

# THE DRY DAM

## Riesling 2019

McLaren Vale, Adelaide Hills, Riesling (100%)



### The Name

In 1992 our neighbours built a dam that remained empty, as it was a dry winter. The next year it rained but the dam was jinxed and didn't hold water. A dry dam is bad news for our neighbouring farmers, but promises good results for our old, dry-grown, low-yielding vines.

### The Vintage

Winter was quite dry, with sporadic light showers that didn't penetrate the soil very deeply. This impacted budburst but was managed with some irrigation. During spring there was quite a strong wind event around the time of flowering, which upset some of the growth, especially in Shiraz.

Summer was hot, with an extreme heat wave and a record high temperature of 46.6C, which burnt some varieties like Petit Verdot. Most other varieties managed to escape unscathed, which was surprising.

Yields were down on most varieties. The quality, however, was excellent, exhibiting very varietal characteristics. Ferments had to be taken off a little earlier with higher sugar levels because of these strong tannins.

### The Winemaking

Small batches of grapes are gently crushed, chilled, and then basket pressed. The fermentation was long and cool, and was stopped before reaching total dryness to ensure that residual sugar remains to balance the high mineral acidity.

### The Characteristics

This is an immediately drinkable Riesling. Granny Smith and Nashi pear to the fore. A spattering of lemon and lime and that ever present hallmark of sweet but tangy sherbet. The off dry sugar level adds a juiciness to the mid palate and the fine and well etched acidity, whilst supple throughout, provides a crispness and persistence on the finish. Fun and frivolous, but also quite stylish and refined. Suitable to be enjoyed chilled in youth, yet delivering a promise of something more evocative and complex with a few years careful cellaring.



Harvest dates	7 Feb - 2 Mar	Alcohol	10.0%
Residual sugar	16.9 g/L	Titratable acid	8.5
pH	2.86	Chief Winemaker	Chester Osborn
Senior Winemaker	Jack Walton		