



wine finds Rob and Patricia Rose

VISITING the Barossa has always been full of surprises for us. We always seem to come away with something special on each visit. On one particular visit, we went on a wine crawl with some friends that live in Adelaide. Someone else had organised this trip so we visited wineries that we normally would not visit. We came upon a winery called Kaesler which sits on Barossa Valley Way. We went into the winery only to be guided downstairs into the cellar barrel room. There we got an intriguing lesson on wines and winemaking with their winemaker, Stephen Dew. Stephen would have talked with us for at least two hours. We were so impressed with Stephen and we just wanted to sit there all day with him and gain more knowledge. At the end of our tasting the others rushed us out of the winery as we still had another one to visit. We were not happy!

The following year we decided we would go back and try to catch up with him. So we showed up, just the pair of us, and he told us to come back the next day. We told him we would have our boys then, but he said that would be fine. The next day was simply the best. We arrived just wanting to say thanks for the time he spent with us the previous year and spend some quality time in the cellar room again with two boys and us into the cellar room. He took our samples and gave us the tasting of a lifetime. We sampled all of the wines that were barrelled or fermenting in the vats. We (the boys too) asked him heaps of questions, even ones that we felt may have been stupid and he happily answered them and seemed to have all the time in the world for us. Stephen and his wife, Natasha came up to visit us last year for a wine degustation lunch. We tasted seven wines including the \$180 Old Bastard Shiraz, which was chosen as the best Shiraz in the world in 2006. A more affordable vintage for produce is the 2005 Stonehorse Shiraz. 2005 was a fantastic vintage for Kaesler, good summer rains and mild ripening conditions. This is a blend of fruit sourced from estate vineyards that are 15-45 years old. The 2005 Stonehorse Shiraz has plums, blueberry and blackberry flavours on the palate. Sweet vanillin oak lift against a spice backdrop with a classic mouthfeel. You can find this wine at the Centenary Hotel, 35 French Street, Pimlico for \$35.00.

