



Zonda and Dennis Elliott plan to make the best wines from their top grapes ... and the rest of the world can miss out.

Boutique is best for Langhorne vintners

Langhorne Creek couple Dennis and Zonda Elliott don't mind if few people get to taste their award-winning wines.

In fact, they like it that way.

The Karanto Vineyard owners are more than happy to keep their wine production to a boutique scale, producing just about 700 cases of wine a year.

It means the dedicated winegrape growers can focus their attention on what they love best – producing the highest quality fruit they can from their 44ha vineyard.

"We are primarily a vineyard and we supply premium quality grapes to some of the larger wineries," Mrs Elliott said.

"We don't want to ever be big, we always want to be small.

Philosophy pays

"We don't want to export our wine, we just want to make the best we can using our best fruit."

Their philosophy has paid off, with the couple winning the trophy for best wine at the Langhorne Creek Winemakers' Showcase earlier this month, picked from more than 100 entries.

The Karanto Vineyards 2004 7A Shiraz was named the champion wine

WINNING WINES

Best sparkling, white wine or rose:
Karanto 2007 Pinot Grigio (winner)
Bleasdale 2006 Chardonnay (runner up)

Best red blend or other variety:
Lake Breeze 2004 Arthur's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon/Petit Verdot/Malbec
Heartland 2007 Dolcetto/Lagrein

Best cabernet sauvignon:
Angas Plains 2004 Special Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon
Lake Breeze 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon

Best shiraz:
Karanto 2004 7A Shiraz
Heartland 2006 Director's Cut Shiraz



and it follows their win of the same accolade in 2006 with the 2003 7A Shiraz.

Mr Elliott said the awards "give us great satisfaction".

"It rewards the many years of

effort that we put into producing the highest quality grapes possible for our vineyards," he said.

The wine was produced by former Australian Young Winemaker of the Year Briony Hoare at Matilda Plains Winery in Langhorne Creek.

The couple has sent parcels of their best fruit to the winery for processing under their own label since 2002.

"We weren't enjoying seeing all those beautiful grapes going off to end up in someone else's bottles of wine, so we thought we should make some ourselves," Mrs Elliott said.

"It was such a success."

Their inaugural shiraz, the 2002 vintage, was awarded five stars by *Winestate Magazine*.

The couple have since branched out to produce several other wines, with a push towards Italian varieties such as reds Aglianico and Primitivo and whites Fiano and Greco di Tufo.

"We love Italy and we have been back many times," Mrs Elliott said.

"Our Aglianico was the best grape to stand up through the recent heatwave."

Karanto Vineyards' 2004 7A Shiraz was also named the best shiraz in the showcase and its 2007 Pinot Grigio won the best sparkling, white wine or rose title.