

2017 Izway Don Shiraz

About Don

During my time in the Barossa I have been privileged to work with some of the greatest Vineyards and Viticulturalists in the Valley. Adrian Hoffmann's vineyards in Ebenezer have always resonated with me, and his philosophy, knowledge and passion are virtually unmatched in our region. 'The Don' has been aptly named as the head of the Izway family, in a similar vain to the status that Adrian is gaining with his peers in the Barossa Valley. This single vineyard wine encompasses all that is great about our region; old vines and soils, traditional and progressive viticulture and winemaking and a sublime texture that is virtually unachievable anywhere else in the world.

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 conditions in 2017 suited the Don vineyard perfectly. The fruit load and canopy were in harmony and the ripening meandered through March and well into April. This allowed perfect phenolic ripeness while maintaining natural acidity.

The Wine

The aromatics of the 2017 Don are lively and fresh, impressive and bold, with bright red fruits masking the darker more classic Ebenezer traits. The texture is velour like; silky, smooth and sexy. Cranberries, musk, cinnamon and star anise leap from the glass. The cool fermentation of the 2017 vintage created a wine with both freshness and richness that has carried through to the bottle. The new oak component is looking elegant and balanced through careful refinement in the last five years.

The Don has great energy and freshness and the dark rumble is complimented by bright sparks creating a wine that can be decanted and immediately enjoyed or concealed in the cellar for the next 10 to 20 years.

The Vineyard

Vineyard: Sub Appellation: Planted: Soil: Hoffmann Dimchurch Ebenezer 1950 Red/brown earth over dark red clays with a separating layer of chalky limestone

Craig Isbel Winemaker