



## **Rieslingfreak No.44 Eden Valley Riesling**

No.44 is collaboration from our growers in the Eden Valley, combining distinct subregional characters to create a fruit-driven style of Riesling with generosity on the palate. Fruit for No.44 is sourced from small, family-owned and run vineyards across the southern ranges of Eden Valley, in and around High Eden. The vineyards are situated approximately 550m above sea level, and soils vary from shallow grey sandy loam over shale rock, to loam soil over light medium clay, with high quartz rock and gravel content. Renowned for Rieslings of elegance, structure and aromatic intensity, Eden Valley is celebrated for dry-style Rieslings with distinct regional character; highly perfumed aromatics and slate-like minerality being the signatures of Eden Valley Riesling. No.44 is made in a dry style with intent for immediate appeal and absolute approachability; poised for ultimate enjoyment on release.

2025 was always going to be a vintage of significant challenges, as the lead up was most notable for 2024 being the driest year on record in South Australia, as well as being the third-warmest year since records began in 1838. With little rain to speak of it was clear that the 2025 vintage would demand judicious irrigation and careful management of supplemental water to achieve quality crops. From budburst there were clear indicators of the potential for a bumper harvest, but hopes were dashed in late September when a catastrophic frost annihilated the early spring growth across much of the Clare and Eden Valleys. While initially devastating, the timing of this frost event had a glittering silver lining as the vines bounced back with a secondary budburst. The second crop was significantly smaller than the primary, but with limited water supply and no rain in sight, this allowed growers to curate dense, healthy canopies to protect the sparse bunches with minimal water input.

Summer temperatures were well above the long-term average leading to early harvests across South Australia. Rieslingfreak commenced picking on the 10th of February, a full 5 days ahead of the previous earliest-ever vintage in 2024, with all the fruit received into the winery by the end of the month for the first time ever. Vintage commenced with fruit from our Family Vineyard at White Hutt in the Clare Valley for the No.5, which was followed 4 days later with the rest of the White Hutt Vineyard for the No.3. After this, the fruit flowed in thick and fast with Polish Hill River, Watervale and Eden Valley harvested in quick succession.

For a year that is marked by hot and dry conditions, the intensity of flavour and electric acidity in the 2025 Rieslings is both remarkable and incredibly exciting. While the quantity of wine produced from the vintage may be meagre, the quality certainly cannot be questioned. In direct contrast to the norm, Rieslings from the Clare Valley are remarkably elegant and delicate in structure, with perfumed aromatics and tight, acid driven palates. Conversely, the Eden Valley Rieslings are rich and robust in flavour and texture, with punchy aromatics and bold fruit flavour to balance the generous weight and density inherent to the 2025 vintage in this region. Sure to delight Rieslingfreaks right out of the gates, the 2025 vintage is one of undeniable precocity and unique appeal.