



2024 Izway Field Blend (66% Grenache 19% Shiraz 15% Mataro)

After working a harvest in France in 2002 and visiting Chateaufort-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 2023/2024 growing season began with a dry winter, which fed into Spring, culminating in a calendar year rainfall (2023) of just 326mm (75% of the average). These conditions would generally lead to significantly lower yields and inferior vine health, however, on the back of three wetter seasons with average to below average yields, the vines still prospered, particularly after some decent early summer rains and cooler temperatures. Yields were again affected by frost and wind during flowering, which helped restrict bunch weights slightly and led to a more favorable fruit load to canopy balance. With lower yields and dryer conditions, the fruit ripened quickly, and we began harvest on the 26th of February, exactly one month earlier than the previous year. In fact, with the exception of the late ripening Aglianico, we finished harvesting all blocks on the 23rd of March, which was earlier than we started harvest in 2023.

Despite all this, the quality of the harvest was excellent, with these conditions providing distinctive personality and flair. The wines are dark and structured, with a brilliant balance between acid and tannin. Each variety expresses vitality and energy, with greater boldness and depth than the previous three harvests. A stellar run of vintages that are each distinctive and unique, cementing the Barossa Valley as the most consistent region in the country.

The Wine

The three separate blocks for the 2024 Field Blend were all picked on the 14th of March and fermented together for 14 days. The wine was then pressed to a single French oak hogs head, where it rested for 14 months before hand bottling on site on the 12th of June 2025.

The Vineyard

Vineyard: Izway Home Block

Sub Appellation: Seppeltsfield

Planted: 2012 to 2016

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

Craig Isbel
Winemaker