

“ Sheer Drop’s 2004 Shiraz is creating quite a name for itself, winning a whole range of awards. ”

a nice drop

Nestled in the rolling hills of Faraday just 12kms from the vibrant town of Castlemaine, is a somewhat hidden local treasure.

- Shelley Friesen

Sheer Drop Wines has quietly been making a name for itself as of late, and after being recognised both internationally and nationally with several awards, the locals are beginning to pay plenty of attention to this fascinating wine label.

Garth Doolan and Jo Clifford manage the Sheer Drop Wines label with passion and flair, juggling 160 hectares of grapes and producing 100,000 litres of premium, cool-climate wine, all while raising children and keeping track of 250 head of Angus beef cattle. Raising a young family while juggling livestock and wine is somewhat unique in the industry, and Garth and Jo have likened their approach to life and business to being part of a circus troupe. While at times it might be hectic, they run everything with a sense of enthusiasm and fun.

Garth and Jo take inspiration for their business from the effervescent, artistic community of Castlemaine, and approach their work in line with this aesthetic. Their approach to business is full of creativity and character, and Garth and Jo understand and respect the creative community, and this quality is translated into their product. When creating Sheer Drop Wines, Garth and Jo did not want to simply emulate the major wine companies, with a typically serious and conservative approach to wine. On the contrary, Sheer Drop Wines is all about enthusiasm for wine, humour and creativity.

The Sheer Drop name has been derived from the magnificent countryside on which it is located. The winery is situated on the slopes of Mt Alexander. The grapes are all grown here on the undulating

terrain; each vine has magnificent views of Mt Macedon, Mt Tarrengower and Mt Franklin. The picturesque, tranquil climate has proved successful, as the wines being produced on the property are now winning numerous awards, both locally and nationally.

At Sheer Drop Wines, Garth and Jo are creating unique, European style wine, with an emphasis on elegance, intensity of flavour and freshness of fruit. The vineyards produce a wide variety of beautiful cool-climate wines, from a Riesling with ‘aromas of lime and pineapple’ and a ‘tropical palate with hints of lemon sorbet and a zesty acid finish’ to a rich Cabernet Sauvignon with ‘distinctive aromas of mulberry and vanillin new oak’. A full-bodied Merlot pours a ‘bright ruby purple colour with generous aromas of blackcurrant, spicy plum and toasty new oak’ and is fabulous with aged cheddar, while a beautiful Sparkling Chardonnay-Pinot Noir has a bouquet of ‘green apple and soft fruits’ and is best enjoyed with ‘sushi and someone you love’. Whatever your personal tastes may be, there is definitely a unique Sheer Drop Wine to suit.

Sheer Drop’s 2004 Shiraz is creating quite a name for itself, winning a whole range of awards. I will name only a few here, because to name them all we would be here all day. The wine has won the ‘Best Red Wine’, ‘Best Shiraz’ and a ‘Gold Medal’ at the nationally renowned Royal Hobart International Wine Show. It has taken home the Shiraz Society of Victoria Trophy for ‘Best Shiraz’ at the 2007 Victorian Wines Show and has won the ‘Best Red Wine of Show’ at the ➤

the Quills experience



celebrate your big day with us



variety guaranteed



the team that makes it happen



conduct business over lunch



quality that shows

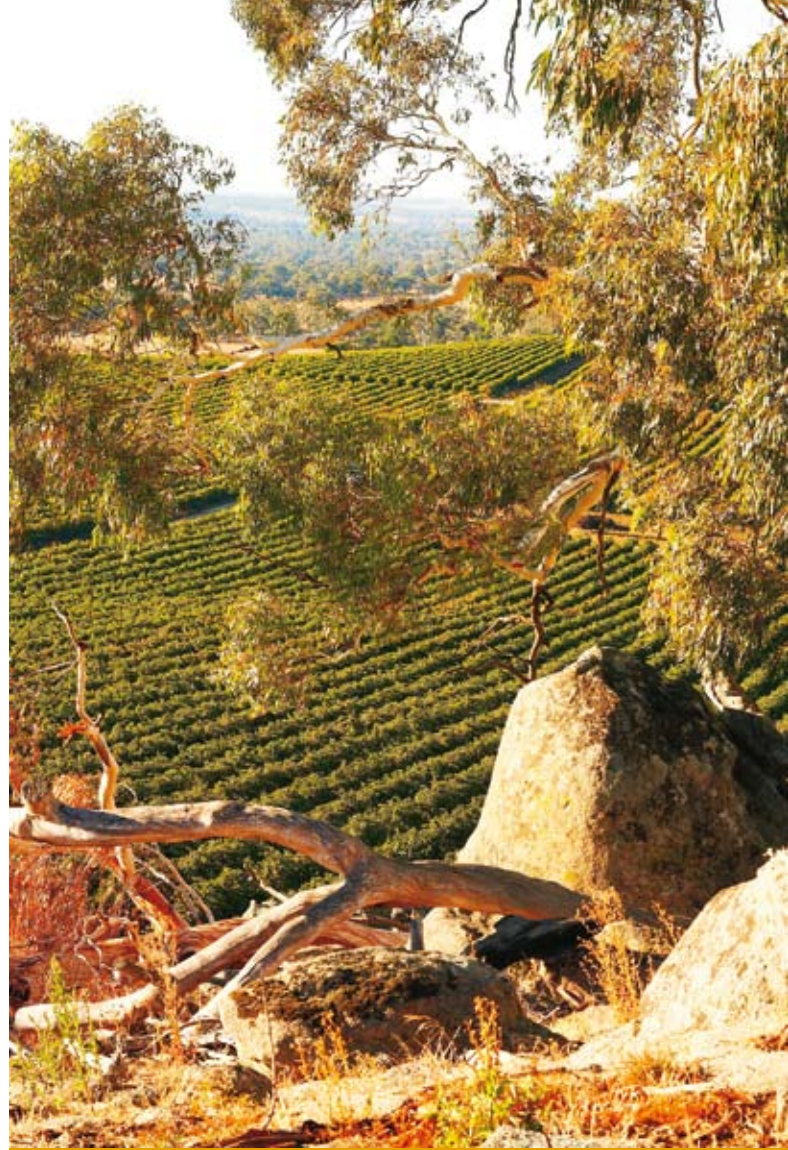


Quills
RESTAURANT

accommodation, restaurant, bar cafe,
weddings, functions & conferences.

p 5445 5344 f 5445 5399

www.lakeviewresort.com.au



ABOVE The vistas at Sheer Drop are truly spectacular – despite the great wine, it is worth a visit for the views and scenery alone!

PREVIOUS PAGE Garth Doolan takes a well earned break with a glass of Sheer Drop's award winning Shiraz.

inaugural Kyneton Wine Show. The Sheer Drop Sparkling Shiraz is equally recognised, winning a 'Silver Medal' at the 2007 International Wine & Spirit Competition in London, a 'Gold Medal' at the 2007 Royal Melbourne Wine Show and a 'Bronze Medal' at the National Wine Show, among other awards.

Garth and Jo's unique approach to winemaking has not gone unnoticed by wine and food lovers either. The winery has been awarded the People's Choice Award for excellence in stand display, product quality and service delivery for two years running at the Harvest Picnic at Hanging Rock and Spring Picnic at Werribee Park.

A unique feature of the Sheer Drop label is the fantastic artwork that adorns each bottle. The artwork is beautifully done by Katharina Rapp, an internationally renowned local artist. Based in Castlemaine, Rapp is a German born artist, who paints in a colourful, warm, humorous style, with her inspirations rooted in German Expressionism. Her art is incredibly popular, it is affectionate and cheerful, and her 'life-affirming' images provide a fantastic base for the wine labels. The label art tells a story in itself, it is infinitely interesting and appealing, and its aesthetic is very much in line with what Sheer Drop is trying to achieve within the wine industry.

The fabulous range of Sheer Drop wines are available in a variety of local specialty wine stores and at many local restaurants, which you will find online at www.sheerdrop.com.au. Later this year the winery will be beginning its next venture, offering indulgent private tastings and a gorgeous setting for your next function. Sheer Drop Wines is on its way to becoming a household name, and it's easy to see why. ■