

## **What are the artisans ?**

**Most of the artisans group are 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> generation of the original settlers in the Barossa in the early 1840's**

**Silesian migrants escaping religious persecution in Europe, who clung tightly to their old traditions in this strange land a world away from old Europe.**

**Self Sufficiency was a necessity and each family's plot of land was packed with fruit trees, thriving vegetable patches and livestock, And of course the Vines. Long gone have most of the fruit trees and live stock.**

**The vine now dominates the valley and surrounding hillsides giving the Barossa the world's largest allocation of vineyards still bearing their fruits well into a second century.**

**They call Australian wine, "new world" but in fact most of the vines in the Barossa are actually the oldest vines in the world !!!**

**The current artisans have a slogan, "Custodians of the future" But the funny thing about this is that most of them left the Barossa in their late teens and early twenty's.**

**Back in the late 80,s the Barossa had lost its way and was not producing the wines it was capable of, with peoples drinking styles changing to wines grown in a cooler climate, and Shiraz and Grenache loosing out to the more trendy Cabernet Sauvignon. So the Australian government offered big financial incentives to pull up the old vines and replace them with the more trendy vines of the time, places like California having a big influence on peoples drinking styles.**

**The result of this was that the younger generation of the time all left the Barossa to work in other industries and many of them went of to Europe, South Africa and the United States.**

**Fortunately, the pull of the Barossa is strong and most of them returned home, so in the early nineties a lot of these young guys were back working in various wineries around the Barossa, and having learnt there trade, were taking grapes from there parents vineyards and starting to make their own wines,.**

**There parents only having ever been grape growers, and then selling there grapes into the big companies like, Penfolds, Jacobs Creek, Wolfblass.**

**But now some years on, and this young group of wine makers are rocking the boat within the industry, by producing some of the top wines coming out of Australia, and many of them from vines over 100 years old saved by a few growers at the time that realised how stupid the government were, and managed to save a lot of these beautiful old vines, that are still today producing some of the most fantastic grapes.**

**And now that young generation, that left and came back have formed them selves into a group to not only share information and help and work along side each other, but are here to look after the future of the Barossa Valley wine industry.**

**The Artisans “Custodians of the Future”**