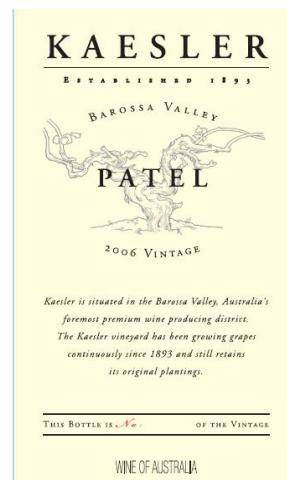


## Patel & Alte Reben 2006



### Limited Release:

It's something I have been threatening to do for years. When Nigel van der Zande, (Vanders) our Vineyard Manager started with us in 2000, he had a brief to come up with another Old Bastard quality single vineyard wine. In some ways it was a throw away line as not in a million year did we think we would re-create the hype that went with that wine. With that Vanders identified Mathews 1961 plantings as the most obvious target, and the wheels where set in motion.

The Matthews 1961 block (Patel) we suspect is from the Old Bastard vineyard. The Mathews vineyard was acquired in 2000, but it was originally a property owned by Gottlieb Kaesler and was handed onto one of his sons on his passing. The Old Bastard we believe was used as a source block for the Old Vine vineyard and the Mathews vineyard. Before the days of commercial nurseries for vine cuttings it was common place for cutting to be simply taken during the winter and planted in spring. It's a longer and more intensive way of propagating a vineyard but if you have time on your side it's cheap. The vines behave in a similar way, crop in a similar way and have many qualities that from a sensory perspective mimic the OB's.

The one big difference between the two vineyards apart from the age is the soil. The Patel block has a vicious seam of limestone gravel very close to the surface that causes the soil moisture to disappear very quickly and thus stress the vines in a dramatic way. This allows the vine to express the season very well. Its one of the most consistent and exciting blocks that we posses, often producing the best wine of the year.

The one hitch with blocks such as these is that they have a lot of value not just as a wine on there own but also their contribution to larger blends impossible to emphasise. It is not wise to take a little out as it can really have ramifications to the greater picture when it come to blending time. The Patel block has always played a huge part in the Old Vine blend and with that I have been reluctant to promote it as a solo act, but 2006 was that special.

The Alte Reben is a slightly different project. It comes from the Nettlebeck vineyard out in the Marananga district. We always suspected that we could do a single vineyard wine from this patch, as it is fairly large by old vine standards, not too many can boast custody of nine acres of Shiraz planted three centuries ago in 1899, it's a national treasure. The trick was to pick the year.

The Nettlebeck vineyard just like the Patel block is vital to the quality of the The Bogan shiraz blend. It has a soil type that is very unique and quite different to most of the Kaesler vineyards. Its structure is quite varied, but essentially it is an old river bed, with the higher side of the vineyard perched on a clay and shale base. The clay really helps with moisture retention and it this part of the vineyard from which the Alte Reben is sourced.

Reid Bosward  
Winemaker