

## THE CONCONGELLA NURSERY BLOCK

Below is a list of grape varieties planted in the 1860's by Henry Best and his family in the Nursery Block. The vines, sourced from early growers Trouette and Blampied at St Peters Vineyard Great Western, and possibly from the Geelong region, were planted at random throughout the block. Within the collection, believed to be the most extensive pre-phylloxera plantings in Australia and possibly the world, there remain some still unidentified varieties.

Excerpts from "Our Vineyards" The Ararat Advertiser, June 7th 1870

*"Mr Best is of the opinion and his determination is to produce nothing but wines of the very best description: with this view he has spared no expense in procuring wines of the choicest description. In his grounds may be found almost every known variety, and if by chance he should hear of some particular one which is not already among his collection, he leaves no stone unturned until he has procured it."*

By 1870 he had some 48,000 vines. He made separate wine from each variety. By the 1890's Hermitage (Shiraz), Millers Burgundy (Meunier) and Malbeck (Dolcetto) were considered among the best varieties for this area.

Today the vines are hand-picked, first the white varieties, then the red varieties. Wine is not produced every year as it depends entirely on the season. The wines, abundant in fruit character, stand alone as a definitive style expressing the Nursery Block's individual components.

### RED VARIETIES

Tinta Amarella  
Aubun  
Grec Rose  
Cangnan  
Dolcetto  
Shiraz  
Cabernet Sauvignon  
Cinsaut  
Morocan Noir  
Mataro  
Gamay  
Pinot Noir  
Sauvignonasse  
Olvette Noir  
Meunier

### WHITE VARIETIES

Fermint  
Palamino  
Fer  
Chasselas  
Muscadelle  
Dourado  
Ondenc  
Troyen  
Gueche  
Gouais  
Calitor Blanc  
Chenin Blanc  
Gordo  
Piquepouln  
Bourbouelenc  
Sauvignon Blanc  
Frankenthal