



Bethany®
WINES *of* BAROSSA



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Heritage



~ THE SCHRAPEL FAMILY ~

Johann Gottlob Schrapel and his family arrived in South Australia from Silesia on the ship “George Washington” in 1844, just eight years after the colony was settled. Like many of their fellow Silesian migrants, they made their way by ox cart to Bethany (Bethanien), and scraped out the Barossa Valley’s first settlement.

Here they built a rustic home and cleared the land to grow crops and graze animals following a time honoured European hufendorf system of settlement.

Their first vineyard was planted in 1852 from cuttings carefully nursed from Europe to Australia. A wine cellar was also built but, despite Johann’s reputation as an early colonial winemaker, the family concentrated on viticulture for the next four generations.

More than a century later in 1981, we built our own winery in the quarry where the early pioneers had hewn stone for their homes. The early 1980’s were tough times for Barossa grape growers. A red wine boom was followed by a glut and, as grape prices fell below production cost, the State Government encouraged growers to pull out their old Shiraz and Grenache vines to plant new varieties or leave the industry. Instead we chose to establish a tradition of winemaking from this undervalued yet irreplaceable resource of old vineyards.

Gradually our reputation for hospitality – not to mention our spectacular view of the Barossa – spread and we began to grow.

Thirty years on we are a vibrant family company that plays a significant role in the Barossa community. Geoff and Robert have been joined by the sixth generation of the Schrapel family, who share their parents’ passion for the vineyards, for crafting fine wines, and for the future.

Our wine future lies ahead like an exciting pathway, we have new varieties to plant on our old soils and new wines to blend and taste.

Today, Bethany Wines remains proudly family owned with the fifth and sixth generation of the family working in the business.





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Bethany wines today

When we started our small winery at the top of Bethany Road in 1981, crushing 2 tonnes of Shiraz and Riesling, we had a vision.

We knew we wanted to create a total Barossa wine experience and in doing so, improve the quality of life of our customers, our friends and family.

Wine can do that.

It is an ancient beverage, born of the soil and nurtured by willing hands to bring health and happiness to people.

Our aim in life is to live well, provide for our children, care for the land and hand our winery and vineyards on to our next generation in a better position than when we started.

Geoff and Robert Schrapel
Fifth Generation Grapegrowers and Winemakers
Bethany Wines

“Our aim in life is to live well, provide for our children, care for the land and hand our vineyards on to the next generation.”





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The vineyards

It takes a long time to know a vineyard. A vine grows from a tiny budded stick into maturity then old age and like humans they wear the scars and scratches, wrinkles and frowns of a full and vigorous life.

In the Barossa these vines can live for four or even five generations.

Consequently the fruit they yield commands respect. It is dark and rich, full of flavour and complexity drawn up by long tapered roots which cling to mineral subsoils and pockets of moisture deep under the Barossa.

The special understanding of how to grow grapes on our unique Bethany clay soils, in this Mediterranean climate, took many years for our Schrapel descendants to master, and now we continue to practice that accumulated wisdom and knowledge.

In our Homestead Vineyard, the Bethanien Vineyard, the Bethany Quarry Vineyard and the Manse Vineyard in Bethany, we still hand prune and hand pick our fruit – ancient traditions which sit well alongside modern 21st century technology.

The greatest natural advantage Bethany Wines has is the fruit which comes from the family's vineyards. The winery's philosophy is to produce individual vineyard wines with rich, ripe fruit characters which are enhanced by quality oak and bottle maturation – wines which are the most natural reflection of this unique micro-climate at Bethany.

At Bethany Wines we are driven by this notion of family lineage, the handing on of the baton, this progression over time.

The Schrapel family owns 38 hectares of vineyard comprising the Bethanien Vineyard, the Manse Vineyard, the Homestead Vineyard and the Bethany Quarry Vineyard. Established on the eastern slopes of the Barossa Ranges, the Schrapel Family Vineyards are situated in a unique micro-climate along the foothills.



Cellar Door / Experiences



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Chapters

These wines reference 2 chapters of the Schrapel family history. The L.E. Shiraz commemorates the dedication of Lawrence and Edna Schrapel, fourth generation vignerons of the Schrapel family vineyards, who passed the stewardship of the property to their sons, Geoff and Robert. The LE Shiraz expresses to the fullest the true characteristics of Shiraz grown on the foothills of the Barossa.

The G.R. Shiraz is lovingly hand-crafted by brothers Geoffrey and Robert Schrapel on the property established by their great, great grandfather Johann Gottlob Schrapel in 1852 at Bethany - the birthplace of the Barossa Valley. Geoffrey and Robert are the fifth generation of the Schrapel family to work this land, in all aspects of the Bethany wine business.





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Blue Quarry

From 1846 to the early 1930's, the old Bluestone Quarry at Bethany was operated by the Schrapel family. Indeed, the bluestone hewn from our quarry was used by the early pioneers of the town to build their homes. Today, Bethany's winery and cellars are set within the quarry, encircled by an integral part of Barossa history.

Each of these 'Blue Quarry' wines is crafted from single vineyard fruit – a unique celebration of Bethany's exceptional and historical fruit source. Given the Bethany vineyard's first grapevines are a piece of the area's history themselves (est. 1852), it is fitting that this range of table wines is named after another prominent piece of both Bethany and the Barossa's history.





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first village

The village of Bethany was the first settlement in the Barossa Valley, established in 1842. Predominately German immigrants arrived in Bethany and began building houses, tilling the soil and planting crops. The first vines on Bethany Estate were planted in 1852, the beginning of a passion and tradition that continues on today within the Schrapel family, six generations later.

Our 'First Village' label reflects the folkloric style of Bethany's German heritage, and depicts scenes telling the story of the establishment of the village.



BETHANY CREEK

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The wine is named after the creek that runs through the property and is known by the locals as “Bethany Creek”; the correct name is Tanunda Creek.

The creek was the ‘lifeline’ for the early settlers to the region, with each of the properties set out in a town planning layout called the Hufendorf. Each of the vineyards owned by the Schrapel Family have the “Bethany Creek” running through the property. Including the Shiraz vineyards from where this wine was picked. Many childhood days for all generations of the Schrapel Family were spent exploring the Bethany Creek and waterfall.



Awards and Reviews

WINE SHOW	AWARDED
Halliday Wine Companion Magazine Aug/Sept 2020	2018 Blue Quarry Chardonnay 94 Points
	2017 First Village Shiraz 94 Points
	2019 First Village Riesling 93 Points
Halliday Wine Companion Magazine Feb/March 2020	2017 Blue Quarry Cabernet Sauvignon Gold 95 Points
Halliday Wine Companion Magazine Dec 19/Jan 20	2017 GR Shiraz 95 Points Gold
	2017 Blue Quarry Shiraz 95 Points Gold
Halliday Wine Companion 2021	2017 First Village Grenache 92 Points
	2019 First Village Riesling 93 Points
	2019 First Village Rose 94 Points
James Halliday Wine Companion 2020	2016 GR Shiraz 96 Points
	2018 Blue Quarry Riesling 95 Points
	2018 Late Harvest Riesling 94 Points
	2017 Blue Quarry Grenache 93 Points
	2017 First Village Cabernet Merlot 93 Points
	2016 First Village Shiraz 90 Points
	2017 First Village Shiraz Cabernet 90 Points
James Halliday Wine Companion 2019	2016 LE Barossa Shiraz 95 Points
	2016 GR Reserve Barossa Shiraz 95 Points
	2017 Reserve Eden Valley Riesling 93 Points
	2016 East Grounds Shiraz 93 Points
	2015 Barossa Shiraz 93 Points
	2016 Old Vine Grenache 93 Points + Special Value
	2015 Creek Shiraz 92 Points + Special Value
	2016 Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon 92 Points
	2017 Select Late Harvest Riesling 92 Points
	2017 Eden Valley Riesling 91 Points