



2022 Izway Harold Shiraz (Eden Valley)

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

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.

Winemaking

Vinification began with a natural soak, followed by 10 days of natural fermentation in a Stainless-Steel Vat. During fermentation, we carefully managed extraction through manual plunging, pigeage, delestage, and open-air pump-overs. Once alcoholic fermentation was complete, the skins were basket-pressed before being transferred to seasoned French Oak Hogs Heads for malolactic fermentation.

The Wine

Through the adversity of a hailstorm, the remaining fruit ripened on healthy vines, with the tiny bunches developing exceptional depth of flavour and colour. The resulting wine is certainly bolder than previous releases and pours inky black in a display of power. The nose is almost northern Barossa, with coffee and chocolate notes waltzing with blackberry and blueberry. The palate is rich and textural, with cooler elements of spice and licks of cornichon adding elegance and restraint. It is wonderfully interesting and thought-provoking and is a suitable predecessor to the magic 2021.

The Vineyard

Vineyard:	Fechner Shiraz
Sub Appellation:	Moculta (Eden Valley)
Planted:	1995
Elevation:	369m
Soil:	Gravelly Loam over Limestone and Clay

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

Craig Isbel - Winemaker