August and September (much greater than the last few years) setting up the Elderton vineyards for the season ahead. Having stored soil moisture going into the season is a great advantage to the vines, as they move from their winter 'sleep' into production. Here's hoping that the season continues on form, to produce another fantastic vintage.

**... ONE OF THE LARGEST
SOLAR PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY A WINERY IN
AUSTRALIA.**

In the winery... Elderton saw the installation of its winery solar panel project finalised in September, making it one of the largest solar projects undertaken by a winery in Australia. The 168 panels are generating power as we speak and will help to reduce the winery's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 tonnes annually.



30th Birthday Celebrations

2011 will mark the 30th vintage for Elderton Wines since our inaugural 1982 harvest. Our plans are to throw several parties and dinners throughout the country, including a first ever Elderton golf tournament to be held at our remarkable local course, Tanunda Pines.

Also being held in 2011 is the Barossa's famous Vintage Festival (the largest and the longest running wine festival in Australia). Held between 23 April and 1 May, the festival is a celebration of all things Barossan. Elderton will again be hosting our now infamous **Elderton Strikes Back** at Barossa Bowl. We will also be supporting the Rare and Distinguished Barossa Wine Auction with the largest bottle of our 2007 **Command Shiraz** (9 Litres – a Salmanazar) - truly one of a kind and an amazing cornerstone of any collector's cellar.

Please send Jess an email (jess@eldertonwines.com.au) if you are interested in hearing more about these events or the 9L **Command**.

Acknowledgment from Langton's

IN LATE SEPTEMBER WE WERE GIVEN THE WELCOME NEWS THAT THE **COMMAND SHIRAZ** HAD AGAIN BEEN RECOGNISED IN THE 'EXCELLENT' CATEGORY OF THE LATEST LANGTON'S CLASSIFICATION OF AUSTRALIAN WINES.

For Buzz readers unaware of the classification, it is compiled by Langton's Wine Auctions every five years and is a scale of how well Australia's greatest wines perform on the secondary, 'investment', market. By no means is it an absolute mark of the quality of the wine, although there are only 123 wines that made the cut in this year's classification (out of the tens of thousands that are produced in the country).

Whilst it would be nice to think that **Command** would fit very well in the 'Exceptional' category, and there is no doubt from a quality perspective alone it does proudly sit alongside wines like Grange and Hill of Grace, the reality is that most people who buy **Command** do so with the intention of enjoying it rather than trying to invest in it. As a producer of one of Australia's great wines, we are very proud of this attribute.

The interesting part of this however, is that there are handsome gains to be made from listing older vintages of **Command** on Langton's, however we would much rather you drink them knowing that you have just savoured one of the world's great wines.

More admiration for Command

IT HAS BEEN A GREAT FEW MONTHS FOR ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE LATEST RELEASE OF OUR FLAGSHIP WINE – THE 2006 **COMMAND SHIRAZ**.

It was announced in November that the wine had swept aside all before it to win Gold - Best in Class at the recent London International Wine and Spirit Competition. This came as no real surprise as it seems that all wine commentators and drinkers

have been unanimous in their adoration of this wine. Other great endorsements for the 2006 include:

94 Points from James Halliday, Robert Parker, Huon Hooke, Jeremy Oliver and from Gary Walsh of Winefront

Nomination as a finalist for the George Mackey Trophy

93 Points from Stephen Tanzer (Underscored in our opinion!)

Awarded a Gold Star from Rob Geddes, in the Gold Book, as a consistently excellent performer

5 stars in Gourmet Traveller WINE

'Excellent' in Langton's Classification V

For the first time we now also have gift boxes available for this wine, making it that perfect gift for Christmas or any special occasion. Contact us here at the winery if you would like further information.

Gallery



Above: Friends Shiraz on show at "The Festival Of Speed" in October (Total Wine & More in Orlando)
Right: Al and Cam at a Swans vs Blues game this year



Festival Wines staff (SA distributors) visiting the Elderton Eden Valley vineyard



Tush (Cellar Door Manager) with her favourite TV Chefs Michael Keelan and Michael Angelakis from Out of the Blue in October



Al, Pat (Rutherglen), Lee (Aramis), Brian (Frankland) and Don (NJ legend) during a recent trip to the US

Welcome baby John

Congratulations to Richard (our winemaker) and Louise Langford who announced the birth of John Lindsay Langford on 26 September, weighing a very healthy 4.42 kgs. John is a traditional family name for the Langfords, apparently dating back centuries. John's sisters Lauren and Hayley are also very excited to have a little brother to push around!

A Christmas Idea

We have small amounts of our 2008 **Sparkling** Shiraz still available, a wine that has turned a lot of heads in the past 12 months for its tremendous packaging and for the deliciousness of the wine itself. Think of this as a great Christmas present, to be consumed on the day with lashings of bacon and eggs at breakfast, or to be saved to accompany the Christmas ham and turkey. Be quick!