



2023 Izway Don Shiraz

About Don

During my time in the Barossa I have been privileged to work with some of the greatest Vineyards and Viticulturalists in the Valley. Adrian Hoffmann's vineyards in Ebenezer have always resonated with me, and his philosophy, knowledge, and passion are virtually unmatched in our region. 'The Don' has been aptly named as the head of the Izway family, in a similar vein to the status that Adrian is gaining with his peers in the Barossa Valley. This single vineyard wine encompasses all that is great about our region; old vines and soils, traditional and progressive viticulture and winemaking and a sublime texture that is virtually unachievable anywhere else in the world.

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 13 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

In these cooler harvests the wines we produce tend to open quietly, and there is a tranquility about them that cloaks their greatness. This is true for the 2023 Don, yet the underlying wine is classic and pure Ebenezer, with a dark rumble and bold flashes. Earth and spice showcase a cooler harvest, and unwind to reveal powerful notes of Aperol, raspberries, dark chocolate and hints of jamon and black pepper. The palate is balanced and refined, and the precise texture is on show with assertive tannin, crisp acidity and guarded opulence. There is something about this wine that reminds me of impending summer rain, and while the true depth and complexity of this great harvest will be revealed in time, it doesn't feel like it is far away.

The Vineyard

Vineyard:	Hoffmann Dimchurch
Sub Appellation:	Ebenezer
Planted:	1950
Soil:	Red/brown earth over dark red clays with a separating layer of chalky limestone
Elevation:	283m

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

Craig Isbel
Winemaker