



*Diggers Bluff Wines*  
*Digger's Note Book*  
*Issue# 5*

*Digger's Vintage 2008,*  
*Website Launch,*  
*Museum Release &*  
*2005 Top Dog Release.*

***All Wrapped Up - Digger's Vintage 2008***  
*by Tim O'Callaghan*

*Well I guess it will not come to you as a surprise when I say the theme this year is **HOT, HOT, HOT.***

*The 2008 Vintage has been tough; the climate challenges we continue to faced are without doubt intense. This vintage has had good and bad points, testing the ability to carry on with concept and endure the barriers to still make wine as you would like.*

*When I started Diggers' my Dad said there is one important thing to remember; "If you plan to make 60 tonne a year, build a 100 tonne winery and run it 60% full". In this extreme year, this advice has proven invaluable. We were able to pick and process our wine in 3-4 weeks when in a cooler climate we would take 8-10 weeks and still had no real pressure on our chilling due to fermentation being done in a temperature controlled environment.*

*We did have one down fall this year, our G10 Zambelli Press blew a seal early in the season and after much effort, we realised that we could not find parts or a repairer who would deal with such a menial task. Fortunately Dad came along and said he had an old press in the back shed. We discarded the 1960's technology and went back to a press designed in the 1800's. She was the original press from Rovalley Wines of Rowland Flat now restored. She served the old boys well and is the best press I have ever had the pleasure of using.*



**Original Rovalley Press**

*I must say that I don't like to judge wine this early in the year, but I didn't see anything to say it was a bad year for Diggers. To keep you all informed and involved, we have a new Website, check out the Blog, you can see the "New Old Press" and heaps of vintage madness photos.*

*Cheers, Tim.*



## **Website Launch**

The Team at Diggers Bluff are proud to announce that we have a new website. You can find us on [www.diggersbluff.com](http://www.diggersbluff.com) Our objective for the new website is to give our loyal customers a true feel of Diggers.

The website shows our current wines and how to order. Also Digger's Blog, 2008 vintage photo's, Press articles and all of our newsletters. Enjoy!



## **Museum Release**

### **1998 / 1999 / 2000 Watch Dog – Cabernet Shiraz**

Back in July 2007, we asked our mail order customers if they were interested in a Museum Release.. The response has been excellent, so we thought now would be the time to show off the Museum.

Included in the six pack will be: 2 bottles 1998 Watch Dog, 2 Bottles 1999 Watch Dog & 2 Bottles 2000. We have a limited amount of the release. So be quick or you may miss out... Price \$192 per six pack Plus Freight & Insurance.

#### ***Tim's Notes;***

The Watch Dog is really showing itself as a great wine style. Once again it has balance & depth with a full palate, with bottle age it is wonderfully soft. I am very proud of these wines, all the expense and effort in maturing at least 5 vintages in the cellar is finally paying off.



### **2005 Top Dog – Shiraz**

The Top Dog Shiraz 2005 was bottled at the End of December 2007, hand packaging was completed at the end of March 2008. The Top Dog Shiraz 2005 is now ready for sale.

#### ***Tim's Notes;***

I love Grenache in the Barossa for its ability to survive in hard conditions. Another great survivor is Shiraz and is equally natural to the Barossa's harsh conditions. This gave me the desire to put out a straight Shiraz. So here is the Top Dog, it is wine from old Shiraz, dry grown, I guess you have heard this before, but this is a special section of vineyard.

Made in a slightly different style, it is reasonably high in alcohol, but the alcohol is disguised with huge fruit flavours and some of the best oak characteristics available.

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