



AVATAR

2023 GRENACHE MATARO SHIRAZ

While Shiraz is the Barossa's golden child, blending it with Grenache and Mataro creates some of the region's finest wines. Thanks to our mates, the Riebke brothers, and other Barossa growers who have championed these varieties for over 100 years, we're fortunate to work with fruit from incredibly old vines for our GMS blends.

Our inaugural release, back in 2002, was an unoaked GMS blend called Joshua. A second wine from the same vintage, aged in seasoned oak for 12 months, followed. We named it Avatar - meaning 'transformation' - a fitting title for what we call Joshua's older brother.

The Avatar blend varies slightly each year, but the style remains consistent; Grenache brings spice and vibrant red fruits, Mataro adds savoury earthiness, and Shiraz provides rich plums and dark fruits. Maturation in seasoned oak ensures complexity while allowing the fruit from these old vines to shine through.

VINTAGE

Spring rains boosted soil moisture, supporting early growth, while summer's moderate temperatures ensured even ripening. A mild autumn preserved acidity, delicate flavours, and benefited mid- to late-harvest varieties like Shiraz, Grenache, and Mataro. These conditions produced fine, structured wines true to the Barossa Valley's character. The blend—Grenache (45%), Mataro (44%), and Shiraz (11%) - comes from old vine vineyards. Whole berries were retained in open fermenters, hand-pumped twice daily. One Grenache parcel, using 20% whole bunches, makes up 22% of the blend.

TASTING

45/44/11% grenache/mataro/shiraz from the parishes of Ebenezer, Moppa, Seppeltsfield, Williamstown and Tanunda. The Avatar is always a firm favourite and the 2023 version does not disappoint. Medium bodied, pure plummy fruits, dredged with spice, citrus blossom top-notes, earth, gingerbread and a touch of sarsaparilla in the background Ditto on the palate! Balanced, fine, gentle, pillowy tannins and a whole lot of drinkability.

Dave Brookes - Published 30 August 2024.

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Dave Brookes - Halliday Wine Companion.
30 Aug 2024.

VARIETY	45% Grenache, 44% Mataro, 11% Shiraz
SUB-REGIONS	Ebenezer, Moppa, Seppeltsfield, Williamstown & Tanunda
HARVEST	March & April
MATURATION	Matured in a blend of seasoned French oak Hogsheads (300L) and Puncheons (500L) for 11 months.
ANALYSIS	pH 3.46 TA 6.1 g/L 14.7% ALC/VOL
CELLAR	10+ years