

Embracing the Barossa

For many of us, living and working in the Barossa is something we take for granted. But for The Barossa Cellar's first Vine and Stone donors, Murray and Heather Doble, every day they spend day in the Barossa is a blessing.

After raising their family in Port Augusta, which they called home for 30 years, Murray and Heather recently moved to the Barossa.

They were drawn by the beautiful environment, the wine, the people and the convenience of travel to and from Adelaide.

In April 2017, while still living in Port Augusta, they spotted a tiny article about The Barossa Cellar, and grabbed the opportunity to become the very first Vine and Stone donors.

They have been watching the project gain momentum and describe their involvement in the community project as "heartwarming".

Murray and Heather's love affair with wine began back in Port Augusta with regular purchases made through Cellarmasters.

After 20 years of patronage, Murray became an honour roll recipient and was rewarded with some "very good" Barossa wines, including those made by Nigel Dolan and the late Bob McLean.

Since moving to their new home in Nuriootpa in June 2017, Murray and Heather have discovered many more fine Barossa wines and they can't wait to see them displayed in The Barossa Cellar.

"What drew us to The Barossa Cellar was the desire by the local community to improve the Barossa," the couple said.

"So many regions around the world showcase what they do well and we loved that the Barossa wanted to showcase its wines as a region. The fact that you can own a vine and buy some wine from the vineyard is such a great way for people like us to be a part of the Barossa.

"We can't wait to drive past The Barossa Cellar with our grandkids and say to them 'our family has a vine in that vineyard'.

It's very heartwarming to know we are a part of it."

Murray and Heather are making the most of their vine change in the Barossa. While Murray commutes to Adelaide for work, Heather has retired, but is adamant "you could never be bored in the Barossa".

The couple have visited almost all of the Barossa's 110 cellar doors and are regulars at many of them.

Their most visited cellar doors include Delluva Wines with their extensive range of wines and Z Wine with the walk-up bar, along with Kellermeister – home of Heather's personal favourite, the Pink Mink sparkling Moscato.

"There is something special about the ambience of so many of the Barossa cellar doors," Heather said.

"The log fire at Peter Lehmann, a cricket match at Lindsay Wine Estate and you can't go past Whistler Wines with their summer food and wine nights."

Murray and Heather are so devoted to wine that they are building a "drinking room" in their own home.

"This will be a place to enjoy and relax with friends and family when they come to visit," Murray said.

"We have family in the South East and in Port Augusta and Whyalla so we are very centrally located. We love having them here



Kristen Zerk, director at Z Wines; Murray and Heather Doble, newly moved to Nuriootpa and were the first vine and stone donors to The Barossa Cellar; and Janelle Zerk, winemaker at Z Wines. Photo by Liz Alderslade.

and it will be fantastic to be able to show them The Barossa Cellar when it is finished, as well as take them to all our favourite cellar doors."

Murray and Heather's zest for life in the Barossa serves as a reminder about how lucky we are. They say the Barossa has changed their lives in more ways than one, as Murray is Coeliac, but is still able to find plenty of options for eating out.

"As well as producing celebrated wines, the whole Barossa is passionate about providing

good food for Coeliacs and people with dietary requirements," Murray said.

"The Barossa and the wine industry give so much to the people who live here that being involved with The Barossa Cellar is a small way to say thank you back.

"It's enriching and we feel very fortunate to be able to play a part in a project that will benefit the whole community."

To find out more about The Barossa Cellar or to donate a Vine or a Stone, visit www.thebarossacellar.com.au.



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