



2023 Izway Field Blend (64% Grenache 21% Shiraz 15% 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 planted Cinsault in 2023, and will see where the journey to all thirteen varieties takes us next.

The Vintage

The 2022/2023 growing period continued our run of cool vintages and near record rain, with 53 days of rain recorded in spring alone. This extended run of wet springs in combination with average yields had a noticeably positive effect on the health of vineyards throughout the Barossa. It is less advantageous to have rain during harvest and fortunately, the wet weather settled down during summer and we were met with warm but not hot conditions. We only experienced thirteen days above 35 degrees and no days above 40 for the third year running. 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. A late start to harvest ensured that we were picking in the cool of Autumn, with the vast majority of fruit being received in April. Overall, a great harvest with excellent vineyard health and fruit condition.

The Wine

The three separate blocks for the 2023 Field Blend were all picked on the 4th of April and fermented together for 12 days. The wine was then pressed to a single French oak puncheon, where it rested for 14 months before hand bottling on site on the 18th of June 2024. A darker and more restrained profile than the inaugural release, the 2023 Field Blend showcases a balance of the three most famous Barossa varieties. Shiraz and Mataro have a more definitive influence on the wine that is still Grenache dominant, and the advantages of co-fermented integration are on full display. Elegant and expressive, this is extremely drinkable from the outset, yet detailed enough to be interesting and thought provoking. Drink now until 2030.

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