



2022 Izway Field Blend (61% Grenache 20% Shiraz 19% Mataro)

After working a harvest in France in 2002 and visiting Chateauneuf-du-Pape, I returned to the Barossa with many eccentric ideas, one of which was to make a wine using all 13 varieties from this famous Rhone region. The idea began to take fruition when we propagated and planted Mourvèdre at our home property in 2012. We then planted Shiraz in front of the cottage (0.35 acres) and Grenache in front of the winery (1 acre) in 2016. These block sizes were specifically mapped to create a Field Blend in proportions that I believe will best showcase our site. Each of these blocks were planted with cuttings that we took from our favourite vineyards across the Barossa. The first wine was made from these blocks in 2022, and while it only consisted of three varieties, we plan to plant Cinsault in 2023, and will see where the journey to all thirteen varieties takes us next.

The Vintage

The 2021/2022 growing season continued our run of cool vintages, with bountiful spring rain and no days recorded above 37 degrees. These cool harvests allow us to create pure, energetic, balanced wines and give us the flexibility in the winery to schedule perfect picking dates and gentle, controlled maceration. There was one isolated but significant hailstorm that affected a narrow band of the Barossa on the 28th of October, which unfortunately smashed our home vineyard, as well as the Harold Vineyard in Eden Valley. All other sites remained unaffected, and the season delivered slightly below average yields, healthy canopies and perfectly ripe bunches. While I believe 2021 will be considered a higher quality harvest, the wines of 2022 are still exceptional in their own right, and will equally drink beautifully young and age with poise, balance and refinement.

The Wine

The three separate blocks for the 2022 Field Blend were all picked on the 16th of March and fermented together for 14 days. The wine was then pressed to a single barrique where it rested for 14 months before hand bottling on site on the 7th of June 2023. The first release of this wine is elegant and expressive, with Grenache initially dominating the aromatics. The structure and depth of Mataro and Shiraz become more evident on the palate, which is effortless and complete. I love drinking this first release and am excited about what the future will bring to the evolution of this wine.

The Vineyard

Vineyard: Izway Home Block

Sub Appellation: Seppeltsfield

Planted: 2012 to 2016

Soil: Shallow red clay with scattered bluestone, ironstone and granite

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Craig Isbel'.

Craig Isbel
Winemaker