

KAESLER	2004 CABERNET SAUVIGNON OLD VINE	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$25.00)	RED	(91-93)
KAESLER	2004 GSM AVIGNON	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$27.00)	RED	92
KAESLER	2004 GSM STONEHORSE	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$19.00)	RED	90
KAESLER	2004 SHIRAZ THE BOGAN	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$65.00)	RED	(92-95)
KAESLER	2003 SHIRAZ THE BOGAN	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$65.00)	RED	95
KAESLER	2004 SHIRAZ OLD BASTARD	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$135.00)	RED	(95-97)
KAESLER	2003 SHIRAZ OLD BASTARD	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$133.00)	RED	96
KAESLER	2004 SHIRAZ OLD VINE	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$58.00)	RED	(93-95)
KAESLER	2003 SHIRAZ OLD VINE	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$58.00)	RED	92+
KAESLER	2004 SHIRAZ STONEHORSE	BAROSSA VALLEY	(\$27.00)	RED	93

One of my favorite Barossa wineries, Kaesler is run with great attention to detail by winemaker Reid Bosward. All of the following offerings are full-flavored, impeccable well-balanced wines. Those who mistakenly believe all Australian wines are over-the-top fruit bombs will be surprised by the elegance, complexity, and finesse of these gentle giants. For starters, The **2004 GSM Stonehorse** (68% Grenache from 70-year-old vines, 27% Shiraz from 40-year-old vines, and 5% Mourvedre from 7-year-old vines) was aged 12 months in old French and American wood. Revealing a Gigondas / Chateaufneuf du Pape-like personality, it is a tasty, medium-bodied red offering loads of pepper, earth, and garrigue notes intertwined with black cherries, blueberries, plums, and a hint of fennel. This complex, ripe, round 2004 should drink well for 3-5 years. A blend of 50% Grenache, 30% Shiraz, and 20% Mourvedre aged 12 months in used French and American oak, the **2004 GSM Avignon** is essentially the Reserve version of the Stonehorse. Living up to its name, it offers a peppery garrigue and kirsch liqueur-scented bouquet that is a dead-ringer for Chateaufneuf du Pape. Big, spicy, and earthy, with sweet tannin, it smells like a Provencal open-air market. Enjoy this opulent, round, complex, tasty Australian red over the next 5-7 years. Another outstanding effort is the **2004 Old Vine Cabernet Sauvignon** includes 8% Petit Verdot. Having spent 14 months in 65% new French oak, it is a big, Bordeaux-styled effort with high tannin, loads of structure, and hints of melted licorice, creme de cassis, graphite, and spice box. Medium to full-bodied, tightly knit, and impressively endowed, this pure, rich 2004 requires another 1-2 years of bottle age; it should last for 10-15 years. Kaesler's deep ruby/purple-tinged **2004 Shiraz Stonehorse** (100% Shiraz aged in a combination of French and American oak) exhibits a big, sweet nose of blackberries, cassis, pepper, and spicy oak. Its opulent, richly fruity, full-bodied, yet well-balanced style suggests it will drink well for 10-15 years. The **2004 Shiraz The Bogan**, a blend of 98% Shiraz and 2% Viognier aged 20 months in primarily American oak, is a seamlessly

constructed wine that was tasted immediately prior to bottling. Inky/purple-colored, with superb ripeness and fruit as well as loads of cassis, blackberry, cedar, and spice box, it will be gorgeous young, yet should age effortlessly for 10-15 years. The **2004 Old Vine Shiraz** (from a vineyard planted in 1961) was aged in 100% French oak. Its opaque purple color is followed by earth, graphite, and melted road tar characteristics as well as a long, full-throttle palate that has more layers, finesse, and concentration than The Bogan. The flagship offering, the **2004 Shiraz Old Bastard** (from a Barossa vineyard planted in 1896) was aged 26 months in virtually all new French barrels. This riveting effort is a wine of great stature, intensity, and richness with layers of blackberry, creme de cassis, licorice, spice box, and barbecue smoke. Opulent as well as impeccably balanced and pure, this gorgeous Shiraz will benefit from 1-2 years of bottle age, and should last for two decades.

Kaesler's 2003s may be less seamless than the 2004s, but they are big, rich, concentrated efforts that beg for attention. The **2003 Shiraz Old Vine** reveals peppery black currant and blackberry notes intermixed with background barrique smells. Medium to full-bodied, rich, exceptionally well-endowed, concentrated, and layered, it should drink well for 10-12 years. The **2003 Shiraz The Bogan** is an exuberant, flamboyantly-styled Shiraz boasting an opaque ruby/purple color, wonderful peppery, blackberry, and currant fruit, and hints of charcoal as well as spice box. This full, opulent offering was fashioned from a vineyard planted in 1899, 1961, 1985, and 1990. The **2003 Shiraz Old Bastard** is a candidate for Shiraz of the vintage from South Australia. Exhibiting an inky/purple color along with serious velocity and intensity, it is a superb expression of top-notch Barossa Valley Shiraz. A glorious perfume of charcoal, blackberry liqueur, smoke, and vanilla is followed by an enormous, but neither heavy nor over-ripe wine that is a testament to the winemaking skills of Reid Bosward. This big, pure, rich Shiraz can be drunk now or cellared for 10-15 years.