

Richard Hamilton 2005 “Slate Quarry” Riesling

McLaren Vale, South Australia



Background

Willunga, in the southern reaches of McLaren Vale is tough country with a long and colorful pioneering history. The early settlers owed much to its slate mines, some of which still exist to this day. The bedrock slate and stony soils in the area are home to Richard Hamilton’s frugal old Riesling vines. These graceful old maidens annually yield small volumes of intensely flavoursome juice, resulting in wines of distinctive varietal character and flavor.

Winemaking Notes

Planted on a south-facing slope amidst a breezy gully, this estate grown 30-plus year-old Riesling vineyard has a lovely cool microclimate particularly suited to Riesling. Every year it provides grapes of wonderful concentration and style, with intense flavors and outstanding varietal definition. The 2005 McLaren Vale vintage was quite cool, but ripening was slightly earlier than on average across all varieties. The grapes were harvested in the cool of the night on the March 1, 2005. Following a gentle air-bag pressing without crushing, the juice was allowed to settle over several weeks. The juice was racked then cool fermented with a yeast strain specially selected to enhance the floral nature of the fruit. The wine has had minimal handling and was stabilized with a light milk fining in the same tank in which it was fermented. This is wine in its purest form - elegant and stylish - from the vine to the glass.

Tasting Notes

A very pale straw color with attractive green tinges. A spectacular nose displaying floral, lime and orange blossom notes with a whiff of soft talc and fresh cut flowers. The elegant palate displays exceptionally pure Riesling fruit, offering zesty fresh lime and grapefruit flavors, mineral and delicate talc characters and finishes with refreshing clean acidity. Drink now to enjoy this lively zesty Riesling, or see further complexity and depth of flavor develop with medium term cellaring. Ideal as an aperitif or the perfect accompaniment to delicately flavored seafood or spicy South East Asian cuisine.

Specifications

Alcohol: 12.4%

pH: 3.24

TA: 7.12

R/Sugar: 3.0g/l.

Reviews

90 One of South Australia’s most serious wineries, Richard Hamilton has produced a superb 2005 Riesling Slate Quarry. This medium-bodied, persistent white exhibits a liquid minerality intertwined with hints of lemons, limes, oranges, and honeyed grapefruits. It will drink beautifully with a variety of foods. **Robert M Parker Jr - Wine Advocate**

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