

DALZOTTO

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WINES

La Vite

▶ MAIN RD, WHITFIELD, KING VALLEY VIC 3733 T (03) 57 298 321 F (03) 57 298 490 E info@dalzotto.com.au WWW.DALZOTTO.COM.AU

## Vintage 2008 at last...

What a year it has been... actually, two years to be exact. In 2007, if it wasn't bush fires it was drought and frosts and as a result of Mother Nature flexing her muscles we ended up with zero fruit in the winery. But don't give up on us just yet, there is wine up ahead on the horizon in 2008. All your favourites such as Pinot Grigio, Arneis, and who could forget our star - Prosecco? And like a champion athlete who has been on the sidelines for too long, they are making up for lost time. All three varieties have produced absolutely brilliant crops full of flavour in 2008, so get your glass poised because its time to celebrate! Italian style.

### Viva il Vino!!!

And how is the 2008 vintage looking? You couldn't get a bigger contrast to 2007 - plenty of rain last Spring, the vines are now back to full health and the ripening conditions through Summer have been perfect. The cropping levels are ideal and you can almost hear the vineyard humming... or is that Otto?

Now back to vino essentials... what should you be drinking now? Well the **2006 Prosecco** continues to excite, but we have so little left - please be quick... This may surprise some people out there but the **Dal Zotto Riesling** is now being recognised as one of the best examples of the variety in Australia and two of our most respected wine journalists aren't hurting the cause. James Halliday gave the **2005 Riesling 92 Points** in his 2008 Wine Companion.

And in Jeremy Oliver's 2008 Wine Annual, Dal Zotto wines across the board performed extremely well.

The **2005 Riesling scored 93 points** and following on from the 2005 vintage the **Dal Zotto 2006 Riesling** (the current vintage) was rated as one of **Australia's Best Wines Under \$20**, again in Jeremy's 2008 Wine Annual. Riesling with fresh, clean fruit and zip is always a delicious option with or without food and our version aims to tick all of the boxes.

The **2006 Brillando** has also been a huge hit - a Sparkling Rosato style that has been essential drinking through the summer and its beautiful colour matches up to the King Valley autumns too.

The **2004 Barbera** is almost out so grab your last few bottles before it disappears - and just quietly, watch out for Barbera in the next year or so as it is about to hit its stride in Australia. Quite simply you would be hard pressed to find a better food wine anywhere... we have some beautiful Barbera in the cellar that will knock your socks off. More news soon, but let's just say that a Reserve version should be with us shortly too.

The **2002 Cabernet Sauvignon** is another gem that is almost out of stock. A **94 point** rating from James Halliday gives you some indication of the quality - but the proof is in the mouth, it's just plain delicious.

The **2006 Sangiovese** comes into its own through Autumn and Winter with its traditional earthiness matched up to generous plum and cherry fruit. Match it with rustic pasta dishes and homemade pizza... something we do very often!

## A Whine Wine With Otto...

OK it's hard to hard to be optimistic all of the time - especially when the bones are already aching and vintage has only just started. Gee, I tell you, I sometimes wonder what my boys are made of. I'm sure you're all expecting me to drone on about the disastrous 2007 vintage and how unlucky we were to not only get three frosts, but then some of the worst bush fires the state has ever seen, resulting in us (and others) losing our entire vintage. And in some way hoping that I have touched your heartstrings enough to inspire you to buy more wine to help us out. But it's not going to happen. 'Why?' you say. Because I'm a changed man. During and after the bush fires I came to the realisation that we were so close to losing everything and quite simply you have to count your blessings. And there were many in the last year...

Michael and Lynne made us another grandchild, the beautiful Lily - a real joy to welcome her to the family. Also Julian and Rachael are expecting their first child in May this year so more good news to come and at this rate I'll have a good pruning team in a few years! Who'll work for love I'm sure...

Elena and I also celebrated our 60th birthdays this year...

Never short of reasons to have a drink, this was as good an excuse as any to open a bottle or two. So happy birthday Elena. You still look like a 48 year old... and me, the more red wine I drink the younger I feel. That is until the morning! It's been a couple of years now since we moved the Cellar Door to Whitfield and our nephew Adam, opened the doors to his restaurant, Rinaldo's of the King Valley, on the property. Being in the middle of Whitfield has made our lives more busy with all of the visitors, but there's nothing better than sharing the fruits of our labour with you, especially when the whole family is part of the team. Adam even runs his own cooking classes, have a look at our website for details...

And what have I been drinking? Well apart from my beloved Prosecco, plenty of Riesling and Sangiovese... I can't wait for the new Barbera to be released... we think we really have something there and we hope you will agree.

And I could not leave without again wishing my darling wife Elena happy 60th birthday. I love you.

Now what's for dinner????

