



## MURDOCH HILL

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# Murdoch Hill 2019 'The Rocket' Chardonnay

**Winemaker:** Michael Downer

**Grape(s):** Chardonnay

**GI:** Adelaide Hills (Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia)

**Site(s):** A selection of sites in Piccadilly Valley and Lobethal districts

**Vintage notes:** 2019 gave little but concentrated clean fruit. With average spring rainfall and a very dry summer, several heat-waves near harvest resulted in early picking. Importantly, cold nights through out February and March retained brightness to the fruit profile and high natural acidity.

**Vineyard notes:** From a selection of vineyards, predominately from a high-altitude vineyard in the Piccadilly Valley, the remaining fruit is sourced from the Lobethal District and Kenton Valley. These are mature vines with a mix of clones, Bernard C76, C95 & C96 with I10VI, G9V7 and Mendoza clones. The elevation (450-550m) in this cool climate is coupled with a range of aspects for naturally high acidity.

**Winemaking:** The hand-picked grapes were part whole berry and whole bunch pressed. Native-yeast fermentation in older French oak. Partial malolactic fermentation was allowed with a small amount of lees stirring to add complexity and depth whilst being careful to keep the wine focused on the vineyards and not the winemaking. Combination of new and used French oak elevage.

**Closure:** Stelvin

**ABV:** 13.5%

**LEGEND tasting notes:** A driven, elegant wine, showing trademark Adelaide Hills natural acidity and purity. The nose displays an element of reduction – gun flint, matchstick – that supports a robust fruit and mineral profile. Lemon aspen (a floral native citrus), lilies, lime curd, and toasted bunya bunya nut (a native pine nut) add serious complexity on the palate. Weighty and powerful with a tense core of acidity driving immense length.

**Points:** 97 Points (Suckling)