



Technical Notes – 2022 Hell Vermentino

Small batch. Single vineyard. Handmade.

Varietal Composition: 100% Vermentino

Region: Riverland

Vineyard: Basshams Organic Barmera Vineyard

Yeast: Wild

Bottling Date: November 2022

Release Date: February 2023

Barrel or Stainless: Slavonian cask and neutral French barriques

Harvest: February 2022

Soil: Red sandy loam over limestone

Alcohol: 11%

Malolactic Fermentation: Yes

Winemakers Comments: Vintage 2022 was another cooler year in the Riverland - after a bumper crop in 2021, hail in late spring and issues with bunch set on some patches, yields for the year are slightly below average. But what the year lacks in quantity, it makes up for in quality – ripping acidity, plush fruits and flavour for days characterize a vintage that, while not without its challenges, has offered up some very yummy wines.

The Hell Series wines represent our experimentation with winemaking techniques, and allow the fruit to express different, unique and compelling characteristics

I love Vermentino because it is so malleable and forgiving – you can push and pull it in any direction and its citrusy, salty, acid driven characters always shine through and do their thing. The fruit for this wine was hand picked and immediately destemmed into one tonne open fermenters, where the wine ferments on skins until sugar dry – about 12 days this year. The wine was then pressed to a 1200L Slavonian oak cask and a couple of neutral French barriques, where it rested on full solids for 8 months, before being racked once and blended back together prior to bottling. This wine sees no additions of any kind save for a small amount of SO₂ at bottling.

A wine all about layers, complexity and energy. The citrusy nature of Vermentino shows itself here in an intense, pithy, lemon sorbet like tang. But it's the savoury elements that cut through this and provide the real interest – briny and saline, the crunchy tannins are balanced by the hint of oak, so while complex, it provides mean drinkability and screams for fresh, oily fish over red hot coals.