

2017 Izway Harold Shiraz

About Harold

I grew up in the Wimmera in Victoria at a time when the creeks and lakes flowed bountifully with water. We regularly fished for trout in these lakes and Dad, being a tragic angler, would never be short of gear. Sometimes we would share 20 fishing rods between our family of five, which eventually caused issues as we could not tell which rod was biting. We decided to name the rods, and in doing so they took on their own personalities. Harold Fisher was an old, traditional, grain farmer that Dad sold tractors to, and he wasn't renowned for his abilities as a scholar or fashionista. It was obvious to name a rod after Harold, but little did we know that this rod was to become as much a part of the family as the rest of us. A legend in and out of the water, Harold was purchased in the 1950's and is still used to this day. He is old and grumpy yet freakishly talented.

The Vintage

2017 saw a continuation of the stellar run of great vintages in the Barossa Valley, and although each display striking differences, all harvests since 2012 will stand the test of time. High Winter and Spring rainfall as well as comparatively cold conditions through harvest guided the profiles of the 2017 wines. The summer was warm but not hot and there were no extended heat waves. The wines are defined by delicate, vibrant aromatics and elegant structures, particularly the Grenache while the Shiraz maintains its powerful persona. Another classic Barossa Harvest for both the cellar and the dinner table.

The Wine

The 2017 Harold is a classic Eden Valley Shiraz, laden with spice, cherry, roasted nut with hints of sweet red berries. The harvest has worked beautifully with this particular release, with a long, cool fermentation keeping the wine fresh, vibrant and highly aromatic. The palate replicates this spice and bright fruit, and the silky tannin glides and meanders in harmony with these charismas. The wine is beautifully balanced and is a great tribute to this vineyard, as this will be the last release from this site. As always patience will be rewarded, and although the wine can be enjoyed early it will look its best for the next 5 to 15 years.

The Vineyard

Vineyard: Liersch

Sub Appellation: Moculta (Eden Valley)

Planted: 1994 Elevation: 381m

Soil: Shallow Loam over Red Clay

Craig Isbel Winemaker