Australian Bottling Company supplies a range of production and packaging services to the Australian wine and spirit industry. Australian Bottling Company is committed to quality, and gaining third party accreditation is proof of our commitment.

ABC primarily packages bottled wine, but it also prepares and packages sparkling wine, along with a range of cask sizes. Packaging is carried out for small or large winemakers in a multiplicity of volume and unit sizes.

The wine can be received in varying conditions; from unstable through to requiring its first filtration. The prime objective of our company is to prepare the wine to specification under the auspices of the respective winemaker; or to assist the winery in developing their product through the final packaging stages. To this end, a comprehensive and knowledgeable staff is employed to cover all aspects of winemaking, production and packaging.

There are two main processes that pertain to all contracts, from the initial company contact through to contract commitment and final packaging, warehousing and despatch. These are wine flow and the packaging flow.

Wine flow
This procedure is followed for the majority of wines unless the winemaker has a specific request.

1. Reception. At the receipt of the wine in tanker at Australian Bottling Company, a sample of the tanker (1 x 600 mL/compartment) is taken and held for reference until the completion of the packaging process.

2. Movement. The wine is moved under gas cover to the designated tank (which has been sanitized and pregassed).

3. Analysis. A tank sample of the wine is analysed (alcohol, SO₂, total acid, pH, residual sugar, ascorbic acid (whites), volatile acid and malic acid) prior to bottling and after any additions (if they are required), followed by a formal bottling authorization.

4. Pre- and post-bottling. Immediately prior to the commencement of filling, in-line microbiological analysis occurs (fluorescence microscopy). Regular microbiological analysis occurs during the production run. The frequency of plate counts is dictated by the wine type and style. Analysis of the wine occurs at the commencement and completion of production.

Both analytical and microbiological results are collated and forwarded to the customer along with the mass balance of wine volume to finished package.

Packaging flow
1. Materials. Packaging materials received at Australian Bottling Company are either customer-supplied or ABC-sourced to the customer specification. Incoming goods are inspected in a planned reduced sampling process as part of our company policy of placing more onus on the supplier to meet our contracted quality requirements.

2. Line inspection. During production we carry out regular inspections on all products produced against the customer authorized specification sheet. This is carried out by line personnel as well as our qualified quality technicians. Both line personnel and our quality technician record and can action procedures for product improvement. Associated with this they are empowered with the authority to cease production until the problem is rectified.

A daily review is also carried out on the production inspection sheets by the quality manager, production manager and technical services manager.

Summary
All procedures carried out (as above) are documented and retained for further reference.

Our company has a committed goal to achieve AS 3902 accreditation as part of our aim for continuous improvement. To this end our quality manager has undertaken numerous training courses, resulting in an increased awareness within our company.