



new blooms

AVRIL HALLOWS CROSSED THE WORLD TO FIND A FRESH LIFE IN A BAROSSA VALLEY FLOWER SHOP.

AVRIL HALLOWS HAD no idea when she started her florist apprenticeship in Wales that one day she would be arranging flowers for Elton John across the other side of the world in a tiny South Australian country town. But that's exactly what she found herself doing when the singer, who is famous for his exacting taste in blooms, came to the Barossa Valley to perform two years ago.

"It was a surprise to be asked," she says. "They were for his dressing room and I was given quite a long list of what he liked and didn't like."

Of course, orders for such famous customers are few and far between but Avril's signature flower arrangements are in constant demand throughout the Barossa Valley, often for cellar doors and weddings at the many wineries dotted across the picturesque hills.

"I do try and let the flowers speak for themselves by not messing around with them too much," she says.

The mother-of-two opened Viva, her Angaston flower store, in 2002 and delights in its rural location. "I'm looking out of the store window now and I can see huge Morton Bay fig trees, a beautiful old stone building and behind that is a hilly paddock with sheep — not bad, is it!" she exclaims.

A new job for her husband, Craig Robinson, originally prompted the couple's move from Adelaide but it was cemented by the arrival of Caleb, 7, and Chelsea, 4, as Avril wanted them to experience a similar country childhood to the one she had in Wales. "We love the Barossa and watching the seasons," she says. "And the kids love to help in the shop — they are both budding florists." *

Viva the Flower Store is at 67 Murray Street, Angaston South Australia. (08) 8564 3393; www.vivaflowerstore.com



The 1903 building was recently renovated and Avril, left, now sells homewares as well as flowers.

