

2009 Vertigo '25GR' Riesling



Following the widespread critical acclaim and enthusiastic support for our first Vertigo '25GR' Riesling in 2008, we are proud to bring you the second version of this lovely wine.

Is it "off-dry"; "slightly sweet", "semi dry", or "semi-sweet"? This is not the traditional Aussie style, and as a result the wine community seems to be confused about the best way of naming such wines, but there is little doubt of the demand for them in the market-place. With lower alcohol, alluring fragrance and fresh, zippy flavours balanced by a touch of natural grape sugar, semi-dry Riesling is very popular amongst those who actually get to taste them.

The 2008 was sourced from a high, lean piece of soil a few km south-east of Lenswood; the 2009 is from an arguably better site, a similar distance from the town, but in the opposite direction. It's an incredibly (vertiginously) steep, north-facing slope; well over 500 m at the top. The topsoil is thin gravelly ironstone lying over orange-red clay, with a few pieces of quartz scattered about – which are a clue to its suitability for Riesling. The vines are approaching their 15th birthday, and Peter Leske has shepherded the fruit into wine since its first vintage in 1998.

The expression of the site is seen in the beautifully fine line of acidity which runs right through the palate of the resultant wine. As it should be, the fruit was hand-picked at just on 11 baumé; it was then made with a minimum of fuss. The main winemaking intervention is the use of the winery's refrigeration system to stop the fermentation when the sugar, acid and alcohol are balanced; this year, that's given us a whisker over 25 g/L of sweetness, 10.5% alcohol, and 8.7 g/L acidity. (If you are technically minded, the pH is a scary 2.84). The fruit shows its presence in the delicate citrus blossom and lemon zest aromas, and lingering flavours of lemon, lime, ginger and jasmine.

The 2009 is perhaps closer to the imaginary wine which we had in mind when we set out to create the Vertigo 25GR. While we acknowledge that we are still taking 'baby steps' in what we hope will be a very long-term project, we reckon this is a cracker!

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➤ **Recommended retail: \$24.00**

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