

ignway

Oscar & Matilda

About O&M

Oscar and Matilda are our energetic and entertaining children. Since their arrival into the world these two individuals have challenged and inspired us and shaped a depth of passion and love like nothing we could have imagined. It is fitting that the greatest wine that we have made to date will bear the name of the greatest creations that we will ever make.

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.

The Wine

The harvest conditions in 2021 have unlocked the potential we perceived in previous releases of this wine, culminating in synergy of maturation, vineyard and winemaking philosophies and created the most complete wine to date. Impressive from the outset, the class, elegance, and freshness of this release are immediately on display, with energy and harmony singing from the glass. Bright red fruits recoil to reveal cinnamon, vanilla and red liquorice, with notes of panettone, quince and iron complementing the broad aromatics. The palate opens to near silky perfection, with juicy acidity, velvet, ripe tannin and incredible depth and concentration of flavour. The texture is smooth and complete and provides a spark in the throat which creates an ambiance and an aura of tranquility. It really does feel good to drink this wine.

A carefully curated blend of two old vine parcels from two of the finest Barossa Valley vineyards. The gnarly and twisted old vines at the Kleinig Vineyard in Moppa produce fruit of incredible intensity, darkness and depth. These old vineyards need to be pushed past the point of accepted ripeness to truly unlock the personality in the site, and we strive to achieve a perfect synergy of stress and strength. The Hoffmann vineyard delivers wine of power and elegance, with a brighter aromatic and a sublime tannin. The early summer heat, along with cool February nights allowed each component to ripen perfectly and they have come together to create a wine that is greater than the sum of its parts.

To craft the Oscar and Matilda Shiraz we select the two best barrels from each of these old vine parcels. The blended wine is returned to oak and housed in a new Gillet Puncheon (500L) for a total of 28 months before bottling. This wine will evolve into a magnificent drink over the next 10 to 20 years, although the balance and freshness expressed by this release encourages drinking at any stage it is required.

The Vineyards

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

Vineyard:	Kleinig Old Shiraz
Sub Appellation:	Moppa
Planted:	1895
Soil:	Sandy loam over deep clay

Craig Isbel, Winemaker

