



## 2024 Izway Harold Shiraz

### About Harold

I grew up in the Wimmera in Victoria at a time when the creeks and lakes flowed bountifully with water. We regularly fished for trout in these lakes and Dad, being a tragic angler, would never be short of gear. Sometimes we would share 20 fishing rods between our family of five, which eventually caused issues as we could not tell which rod was biting. We decided to name the rods, and in doing so they took on their own personalities. Harold Fisher was an old, traditional, grain farmer that Dad sold tractors to, and he wasn't renowned for his abilities as a scholar or fashionista. It was obvious to name a rod after Harold, but little did we know that this rod would become as much a part of the family as the rest of us. A legend in and out of the water, Harold was purchased in the 1950's and is still used to this day. He is old and grumpy yet freakishly talented.

### 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). Yields were again affected by frost and wind during flowering, which helped restrict bunch weights slightly and led to a more favourable fruit load to canopy balance. With lower yields and drier 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 Wine

Although the Harold vineyard is in an elevated position, the bottom end of the block was frosted in November 2023. This resulted in restricted yields and variable ripening throughout the vineyard, but particularly at the northern end. Consequently, we harvested over a two week period, offering us a variety of flavours and textures to assemble this single vineyard wine. The resulting blend is dark, soulful and structured, with a brilliant balance between acid and tannin. Pronounced and youthful aromas of boysenberry, plum and cherry ascend from the glass and evolve into more nuanced scents of violet, dark chocolate and cherry cola. A long and complex finish is enhanced by a spice and citrus relationship that sparks another thought-provoking juxtaposition. A stunning Harold release crafted from a unique set of circumstances determined by nature.

### The Vineyard

<b>Vineyard:</b>	Fechner Shiraz
<b>Sub Appellation:</b>	Moculta (Eden Valley)
<b>Planted:</b>	1995
<b>Soil:</b>	Gravelly Loam over Limestone & clay
<b>Elevation:</b>	369m

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

Craig Isbel  
Winemaker