

# OX HARDY

BLEWITT SPRINGS

## 1891 ANCESTOR VINE SHIRAZ 2022

### BACKGROUND

Planted in 1891, the last remaining 2.54ha block of Ancestor Vines stands proudly at the Upper Tintara Vineyard, continuing to produce exceptional, high-quality fruit. Referred to by the family as 'Bob's selection' after Ox's father, cuttings from these grandfather vines have been borrowed by neighbours over time, to plant some of the most celebrated vineyards in the district. Unlike other vines of similar longevity, they still appear youthful and barely half their age to the naked eye. They also produce yields of a much younger and healthier vine.

### 2022 VINTAGE & WINEMAKING

The 2022 growing season in Blewitt Springs was relatively mild and even, with a cooler-than-average spring delaying budburst and slowing early vine growth. Summer conditions remained moderate without prolonged heat spikes, allowing for steady ripening and excellent retention of natural acidity.

The 1891 Ancestor Vines were hand picked on the 10th of March 2022, and the beautiful cool conditions resulted in wonderful fruit.

Fermented in 2 tonne open top fermenters, the fruit spent two weeks on skins before pressing directly to French oak (20% new). Coopers used were d'Aquitaine and Francois Freres hogsheads. The wine spent eighteen months in barrel before being bottled in September 2023.

**WINEMAKER:** Andrew Hardy

**APPELLATION:** Blewitt Springs

**VARIETY:** Shiraz 100%

**COLOUR:** Dark with ruby and purple hue

**AROMA:** Blueberry and dark cherry, with a hint of spice

**PALATE:** Red fruits continue on the palate, with a savoury tannin structure and a graceful finish. Elegant and fine.

**ANALYSIS:** Alc 13.5% TA 6.4g/L pH 3.4

