



Spinifex

Barossa Valley

July 2008

• NEWSLETTER •

No. 02



The best way to describe 2008 so far is 'hectic', however we're not complaining.

Our most recent news is that we have just returned from a few days in Melbourne, where we attended the '2008 Young Guns of Wine Awards'. Peter was one of the finalists and we are very pleased to announce that Peter is the 2008 'Young Gun of Wine'. Considering the calibre of the 11 finalists it is certainly a great honour. The judging was conducted by a distinguished panel of judges including Max Allen and Nick Stock.

We also moved house earlier this year (the middle of vintage to be precise – take my word for it, not good timing!) When married to a winemaker there are a few unspoken rules, and they are – no children born or house moving during vintage. I have only been guilty of the one I am pleased to say, but I assure you that I will not commit this grave sin again. In the Barossa there is a term 'vintage widow' which very aptly describes how most winemakers wives feel during this very busy time.

This year we are very excited about the release of a couple of new additions to our normal range, our 2006 D.R.S Vineyard; a single vineyard Durif made from our own half acre block at home. And 2006 Taureau; a Spanish styled red made from Carignan, Tempranillo and Cabernet Sauvignon. In case any of you are wondering D.R.S are Peter's fathers initials – he has done a lot of the work in this vineyard and we thought it fitting to dedicate this wine to him. We only made 30 dozen D.R.S Vineyard, so it will be a matter of getting in quickly with this one.

As an overview, from our perspective the 2006 vintage the best keyword to describe the conditions for the 2006 Barossa growing season and vintage is "temperate". Above average rain in the preceding winter and spring delivered healthy vines with healthy crop levels and green harvesting (crop thinning) to reduce yields was routine with quality conscious growers to ensure the highest potential wine quality. Moderate temperatures and no extreme heat spikes during the ripening season delivered fruit with good natural balance and late season rains extended vintage well into May for the later ripening varieties and vineyards. The red wines we made in 2006 are intense, distinctive, potentially long lived, and are characterised by their aromatic complexity and finesse, and serves as a good contrast between the 2005s and 2007s.





2007 Papillon

Grenache 46%, Cinsault 28%, Mataro 26%

Lifted and fragrant with aromas of crushed raspberries and spice perfumes, wood spice, peppercorns, sandalwood and dark roses overlay tart red plum and cherry fruits. The medium bodied palate displays intense spice, red plum and dark cherry flavours. Bright and lively, this wine is characterized by fresh, cherry-like perfumes, moderate alcohol and balanced acidity.

“Completing the Spinifex mod-Med trifecta, this gorgeous young blend of Grenache, Cinsault and mourvedre is ravishing, succulent and bouncy, with pepper laid over black cherry fruit. Style-wise, this is Languedoc-meets-Beaujolais. Spicy sausages please.”

Max Allen – Gourmet Traveller (January 2008)



2006 Indigene

Barossa and Eden Valleys

Shiraz 69%, Mataro 31%.

A brooding nose that with air reveals complex aromas of Satsuma plum, dried black cherry, pan forte, dark earth, iodine, subtle black tea and star anise characters and an intriguing saline/sanguine note.

Full bodied and dense on the palate with ripe, velvety tannins and balanced acidity that displays richness without excessive weight. Slow to reveal flavours of ripe red cherry, macerated plums, leather and bitter chocolate. Though closed and unevolved the palate shows great balance and poise, a supple, fine, nutty tannin finish and great length. Enjoy over the next 8 – 12 years.

(Diam cork closure)



2006 Taureau

Barossa and Eden Valleys

Carignan 41%, Tempranillo 32%, Cabernet Sauvignon 27%

Appealing and complex mix of fresh fruit and savoury aromas. Fresh red cherry, dark plum and almond over bitter cocoa, leather, tea-smoke, tarragon, with subtle gamey/meatiness and slate/mineral notes. Medium to full bodied palate with strong fruit attack of red currants, green tea and cedar flavours which finishes fresh and firm, has bright acidity and refreshing dry tannin grip. Enjoy over the next 5 – 7 years.

(Screw cap closure)



2006 Shiraz Viognier

Barossa Valley

Shiraz 95%, Viognier 5%.

Very finely aromatic, subtle and intriguing; complex aromas of dried herbs and savoury spices, juniper berries, tarragon and thyme over ripe cassis and blackberry fruit, vanilla bean and subtle mineral notes. A full-bodied wine which is rich and yet refined. Flavours range through spicy ripe raspberry, exotic spices and dark plum fruit. The wine finishes with an abundance of fine chalky tannins and acidity that give the wine freshness and focus. Enjoy over the next 12 –15 years.

(Diam cork closure)



2006 Esprit

Barossa Valley

Mataro 34%, Grenache 31%, Shiraz 30%, Cinsault 5%

Fragrant and alluring with pure aromas of black cherries and plums, wood spice, hazelnuts, dark chocolate, notes of freshly ground coffee and underlying savoury undergrowth aromas. The medium bodied palate displays strong mullberry and cherry fruit, wood spice and dried herb flavours. Even, supple texture with fine, lightly gripping tannins and ripe acidity. Enjoy over the next 5 – 7 years.

(Diam cork closure)

“One of the Barossa’s brightest stars, this blend calls on Mataro, Grenache and Shiraz with a pinch of Cinsault. It’s all modern, soulful and ripe with mixed berry aromas of perfume and spice and a strapping bold palate, driven by savoury liquorice and pepper. It finishes with long bold tannins.” 96 points.

Nick Stock, WBM100 (July 2008)

“One of a suite of impressive blended reds from this modern Barossa superstar, there’s some restraint and grace married with rich fruits and regional depth. Plenty of earthy spice, black fruits and savoury supporting oak, the palate wields depth and density, really compact dark fruit flavours and a stripe of toasty oak to sweeten the finish.”

Nick Stock, Qantas Magazine (July 2008)



2006 D.R.S Vineyard

Barossa Valley

Single vineyard 100% Durif

Dark and complex amalgam of ink, ripe boysenberry, brazil nut, macerated black cherries, liquorice root, dried kelp and griotte with a hint of gun powder and pepper. It smells “black”. Very full-bodied and rich with intense ripe stewed fruits, dried cranberry with underlying savoury grilled meat flavours, masculine structure. Full of bold yet polished tannins. Enjoy over the next 12-15 years.

(Diam cork closure)

“Absolute essence of durif: inky, rich, massive, heavily laden with black fruit, with surprisingly plush tannins”

Max Allen, Gourmet Traveller (June 2008)

