



2023 Izway Angelo Aglianico

About Angelo

Over the years we have been on the hunt for another red varietal that could match the quality of Mataro, Grenache and Shiraz in the Barossa Valley. We decided Aglianico from Basilicata, Italy, would work well and so we approached John, Barb and Andy Kalleske to plant some in their Koonunga vineyard. The grape has probably exceeded our expectations, and the late ripening at lower alcohol and high natural acid has given us a strong point of difference from the other wines we make.

Angelo is a great mate of mine, a gentleman with a charming amount of crazy. His family has been concreting for generations, and he completed all the work at the winery and cellar door. It seemed appropriate that we named this Aglianico after my favourite Italian/Aussie, Angelo.

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

Angelo is fast gaining recognition and respect from a loyal band of adventurous drinkers that are keen to discover new flavours and textures. Familiar aromatics of herbs and spices are flanked by pretty florals of violet and lavender. The trademark Aglianico tannin profile is ever present, with crisp acidity maintaining a fresh and vibrant structure. There is a 'cool brightness' to the wine, showcasing the elegance and balance of Aglianico without any density or richness, making this once again a striking reminder of the appropriateness of the variety in our region. I will be extremely excited to taste this in the coming years and believe it will be a long-lived release of this wine.

The Vineyard

The Aglianico vineyard is located at the most Northwestern corner of the Barossa Valley, with an east facing aspect and a significant gradient that facilitates shading from the hot afternoon summer sun. The soil is scattered with chunks of ironstone, providing a perfect site for grape vines.

Vineyard: Andy, John & Barb Kalleske Aglianico Vineyard

Sub Appellation: Koonunga

Planted: 2009

Elevation: 300m

Soil: Red clay with chunky ironstone, and scattered gravel

Craig Isbel
Winemaker