



2024 Izway Maurice Grenache

About Maurice

Grenache is one of the original varieties grown in the Barossa Valley, with vast plantings of bush vines still scattered across our region, many surviving here since the 1850's. We named this wine after "Maurice", who is the brother of "Bruce", and want people to consider Shiraz and Grenache to be brothers in the Barossa. In our opinion Grenache is the variety that is most suited to the marginal soils and warm climate of the Barossa Valley, even more so than its more famous counterpart Shiraz. We have made it an aspiration to make the best Grenache wines we possibly can and to inspire people to drink more of this underrated varietal.

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 nose is pretty, fresh and fragrant, with strawberry and raspberry fruit aromatics mingling with rose petal and amaretto. The palate is undeniably ripe, synonymous with the Greenock sub-region, with a density that belies its light, bright, colour. The plush fruit sweetness and inviting aromatics should excite all Grenache lovers, however, I believe the true quality of this wine will be expressed more accurately with decanting, or with another 3 to 5 years of cellaring.

The Vineyard

Vineyard: Slade Vineyard

Sub Appellation: Greenock

Elevation: 316m

Soil: red clay with scattered ironstone

Craig Isbel
Winemaker