

# Glaetzer

BAROSSA VALLEY

## BISHOP

BY BEN GLAETZER



### The Glaetzer family tradition

The Glaetzers' links to the Barossa Valley and its viticulture go back to 1888. Glaetzer Wines was set up a century later, when, after 30 years of winemaking, Colin Glaetzer created the family winery to make wines he is passionate about: limited quantities of benchmark Barossa Valley reds.

Today, Ben carries on this winemaking tradition at Glaetzer Wines. Colin and Ben share a philosophy that great wines are made in the vineyard. Their belief in *terroir* and an understanding of the ancient dry-grown vineyards in the renowned Ebenezer district of the Barossa is evident. Exceptional fruit from a loyal group of fifth-generation Barossa grape growers is the backbone of Glaetzer wines. With minimal intervention, Ben now makes the unique elegant wines which are regarded as classics and unmistakably Barossa Valley.

### Bishop Shiraz 2006

The backbone of this full-bodied shiraz is the exceptional fruit from the dry-grown vines of the famed Ebenezer vineyards in Barossa Valley. Aromas of liquorice and mocha intermingle with cassis and leather. Opulent fruit flavours on the palate are beautifully balanced by firm, velvety tannins from maturation in French and American oak. This multi-layered shiraz is drinking superbly now and it will reward cellaring for the next decade. The 2006 is the eighth release of Bishop (we deemed the quality of the 2000 and the 2003 vintages unsuitable for release under our label). The 2005 and 2006 have benefited enormously from the the input fruit that once provided the backbone for the revered Glaetzer Shiraz. The 2006 shows more tightness than 2005 and 2004, the tannin being more pronounced in infancy but lending itself to be truly age worthy.

**Variety:** 100% Shiraz

**Region:** 100% Barossa Valley (Northern Ebenezer),

**Age of vines:** Average 60 years

**Fermentation:** 1½-2 tonne open fermenters, handplunged two-three times per day. Extended maceration gives good tannin development which means the wine is so and approachable early. 10-20% barrel fermentation for selected batches.

**Oak:** 70% French, 30% American.

**Age of barrels:** 2-3 years

**Time in barrel:** 14 months

**Vineyard yields:** 2 ton per acre (4.8 tonne per ha)

**Alc/Vol:** 14.5% **pH:** 3.48

**Total Acidity:** 6.9g/l **Residual Sugar:** 1.1g/l.

### 2006 Barossa Valley vintage report

The leadup to the 2006 growing season included one of the driest autumns on record. Late-season opening rains were experienced in October and November with the cool, mild conditions extending until January. A series of heat waves were experienced in late January and early February which meant slow ripening and vegetative growth. Despite the daytime heat, evening temperatures were mild to cool and rainfall was average. Mild climatic conditions continued through February and March and the slightly above average rainfall kept the vines fresh and the fruit ripened slowly and evenly.

The stop/start heat/cool of 2005 meant that the wines had intense colour and overt tannin while young; the 2006 wines display slightly less colour and have a refined, almost elegant palate. Similarities can certainly be drawn to the 2004 vintage in terms of approachability and the wines from 2006 have the inherent, balanced structure to enable them to be considered some of the most viable medium to long term cellaring potential that we have so far produced.

– BEN GLAETZER, winemaker

### Our new label

A powerful symbol dominates the new label for the Bishop Shiraz. Bishop is the family name of Colin Glaetzer's wife Judith. The Bishops come from the city of Mount Gambier in South Australia where Judith's mother Lenore was the state's first female municipal mayor. Fittingly, the sign of Venus, which has come to represent women and feminine energy, is the centrepiece of the new Bishop label. In mythology, the sign of Venus meant the Roman goddess Venus or her Greek equivalent Aphrodite. But the sign has also been linked back to ancient Egypt – a nod to the Bishop's link to Amon-Ra. In astronomy and astrology, the sign alludes to the planet Venus and, in alchemy, it denotes copper – suggesting Judith's profession as a chemistry teacher. The cross on the label's Venus symbol has been given an ecclesiastic flourish to allude to the name Bishop.