



Welcome



A big Hello from our very quiet corner of Steels Creek.

Our Cellar Door has been closed since mid-March so we are really missing interacting with all of you, our fabulous and loyal customers. Just when we were cautiously contemplating re-opening the virus put a stop to that idea with Stage 3 restrictions followed by Stage 4. With another month of Stage 4 to go and then who knows what we will be more than 6 months with no cellar door.

Needless to say the vineyard and winery work has not stopped and along with gardening these tasks have been a much appreciated distraction to the "virus" events that have escalated in Victoria. The virus has also presented the opportunity to enjoy some great home cooked food and wine. Like you, we too have tried a number of new recipes and made many raids on the cellar.

In the Vineyard



Just like so many of you our holiday plans this year had to be abandoned. With nowhere to go we had a lot of

extra time to spend on pruning the vines this year. Delaying the pruning of the Chardonnay till the first week of August, completing just as the buds began to swell.

It has been a wet year! Monthly rainfall for January to June were all above average and by the end of July we had passed 2019's annual total. Even though July and possibly August are below average the sub soil moisture is maxed out. Any rain now just flows out of the soil and you would be foolish to venture into the vineyard or paddock without gum boots. The upside – this should set us up for a good spring and prevent any shortfall of water over summer. The downside – the vineyard is so wet it has made any sort of tractor work a messy affair with "tram tracks" in many of the rows.

Here is hoping for a good crop for 2021!

Vintages past



Lockdown has provided the opportunity to enjoy some of our museum wines. Whilst not visiting all our past years (yet) we have enjoyed a significant number of wines as far back as 1994. It was great to see how well most were travelling. Despite indifferent experiences removing old crumbling corks, the wines were still very drinkable and indicates that the wines have stood the

test of time. The pity was that we could not share with our followers!

We were not the only ones trying out the older wines. One customer opened a 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon – “Lovely combination of ripeness, secondary complexity and despite the relatively high alc/vol, a degree of coolness and elegance. Have enjoyed it very much and wanted to send my compliments”. Very pleasing to have this feedback on our wines.

It is hoped many of our customers are still enjoying our wines that they may have cellared for later consumption.

Significant milestone

It is extremely hard to believe but 2021 will mark Steels Creek Estate's 40th anniversary. Just where have all those years gone.

From hand planting vines back in 1981 to developing more plantings, to establishing a winery/cellar door it has been a wonderful journey. A lot of hard work but not without reward.

We will advise in 2021 how best we will share our celebrations with our loyal followers. Let us hope the weather gods do their bit and we achieve a stand out, quality crop.

Little Things



As time in lockdown drags on we try to find things to distract, something that makes you feel happier. I try to go for a wander around the property each day. The

closest shops are 12km away so there are no shop windows to look in and not enough houses about to check out different gardens. I am finding the smallest things bring the most joy. Here is the first of a number of things I am sure I will find over the next 4 weeks as we move into spring. Victoria's floral emblem is the pink form of Common Heath. We have a few of these but by far the most common here is the white form. I love its vivid white against the grey of the winter. If you want to see more of the treasures I find follow Steels Creek Estate on Facebook or Instagram and please share the little things you spot when you are out enjoying some fresh air.



Online Wine

Like most businesses our cellar door is now only online enabling you to still enjoy our wines at home. While our cellar door remains closed we are offering **free freight** to all Australian destinations, by Australia Post or if you live in the Melbourne metropolitan area, via a small winery tour business. They are surviving covid taking wine to people rather than people to wine. We are also offering **15% discount on any 12 bottle purchase or 10% Discount on any 6 pack.**

Our current wines are –

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

And you can mix these in any combination to form a six or 12 pack.

Please excuse our website, it is a little old and clunky so these special discounts will be applied when we contact you to arrange payment. If the website proves a little annoying or if you would just rather order in a more personal way call us on 03 5965 2448.

We hope you have not been directly impacted by the virus and are staying safe and secure in your homes. Enjoying a glass or two of our wine will hopefully complement the enjoyment of healthy home cooked meals and provide a pleasant distraction in these difficult times. We eagerly anticipate saying hello in person once the battle has been won.



Best wishes,

Simon and Joanne



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