



2026 Izway Aglianico Rosato

About Rosato

When a new variety is planted in a region it creates the opportunity to experiment with wine styles that don't have to follow tradition or context. I have always had a hunch that Aglianico, with beautiful natural acidity, prominent tannin and colour and vibrant, fresh aromatics would be a perfect variety to make a Rose style wine from. We were finally able to test this theory after making some tweaks to our winery infrastructure in 2025. The result is a classic Rose style wine with texture, polish and charm, and a wine that is perfect for spring and summer drinking. As the sun slowly climbs in the sky, we are looking forward to giving this a few test-runs by the pool, for many summers to come.

The Vintage

After four almost perfect years in a row, the 2025 & 2026 harvests provided us with challenging and variable conditions. These harvests create an opportunity for winemakers to have a greater influence on the quality of their wines, as there are crucial decisions that lead to distinctions and disparities. The 2026 growing season started with abundant rain, with 400mm falling between May and November (2025). No rain fell in December or January and the latter was particularly hot, with an eight-day heat wave intensifying the dry conditions. A rain event in late February freshened the vineyards but made picking decisions tricky. We decided to wait for the vineyards to dry out and the fruit to ripen further into March. Our harvest began on the 13th of March, and with the weather remaining hot but with further significant rain forecast, we picked a small amount of fruit from each of the Shiraz vineyards. Another significant rain event halted harvest on the 18th of March, which allowed us to clear the winery for the final batches. We picked all remaining Shiraz by the end of March, and the Aglianico was once again the last picked on the 9th of April. The variability of the weather provided us with some incredible flavors and textures that should create some outstanding, interesting and thought-provoking wines.

The Wine

We have managed to maintain an enticing, bright copper/salmon colour for this second release, and I hope we can emulate this in seasons to come. It was one of the most difficult elements to ascertain and achieve with our rudimentary basket presses, but I think we have devised a method that works! Vibrant aromatics of grapefruit, cranberry, orange peel, peach and strawberry come alive and remind us of the familiar Aglianico scents. The palate is fresh and alive, with a spine of acidity carrying the texture that doesn't lack richness nor tannin. A refreshing and thoughtful drink that already has us excited about the potential of future releases.

The Vineyard

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