



THE CONGELLA NURSERY BLOCK

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

Excerpts: from "Our Vineyards " The Ararat Advertiser 7th June 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 vines 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 Henry Best had some 48,000 vines and made separate wine from each variety. By the 1890's Hermitage (Shiraz), Millers Burgundy (Pinot 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 although 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
Carignan
Dolcetto
Shiraz
Cabernet Sauvignon
Cinsaut
Morocain Noir
Mataro
Gamay
Pinot Noir
Olvette Noir
Pinot Meunier
Fer

White Varieties

Furmint
Palomino
Sauvignonasse
Chasselas
Muscadelle
Dourado
Ondenc
Troyen
Gueuche
Gouais
Calitor Blanc
Chenin Blanc
Gordo
Piquepoul
Bourboulenc
Sauvignon Blanc
Frankenthal
Riesling

Eight varieties remain un-identified, with no genetic or historical links found, despite thorough research and genetic testing.