



## MURDOCH HILL

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# Murdoch Hill 2019 'The Surrey' Pinot Meunier

**Winemaker:** Michael Downer

**Grape(s):** Pinot Meunier

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

**Site(s):** Single vineyard in Piccadilly Valley

**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:** A high altitude vineyard in the Piccadilly Valley of the Adelaide Hills, the pinot meunier vines were planted in 1996. A northwest aspect gives plenty of sunshine required to express this grape varietal to its full potential. These vines stand at 525m above sea level, taking a few degrees edge off the summer heat with very cool night temperatures, retaining natural acidity.

**Winemaking:** Small batch open fermenters with wild spontaneous ferments. 40% whole bunch inclusion. Maturation in barrique and puncheons, with 20% new Austrian Stockinger oak for 6 months.

**Closure:** Stelvin

**ABV:** 12.5%

**LEGEND tasting notes:** An expressive and vibrant nose of red fruits – riberry (a native tart berry), rhubarb, and cranberry – with some underlying savory elements from whole bunch usage. The palate is silky and supple, inherently drinkable yet complex and long. Red fruits continue on palate, with notes of bush tomato, cinnamon myrtle, and flower stalks adding complexity.

**Label:** Each single vineyard wine is named after a horse-drawn carriage (Michael's grandfather was an avid collector). The Surrey takes its name from a popular carriage, a good choice for people moving up to six passengers, its rigid frame and open sides make for a solid ride with a feeling of freedom.

**Points:** 94 Points (Suckling)