



Welcome



A big hello to all our friends and customers, it has been quite a while since our last Newsletter and an abundance of happenings in the intervening time. It would be a delight to give you a snapshot of our activities as a mild distraction from the current woes in our world at present. Whilst we are adhering to the pandemic restrictions and staying home at Steels Creek there is still much to do in the vineyard and winery.

At the Cellar door

We decided very early to close cellar door as we strongly felt it was the most responsible and appropriate thing to do. On the last day we were open I was inviting customers to wash their hands before tasting, they looked at me like I was very strange, thank goodness no one would think this strange now. We are all quickly changing and adapting to new social norms.

With our cellar door closed we decided it would be a fun to look at some of our older vintages. We have dug through our museum boxes of wine and pulled out a selection of Cabernets for a vertical tasting of 1994 through to 2003. Obviously with "just the two of us" we will have to space the tasting out over a number of evenings.

Online Wine

Like most businesses our cellar door is now an online experience, you can still enjoy our wines at home and we can send them to your door via Australia Post. However if you prefer to talk to us to discuss the current release of your favourite wine or just place

your order in a more personal way you can give us a call on 03 5965 2448.

Our current wines are –

2016 Colombard
2017 Chardonnay
2012 Blanc de Blanc
2013 Shiraz
2013 Cabernet Sauvignon
2015 Cabernet Franc

All our wines may be purchased in **12 bottle cases** at a **15% discount**. We are also offering **free freight** to all Australian destinations.

Orders will reflect these adjustments when we advise pricing and arrange payment.

In the Vineyard

Another challenging year in the vineyard. Spring growth was very encouraging with good moisture levels and the prospect of good yields. In November we experienced a hail event which occurred as the Chardonnay was flowering. This significantly impacted the fruit set which has culminated in reduced yields. The red varieties were not impacted to the same extent but a very dry December has resulted in small crops as well. Mother Nature always makes her mark on viticulture.

On a brighter note the decision was made this season to go Glyphosate (Roundup) free. We have never used pesticides in the vineyard and now we are herbicide free too. Under vine management is now by a special mechanical weeder. The vineyard is not looking as neat as previous years as Simon comes to grips with operating the new unit. Very pleasing now that we have stopped using the herbicide that is gaining everybody's attention.

Just the two of us

With the restrictions on people gathering we decided to complete the rest of the vineyard work with just the two of us. As we worked through picking the Shiraz and Colombard Simon commented that he could not recall a year when he had done so much picking. Normally he would spend a portion of the time picking up the picking crates. As we have completed each pick we have embarked on removing our bird netting ourselves a task we normally do with three. This entails a little more work, removing the nets to the ground manually and then rolling them up on the machine. So far the nets are coming off without

damage thanks to the great clover cover in the mid-rows and our slow and careful process. The other revelation is that our non-driving Joanne has taken to driving the tractor! Like a duck to water!

At time of writing only our Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc grapes require picking. Anxious moments as we have just had over 80mm of rain and the birds are circling all too frequently.

In the Winery

The Chardonnay and Colombard white wine ferments are almost complete and the Shiraz has been processed and ferment is underway. So the winery is a buzz with activity, it is a pity that our customers cannot experience some of the hands on work undertaken during vintage at this time.

Special Offer

All our wines may be purchased in **12 bottle cases** at a **15% discount**. We are also offering **free freight** to all Australian destinations.

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We hope all our patrons will remain safe and well during these testing times. Enjoying a glass or two of our wine will hopefully complement the enjoyment of healthy home cooked meals. We will eagerly anticipate saying hello in person once the battle has been won.

Best wishes,

Simon and Joanne



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