



BROOMSTICK E S T A T E

Broomstick Estate, the bronzed Aussi!

NEWSLETTER

1st October 2003

Hello and welcome to the second edition of the Broomstick Estate newsletter.

In this issue, we report on;

- wine show awards,
- the vineyard,
- our endangered frogs,
- corks or screwcaps?

2002 Shiraz wins Bronze

We were delighted to recently be awarded Bronze Medals for our 2002 Broomstick Estate Shiraz at the 2003 Perth Royal Wine Show (class 16) AND 2003 Qantas Mt Barker Wine Show of WA (class 19). This has been our first foray in the wine show circuit and we are extremely happy with the results. We now think of ourselves as the bronzed Aussi's!

The wine medals are an acknowledgement of the excellent wine grapes grown at Broomstick Estate and the wine making skills of Rockfield Estate.

The Vineyard

After what seemed a long and wet winter the vineyard is starting to awaken with the onset of spring. All the pruning of the vines has been done, the dam is full and the vines are starting to shoot.

We have made a big commitment this year with the purchase of a new tractor and sprayer. We have also built a new kangaroo proof fence and purchased lots of new netting to keep the birds away at harvest.

Our new Vineyard Supervisor, Dean, will oversee the growing this year.

Interesting stories

When we purchased the property ten years ago we found that the creekline was the habitat for a very rare and endangered species of frog called *Geocrinia Alba* or "white bellied frog".

The frog is no bigger than an adult finger nail. So far only 56 populations have been recorded, all within a small area of the South West including Broomstick Estate.

The declining numbers and its small geographic distribution make the survival of the frog precarious.

We are employing safe environmental practices in the vineyard, including using "frog friendly" chemicals to protect their habitat. Read more about our frogs on our website.

Corks vs Screwcaps?

Currently, there is a raging debate in the wine industry whether to seal bottles with corks or screwcaps. We seek feedback on your preference. By emailing us you will go into the draw to win a magnum of the 2002 Broomstick Estate Shiraz

Before you do, here are a couple of facts about each.

Corks are popular because the ceremony of opening the bottle is traditional. However it has been estimated about one bottle in twenty is affected by cork taint to some degree.

Screwcaps are new and do not affect the wine quality. However the ageing of wine in screwcaps is unknown.

Email us by 30th Nov at: wine@broomstick.com.au

Website

The Broomstick Estate web site is being updated regularly and allows customers to purchase our wine on-line. If you haven't done so, please visit us at www.broomstick.com.au.

Remember "Life is too short to drink bad wine!"

Cheers
Robert & Susan Holloway