

MITCHELTON - WINEMAKER PROFILE

BEN HAINES

Ben Haines' two major passions are winemaking and music. By day, Ben makes wine for Mitchelton in the cooler climates of Central Victoria. By night he performs as a musician. Ben can see strong synergies between both.

"Wine for me is all about fun – that continued feeling of excitement. The recurring annual cycle of the vine, the evolution of wines as they pass time and the unique set of circumstances represented in the bottle to be revisited at any occasion. It's a similar feeling I get when playing or listening to great music. For me, environment inspires creativity."

Ben kicked off his involvement in wine with a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Viticulture from The University of Adelaide. He then worked in wineries in McLaren Vale and the Adelaide Hills in South Australia, the Yarra Valley in Victoria, the Coal Valley in Tasmania and the Napa Valley in California in the USA. He completed a Post-graduate Diploma in Oenology from The University of Adelaide.

During this time he honed both his viticulture and winemaking skills, and has come to appreciate the importance of this overall dynamic in making wine.

Mitchelton and its history can be traced over the decades through the pervasive influence of Victoria's Goulburn River's flow. The river surrounds the vineyard on three sides, shaping the unique environment and climate of Mitchelton and creating individual vineyards within a vineyard.

Together with Viticulturist John Beresford, the Mitchelton winemaking team work together to craft wines expressive of the unique heritage of innovation and instinctive winemaking which is the winery's hallmark.

Ben gives the example of shiraz, describing it as a "window into the unique qualities garnered from each block" – a true expression of terroir. Mitchelton's Print Shiraz is its finest and most distinctive example of Central Victorian Shiraz. Ben works to refine and develop each vintage, adding to its impressive pedigree.

The opportunity to continue to develop and innovate with shiraz, riesling and less mainstream varieties such as mourvedre and grenache is key to Ben's continued fascination with wine.

