

**BURGE FAMILY
WINEMAKERS**
BAROSSA VALLEY



EST. 1928
Celebrating 80 years
Winemaking in the Barossa 1928-2008

NEWSLETTER

Dear Subscriber,

While doing some vineyard ploughing recently, on a near perfect spring day, and thinking about our 80th anniversary, it occurred to me that 2008 represented a personal milestone of 30 years as a professional in the wine industry. It only seems like yesterday that, having finished Roseworthy College studies, I was flying to Melbourne for a job (interview) that had been advertised in *The Australian*. After the interview, I was asked if I could delay my flight home - fine by me, they were paying - and it was probably midnight when I finally arrived home, with a few bottles of Champagne to celebrate with my wife Bronnie and our Gawler neighbour who was always up for a "glass of something special!" That was 1979, a mere 10 years after man had walked on the moon. Where have the years gone?

We're currently enjoying some superb spring weather - warm sunny days together with some ongoing rainy days - with budburst occurring and the vineyard soon to be a sea of green. Let's

hope that following a normal winter, we can look forward to a favourable ripening period and a hassle-free vintage.

This newsletter announces the release of three exciting, and varied, new releases. The **2008 Shiraz Rosé** is a crackerjack wine, and the perfect entertaining style over the coming summer months. The **2008 Olive Hill Semillon** similarly is a top-shelf Semillon, to be enjoyed in its youth this summer and/or cellared for another 6-8 years to reach its peak. A premium red to cellar is the **2006 Olive Hill Shiraz-Grenache-Mourvedre**, a worthy successor to the outstanding 2005 vintage.

Once again a **New Releases Dozen**, at an attractive price, is being offered, together with a special **Garnacha Collection** dozen, featuring recent good vintages of old-vine Grenache from a block of 80(plus) year old vines. And again we're offering the **Wilsford Fortifieds** 6-pack, details of which are on the Price List/Order Form overleaf.

We trust you enjoy the newly released wines, knowing that the Rosé will make many friends this summer, hence the special dozen price!

If you've phoned or dropped in to our cellar-door in recent months, chances are that you've already made contact with Libbi Curnow, our new staff member. With a background in advertising and promotion



Dudley 'inducting' new staff member Libbi Curnow

(being PA to an agency boss), her energy, verve and outgoing nature, not to mention a pretty good palate, makes her the ideal person for quite a complex job description. Welcome aboard Libbi, you'll enjoy the wine industry.

Until our next
Newsletter,

Cheers and best wishes,

NEW RELEASE...
and already a winner!!

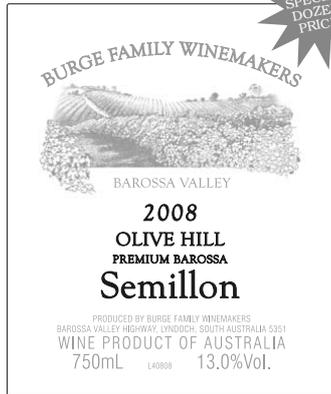


Rick Burge

2008 BAROSSA WINE SHOW
2008 Shiraz Rosé 51pts (60)
2008 Rose of Virginia 48pts
2008 Turkey Flat Rosé 46.5pts

NEW RELEASES

2008 OLIVE HILL SEMILLON



SPECIAL
DOZEN
PRICE

The 2008 vintage was one of two parts. The grapes picked before the rather savage 16 day heatwave experienced in March were quite outstanding and produced some special wines. (We were fortunate to have harvested about 90% of our total crop before the heatwave, with only 2 reds, predominantly Grenache, with higher than desired sugar levels).

Picked at optimum flavour maturity and in perfect condition, the Semillon juice after cold settling, started ferment conventionally in tank. When the ferment was about three-quarters of the way through, we drew off 20% of the fermenting juice into new Allier (French) oak barriques where fermentation is completed. (These two portions are blended together prior to bottling).

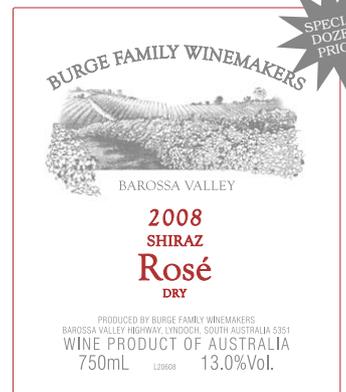
As with previous vintages, the oak influence is negligible, rather it's a subtle texture and complexity enhancer for the wine in its youth. After a few years bottle-age however, the delightful evolving honey-like overtones combine with the citrus-like varietal character, resulting in a dry white of great style and complexity. Cellar with confidence up to 8-10 years.

2008 SHIRAZ ROSÉ

Our first Rosé, from quality Shiraz grapes, and what a winner! We knew early on, probably as early as the draining off of the richly-coloured and highly aromatic juice that we had something exceptional in the making. A conventional, temperature-controlled ferment to near-dryness, followed by early bottling to retain freshness, has resulted in a delicious Rosé showing vibrant varietal fruit and a crisp, refreshing finish.

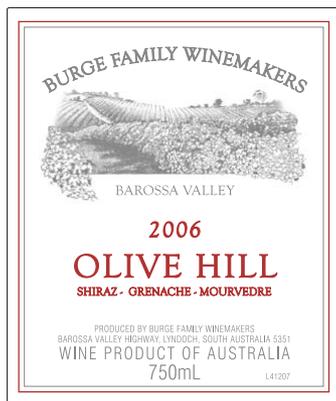
We've been contemplating the production of a Rosé style for some time now, and if it wasn't for the early vintage, and a lot of Shiraz due to ripen all at once without enough fermenter space, the project might still be on the drawing board. This year however, some quick thinking was required to capitalise on the great fruit quality being presented, so the decision was made to divert the first Shiraz from the Draycott block to a premium Rosé.

Served nicely chilled, it's the perfect summer wine, to be enjoyed anytime! A great entertaining style that comes Highly Recommended.



SPECIAL
DOZEN
PRICE

2006 OLIVE HILL SHIRAZ-GRENACHE-MOURVEDRE



The 2006 vintage was the third, above average vintage in a row, and this blend, from grapes grown on our limestone-rich Olive Hill block, comprises Shiraz 68%, Grenache 18% and Mourvedre 14%, the latter two varieties being dry-grown. Prior to bottling in December 2007, the wine underwent maturation in 100% French oak barriques, 35-40% of which is new each year. (French oak has very fine-grained tannins, a feature prized in premium reds). The reds from the Olive Hill block continue to exhibit refined, stylish fruit characters and respond well to medium-term cellaring, although they're certainly impressive and very drinkable in their youth. With bottle-age however, increased complexity, in both the bouquet and palate is achieved together with the softening and integration of both grape and oak tannins. (If you've tried any of the 2002 vintage recently you'll witness the lovely degree of complexity and balance achieved). A worthy successor to the great '05 Olive Hill S.M.G and highly recommended.



"Always one of the better S.G.M blends from the Barossa Valley"
92 points, James Halliday 2008.

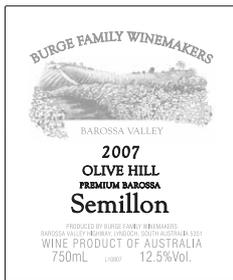
JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Email us with your postal address, to receive our regular Newsletters, outlining the new wine releases, special offers and wine / music events.

Email for our current Price/List Order Form **Email:** draycott@burgefamily.com.au

PREVIOUS RELEASES

2007 OLIVE HILL SEMILLON (V.LIMITED)



Immediately appealing green-gold colour and bright condition. The aromas are similarly striking; pronounced citrus-like varietal characters with tropical-fruit overtones, not unlike the characters of the 2002 and 2005 Semillons when young. The palate shows restrained Semillon fruit, again with hints of tropical fruits and balanced with a fresh yet balanced acidity. Enjoy a few bottles over the coming summer months and, as winter approaches, cellar the rest for another 3 - 4 years. Drink up any of the 2000 or 2004 vintage - drinking at peak now - or the 2002 vintage, which is drinking beautifully yet holding well.

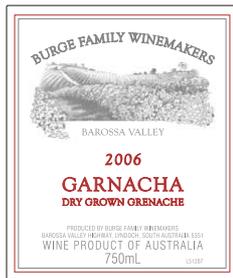
2006 CLOCHEMERLE SHIRAZ-GRENACHE

A blend of Shiraz from the Draycott block and dry-grown Grenache, together with a very small portion of Mourvedre, from Olive Hill. Maturation for six months only, in 3-7 years old French oak barriques, preceded bottling in June '08; previous to oak, the wine was matured, in bulk, in stainless steel tanks.

The resulting wine shows rich yet soft fruit, a long, flavoursome palate and a nicely firm, but polished tannin finish. Rich, yet balanced and with another 1-3 years bottle-age, a great everyday-drinking, 'house red' will evolve.



2006 GARNACHA DRY GROWN GRENACHE



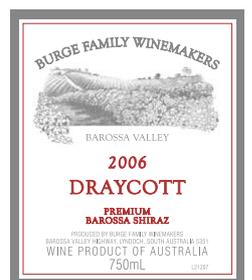
The old, dry-grown Grenache vines that are responsible for the backbone of this wine certainly enjoyed the three above-average quality years '04, '05 and '06. Good winter rains, ideal ripening weather together with a little early summer rain has resulted in Grenache of great colour, flavour and rustic varietal spice so typical of low-yielding, mature Grenache vines. Prior to bottling in December '07, the wine spent approx. 12 months maturing in aged, French oak barriques; where it developed further complexity yet negligible oak influence. Cellar 2-4 years, for increased flavour complexity.

Consistently reviewed nationally and internationally, as a top example of the variety

2006 DRAYCOTT SHIRAZ

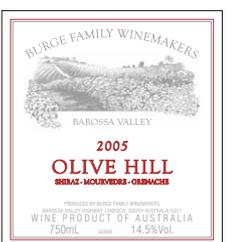
Here's a great wine for the cellar. The vines that produce fruit for the Draycott label range in age from 20 years up to nearly 50 years, a feature that has a large bearing of the depth of colour and flavour-complexity of the resulting wines. Mature vines have established root systems that can tolerate, and ride out, the effects of dry or drought years and produce smaller crops of consistent quality. They are also less prone to vegetative growth spurts in good conditions, which has the effect of producing large-berried, weak-coloured and less flavoursome grapes.

Draycott enjoys maturation in high quality French oak barriques (227 litre), of which 35-40% is new each year. It is the high quality, fine-grained tannins imparted by quality new oak that is revered by winemakers anywhere, and when coupled with richly coloured and flavoured Shiraz fruit, from a great vintage year, a top red is almost guaranteed. Highly recommended.



"...medium to full-bodied traditional Barossa Valley style, its blackberry and mocha flavours have exemplary mouthful and structure..." **92 Points - James Halliday**

2005 OLIVE HILL SHIRAZ-MOURVEDRE-GRENACHE (LIMITED)



The consistent quality of the Olive Hill Shiraz, together with the complimentary varietal character of the Mourvedre and Grenache - both dry-grown - and the fine-grained tannin from the French oak results in a complex, stylish red of great finesse. We believe this wine to be a good example of the modern, single vineyard Barossa red blend from an outstanding year, that with another 3-5 years cellaring, will develop beautifully. Highly recommended.

"Stand-out wine. Beautifully balanced, beautifully flavoured, long and juicy and satisfying. Full of plums, blackberry, smoke, graphite, chocolate and cedar flavours, it keeps ringing through your memory long after you've swallowed the last of it. A top-notch wine from a top-notch producer. Drink 2007-2014. **94 points, THE WINE FRONT, May 2007.**



"One of the best examples going around of this blend, although Shiraz (71%) is by far the dominant partner; offers a complex spray of spicy black fruits with wafts of dark chocolate and mocha." **94 points, James Halliday**