

What is now the Elderton vineyard was established by Samuel Elderton Tolley in the late 19th century. In 1981 the Ashmead family moved in, named the vineyard in honour of its founder and began nurturing the vines and producing the wines that are now sold around the world.

They have redeveloped the vineyard, retaining Sam Tolley's magnificent old Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon plantings, and have blended the latest scientific viticultural techniques with age-old practices.

Elderton's success stems largely from Neil Ashmead's conviction that there would always be a market niche for the big, bold, earthy reds that made the Barossa's reputation. This belief flew in the face of convention in the early 1980's, when most of Elderton's competitors switched focus to the fashionable white varieties and uprooted their red vines. Today, Elderton produces a full range of premium varietal wines and most are award winners.

Elderton wines appear on the din-

ing tables in eleven countries around the world and because their quality standards are very high, it is unlikely that Elderton will grow much beyond its present size.

Elderton Rhine Riesling

This wine differs from most Australian Rieslings in that Elderton have deliberately aimed at a drier style.

Elderton Semillon

A dry, complex wine is well suited to most savoury dishes particularly complimenting the popular Mediterranean style of food.

Elderton Chardonnay

The chardonnay's richness is further enhanced with delicate and careful wood maturation.

Elderton Shiraz 1994

From the excellent 1994 vintage another great shiraz. Full with fruit (14% alcohol) pepper and vanilla overtones make it a wine not to be missed.

Elderton Cabernet Sauvignon 1994

The 1994 Cabernet was derived from the same vines as the Jimmy Watson winning 1992 wine, which was a complex fruit driven wine.

Elderton Command Shiraz 1992

I will quote Robert Parker who comments, the noted USA wine critic, from his wine Advocate. He rated the wine 94/100.

"Might this be the Caymus Special Selection Shiraz of Australia? This wine, with its nearly 15% natural alcohol, lavish quantities of smoky, toasty wood and oodles of thick, jammy cassis, blueberries and raspberries, is a decadent, hedonistic, opulently textured fruit bomb that coats the mouth with thrilling levels of extract, glycerin and alcohol. Its huge aromatics and bold flavours make a dramatic statement. Do not expect any subtlety in this blockbuster. Look for this opaque, purple coloured shiraz to drink well for another 15 years."

After that write-up you would have to buy a bottle!

The Elderton range of wines are on special this month at Jeany's Fine Wines.

