

BURGE FAMILY  
WINEMAKERS  
BAROSSA VALLEY



EST. 1928

Celebrating 80 years

Winemaking in the Barossa 1928-2008

# NEWSLETTER

Dear Subscriber,

I wrote in the 2007 Winter Newsletter that the '07 vintage was challenging; little did we know what was to occur 12 months later, with the recently completed 2008 vintage. After a lifetime in the wine industry - and nearly 30 years professionally - I thought I had experienced everything ... and then along came March with a 16 day, 35+ degree heatwave.

Fortunately conditions leading up to the heatwave were near perfect, and after picking the Semillon - with copybook compositional figures - we knew 2008 was going to be very special. Although two weeks early, we expected this early start as our crop levels were still only two-thirds of a normal year, so, as fate would have it, the lighter crop and earlier start turned out to be our salvation. We harvested approx. 90% of our crop before the 16 day heatwave started, initially accelerating sugar levels and then causing severe berry shrivel.

Our last two reds

vintaged, which were predominantly Grenache, show the effects of elevated sugar, while approx. 2 tonnes of Grenache suffered terminal shrivel and were left unpicked on the vine. Apart from the last two reds, we're very excited with the quality of the 2008 vintage overall, with some great wines in tank and barrel. Sixty eight tonnes were harvested in total; up from 25 tonnes in 2007 but still short of our 75-80 tonnes norm.

This Newsletter announces the release of the first 2006 reds, the last of three great vintages in a row. The **2006 Clochemerle**, again Shiraz dominant, is quite a rich yet, soft mouthful - a great everyday drinking 'house red' style. The **2006 Garnacha**, from dry grown, 80+year old vines, shows all the spice and rustic charm of this variety.

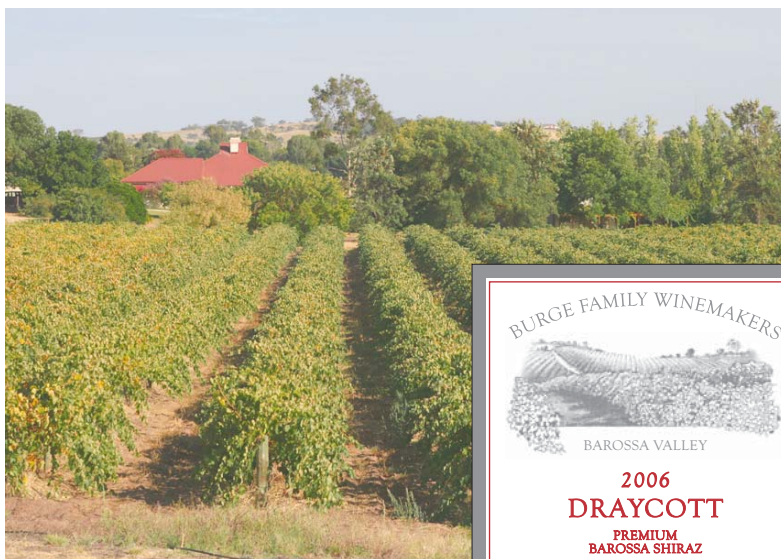
Make sure you cellar a good quantity of the **2006 Draycott Shiraz**, a powerful yet beautifully balanced red, as there won't be any from the 2007 vintage. Further tasting notes overleaf, together with details of the **New Releases Dozen**.

To commemorate 80 years of Barossa winemaking by our family wine firm, we've put together a special **ANNIVERSARY Dozen**, comprising 2 bottles each of 6 of our best wine releases in recent times. Further details on back page.

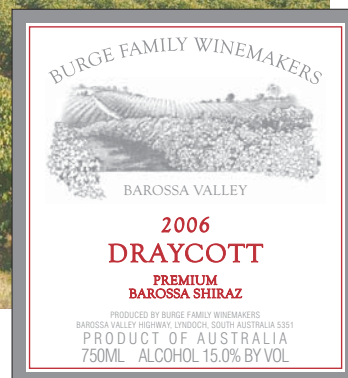
A successful offer made in last Winter's Newsletter was the winter-warming **WILSFORD Fortifieds**, so we decided to repeat the offer this winter. Details of the six-bottle pack may be found on the Price List - Order Form.

We've been blessed in our family company to have had some very special employees during our 80 years of operation; people who have made a special contribution over many years. Lil Crosby, our book-keeper for the last 24 years is one such person and at the end of June, we bid her farewell and wish her the best in her 'second' retirement. A spritely 80 years young, she again marched in this year's Adelaide Anzac Day parade (a former W.R.A.A.F. servicewoman). Her enthusiasm and positive outlook on life is quite remarkable. Well done and thank you Lil.

We trust you enjoy the new releases - some to enjoy now, some to cellar. We recommend you stock up as there is a near 70% reduction in stocks of the (2) 2007 reds that will be released.



The DRAYCOTT vineyard

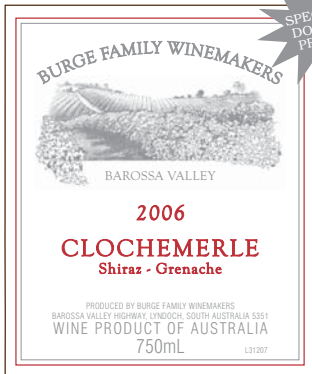


Cheers and best wishes,

Rick Burge

# NEW RELEASES

## 2006 CLOCHEMERLE SHIRAZ-GRENACHE



SPECIAL  
DOZEN  
PRICE

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.

At 15% alc./vol, it's not a red for the faint-hearted, however the wine doesn't show any characteristics of slightly elevated alcohol levels. And no, we didn't deliberately aim for a big 'block-buster' style, rather, because of the ideal ripening conditions coupled with a slight hold-up with fermentation tanks being available, sugar levels in the Grenache jumped significantly in the week preceding harvest.

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.

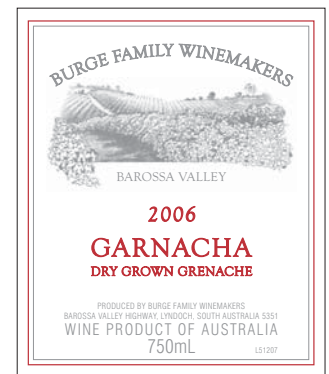
[N.B.: We have discontinued the largely export, D.& OH Label, with the fruit now going over to the Clochemerle label, allowing more economical volumes to be bottled].

## 2006 GARNACHA DRY GROWN GRENACHE

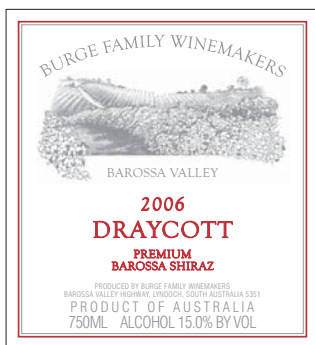
The old, dry-grown Grenache vines that are responsible for the backbone of this wine certainly enjoyed the three above-average quality years '04, '05 and '06. Good winter rains, ideal ripening weather together with a little early summer rain has resulted in Grenache of great colour, flavour and rustic 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, especially considering there will be no 2007 bottling of Draycott Shiraz, or Olive Hill S.M.G. or Garnacha for that matter. (More on that in a future Newsletter, however the special S.G.M. blend we made in '07 will be worth waiting for).

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.

Along with the Olive Hill SMG, Draycott also 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.

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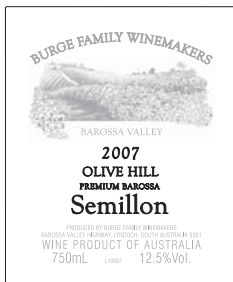
Email us with your postal address, to receive our regular Newsletters, outlining the new wine releases, special offers and wine / music events.

Email for our current Price/List Order Form **Email:** [draycott@burgefamil.com.au](mailto:draycott@burgefamil.com.au)



# PREVIOUS RELEASES

## 2007 OLIVE HILL SEMILLON (V.LIMITED)



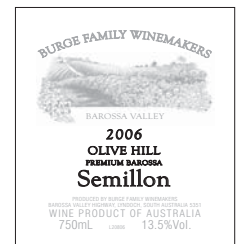
Immediately appealing green-gold colour and bright condition. The aromas are similarly striking; pronounced citrus-like varietal characters with tropical-fruit overtones, not unlike the characters of the 2002 and 2005 Semillons when young. The palate shows restrained Semillon fruit, again with hints 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 OLIVE HILL SEMILLON (LIMITED)

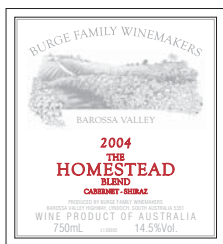
The 2006 vintage continues a run of 3 consecutive, above-average quality vintages, and although quantity was a little down, quality remained high.

The appearance is immediately appealing; pale straw-gold with pronounced green tints and bright/brilliant in condition.

The aroma exhibits the characteristic citrus-like varietal fruit with some floral and beeswax overtones. These all combine with a fresh, balanced acidity to give a refreshing palate structure and crisp finish. A complete wine, with great balance and varietal fruit. Drink a few bottles over the coming months, but make sure some bottles are put aside for further cellaring as we believe this wine will age beautifully. Highly recommended



## 2004 HOMESTEAD BLEND CABERNET-SHIRAZ



A stylish, medium-bodied blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (84%) from both the Draycott and Olive Hill blocks, and 16% (Draycott) Shiraz, aged exclusively in French oak for 14 months prior to bottling.

It's a cracker of a wine, with its immediately different nose - all florals and herbaceous Cabernet characters - and tight, or should I say taut, palate with the trademark Cabernet tannin backbone and finish. The 16% Shiraz adds a little fleshy fruit where it's needed, but is very much a minor player where varietal expression is concerned. All it needs is some cellaring time to let those tannins soften and the Cabernet fruit to come to the fore. Highly recommended.

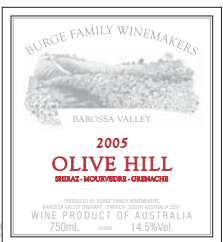
## 2005 D & OH SHIRAZ-GRENACHE

A blend of 80% Shiraz from the Draycott block and 20% dry-grown Grenache from the adjacent Olive Hill block. Oak maturation was minimal, our aim being to highlight the fruit characters of this very complimentary and traditional blend.

With another 3 - 5 years cellaring, we look forward to seeing a stylish, complex red evolve. James Halliday probably sums it up best in his 2008 Wine Companion, when he describes it as, "Medium bodied; the juicy, berry grenache contribution is evident, but the shiraz rules the roost in flavour and structure, though still an easy-drinking style." 89 pts.



## 2005 OLIVE HILL SHIRAZ-MOURVEDRE-GRENACHE

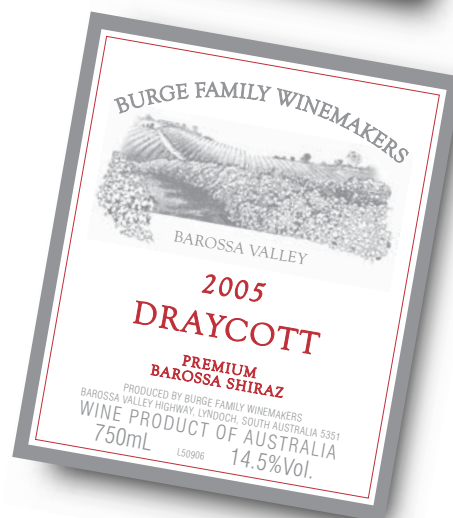
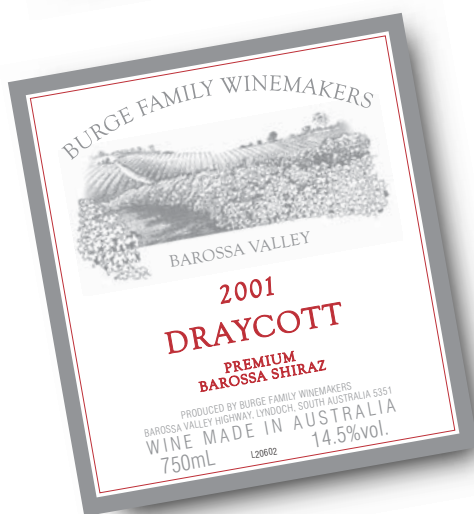
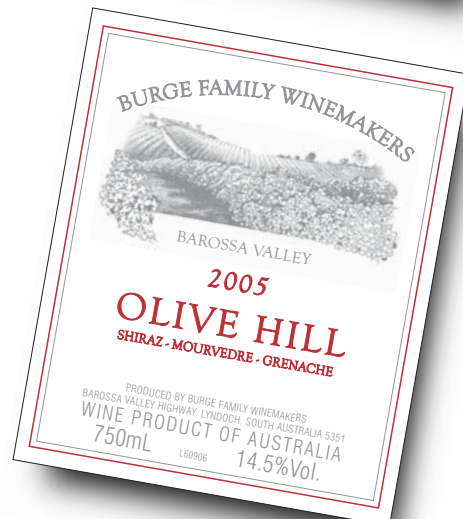
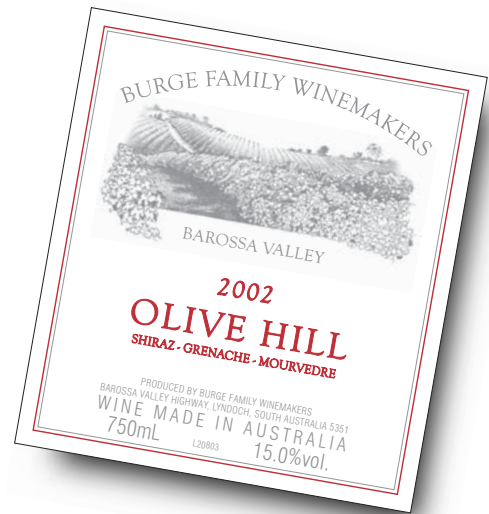
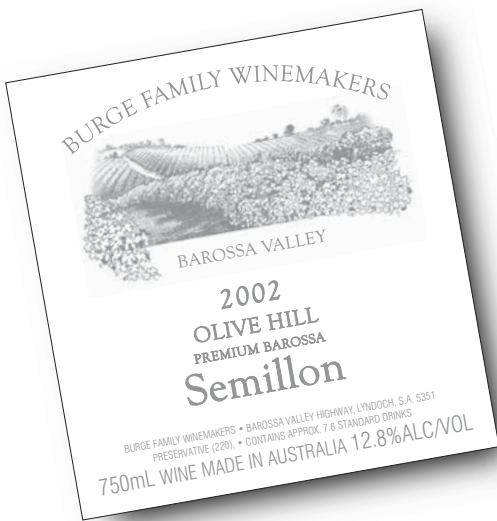


The consistent quality of the Olive Hill Shiraz, together with the complimentary varietal character of the Mourvedre and Grenache - both dry-grown - and the fine-grained tannin from the French oak results in a complex, stylish red of great finesse. We believe this wine to be a good example of the modern, 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.

# ANNIVERSARY DOZEN

2008 represents 80 years of winemaking in the Barossa by our family wine firm, which was established at Lyndoch in 1928 by Percival Burge. We've chosen a selection of wines - two bottles of each - which we consider to have been our best releases in recent years, and proudly offer it to Newsletter subscribers as a special Anniversary Dozen.



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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](mailto:draycott@burgefamily.com.au)