



2021 Izway Don Shiraz

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 2020/2021 growing season delivered a much needed and deserved break from the hot and dry conditions that we encountered in the previous three harvests. Winter rain was bountiful and provided a full water profile in the vineyards at bud burst. This culminated in healthy canopies and crops that set slightly above average. Post-November, the sky completely turned off the taps and while summer was dry, it wasn't excessively hot, and the lush early canopy growth was sufficient to carry the fruit load through to harvest. In near perfect conditions, fruit flavour and ripeness developed early, allowing us to pick fruit with lower sugar and higher natural acidity than any time I can remember. The fruit was in immaculate condition in the winery, and the harvest ambled along without stress. The resulting wines have wonderful freshness, depth and personality and 2021 will undoubtedly be held in high regard for many years to come.

Winemaking

Vinification began with a natural soak for three days, followed by seven days natural fermentation in Stainless Steel Vats. During fermentation, we carefully managed extraction through manual plunging, pigeage, delestage and open-air pump overs. Once alcoholic fermentation was complete, the skins were basket pressed before being transferred to oak for malolactic fermentation.

The Wine

Many of the most revered wines of the world open quietly, yet there is an assertiveness and quality about them that cloaks their greatness. The 2021 Don possesses this trait, and its poise and calmness on opening conceals something wonderful that is lurking in the glass. Earth and spice showcase a cooler harvest and unwind to reveal powerful notes of red berries, leather, and dark chocolate. The palate is balanced and refined, and the texture of a classic harvest is on show with assertive tannin, crisp acidity, and guarded opulence. While the mouthfeel is more restrained than is typical of this wine, the true depth and complexity of this great harvest will be revealed in time.

The Vineyard

Vineyard:	Hoffmann Dimchurch
Sub Appellation:	Ebenezer
Planted:	1950
Elevation:	283m
Soil:	Red/brown earth over dark red clays with a separating layer of chalky limestone
Picking Dates:	18th of March and 27th of March 2020
Oak:	100% New French Oak Puncheon (500L), coopered by Gillet from the Vosges forest.

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

Craig Isbel
Winemaker