ROCKFORD

BAROSSA

"I have always lived in and feel most comfortable with the warm Mediterranean climate of the Barossa where grapes ripen easily. My preference is to make the wine by hand with traditional methods, attitude and equipment to produce rich, earthy, soft, generous wines that will age; the kind that I drank in my youth."



Robert O'Callaghan

WHITE WINE

2025 Eden Valley Riesling — $31.50 bottle

The Eden Valley, high in the Barossa Ranges, is punctuated by ancient Red Gums with patches of vines hidden among grazing land and moss-covered metamorphic rock. The vineyards growing in this shallow, rocky soil produce fine flavoured Riesling with a mineral purity that comes from the vine roots pushing through cracks in submerged rock in search of water and scarce nutrient. We are committed to releasing this wine with the complexity, palate weight and softness that can only come from holding it in our cellar for a year or two before release.

2024 Local Growers Semillon — $30.50 bottle

This wine faithfully reflects the contributions made by generations of grape growing families to Rockford and the Barossa. Their knowledge, tenacity and commitment to the land ensure Semillon – a pioneer Barossa variety – has a viable future. Because the grapes are hand-picked, we can select bunches at different stages of ripeness. The early-picked grapes add acidity while the later-season ones bring more ripeness and fruitiness. The wine matured in barrel, and the combination of different-sized oak casks, when finally blended, comes together to make a complex, textured, and mouth-filling wine.

2026 White Frontignac — $25.50 bottle

Maximum allocation 12 bottles

The versatility of this original Barossa variety has seen it survive over one hundred years of economic boom and bust. White Frontignac is the earliest variety we harvest each year. In the vineyard, as berries gradually ripen on the vine, they taste of crunchy new-season green apples and this flavour carries through to the finished wine. The result of picking early is a fresh, low alcohol wine, with floral Muscat aromatics on the nose and a balanced palate with crisp acidity and a clean finish.

RED WINE

2026 Alicante Bouchet — $29.00 bottle

Maximum allocation 3 bottles

The exception to the rule! Alicante is genetically linked to the hardy pioneer variety of Grenache, so it too is well-adapted to our warm Mediterranean climate. Because the flesh of this distinctive variety is bright red in colour, there's no need for the skins and juice to sit together to extract the colour and flavour before pressing. Alicante is a variety that ripens with full flavour at low sugar levels, making an aromatic light red wine.

2025 Frugal Farmer — $29.50 bottle

Grenache/Mataro/Alicante Bouschet

When we make our Alicante Bouchet each Vintage, the skins of the grapes are not needed. Instead, we save and co-ferment them with early picked Grenache and Mataro to make our Frugal Farmer. The addition of the Alicante skins to the ferment gives tannin, spice and a vibrant garnet colour to the wine. We think this resourcefulness would get a quiet nod from the early Barossa pioneer families, and you get a light-bodied, lower-alcohol wine to enjoy. Win-win!

2023 Moppa Springs — $39.50 bottle

Grenache/Mataro/Shiraz

This wine highlights the suitability of Grenache, Mataro, and Shiraz as some of the most notable and traditional varieties grown in the Barossa. The grapes are forked into our 1880s wooden Bagshaw de-stemmer before fermenting in open slate tanks. Our Basket Press slowly squeezes the remaining juice from the grapes, before the individual components are left to mature in seasoned oak casks. When the final blend comes together, layers of soft, savoury, and spicy flavours emerge and will develop further with a handful more years in bottle.

More wines over the page ...

RED WINE

2022 Rod & Spur — $49.00 bottle

Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon

The blending of Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon ensures that the great Australian red wine style of the 1950s and '60s, when these wines were recognised at the top end of the premium market, is not lost. Early Australian winemakers were able to write their own rulebook, free from the confines of the European appellation system. The splicing of two great things doesn't always produce something better. But, in some cases, the alchemy of winemaking weaves its magic to create a wine more interesting and complex than the separate components. We've named this wine in acknowledgement of our grape growers who spend the cold Barossa winters hand-pruning in the traditional rod and spur method.

2022 Basket Press Shiraz — Sold Out

Maximum allocation 3 bottles - Cellar Door Only

Basket Press Shiraz encompasses everything we do to keep the distinctive Australian wine style of the pioneer era alive in a rapidly changing world. By doing this, we believe that the enjoyment derived from traditional winemaking can be preserved and shared for future generations. This wine is made from specially selected, small parcels of Shiraz from some of the Barossa's finest grape growing families. The vineyards are situated in different sub-regions throughout the Barossa, which adds to the complexity and depth of the final blend. The wine is hand-made using equipment from the turn of the 20th century, then matured in seasoned American and French oak casks for two years. All this contributes to our objective of making the highest quality traditional, soft, deeply coloured, earthy Australian red wine that will age well in the bottle.

2023 Rifle Range Cabernet Sauvignon — $68.00 bottle

Cabernet Sauvignon has been planted in the Barossa since at least 1888. The warm climate here means Barossa Cabernet wines are rich and full-flavoured. The grapes for our Cabernet Sauvignon come predominantly from vineyards along Rifle Range Road, just behind our winery. The 'Biscay' soil of the Rifle Range vineyards is heavy, black, cracking clay, lending the wine its rich and earthy character. It is a generous wine when young, but it will really show its best if given a chance to mature in the bottle a little longer.

Sparkling Black Shiraz Disgorged 2026 — $94.00 bottle

Maximum allocation 3 bottles - Cellar Door Only

Our Sparkling Black Shiraz is crafted using the time-honoured method of ageing high-quality Shiraz in oak casks for many years before blending and bottle fermentation. The result is softness, depth and complex flavours that are impossible to duplicate in young wines. Although this wine can be enjoyed with many different foods, a small band of appreciators tell us it is best enjoyed to kick off celebrations on Christmas morning! Black Shiraz ensures that this very Australian wine, nurtured by generations of winemakers, is never lost.

FORTIFIED WINE

2021 Shiraz VP 500mL — $69.00 bottle

This wine is made from a special corner of the Kleinig Family Shiraz vineyard in Moppa, which ripens late in the season. The fermenting juice was fortified with wood-aged brandy spirit that's at least ten years old, before being aged for twelve months in a large, seasoned oak vat. Over time, it will develop greater complexity, so if you can keep this wine for a handful more years, your patience will be richly rewarded.

PS *Marion* Tawny — $53.50 bottle

This wine is a small contribution to the Barossa's great tradition of producing outstanding, aged, fortified wines. The many years we allow the wine to mature in seasoned, small oak casks encourage the flavours to slowly concentrate and develop into a rich, complex and spicy Barossa Tawny. If you look up while standing in the tasting room, you'll see the barrels of quietly ageing Tawny, waiting to one day make their way into the base blend and be put in the bottle for you.

The PS Marion *Tawny is released as part of our long-term support of the Paddle Steamer* Marion*, built in 1897 and now moored in Mannum. Every sip of this wine helps put steam back into the boiler of one of the finest ships that ever plied the waters of the magnificent Murray River.*

