

Murdoch Hill 2018 'The Landau' Syrah



MURDOCH HILL

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Winemaker: Michael Downer

Grape(s): Syrah

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

Site(s): Estate vineyard

Vintage notes: The growing season experienced variable weather with good subsoil moisture from late winter rains. Summer experienced some warm to hot periods, this was always followed with cooler condition to keep healthy canopies and protect the bunches. During veraison this trend continued, leading to excellent flavor development with picking decisions critical for capturing natural acidity with depth of fruit.

Vineyard notes: The Murdoch Hill vineyard is situated in the cool climate Adelaide Hills, near the township of Oakbank, in an undulating valley 420m in elevation. The soil structure is predominately sandy loam over clay, with varying levels of ironstone, quartz and schist rock. These vines are cane pruned with vertical shoot positioning (VSP) with extensive shoot thinning, canopy trimming and bunch thinning to control the yield. The syrah for Landau is grown on a predominately east-facing slope, avoiding the harsh afternoon sun.

Winemaking: Minimal winemaking influence is practiced to ensure the characters of the vineyard thrive, with varying levels of whole bunches and whole berries included in the small 1-ton open ferments. Oak maturation is kept to a minimum with older French oak used for a period of 9-10 months.

Closure: Stelvin

ABV: 13%

Tasting notes: Varietally-correct syrah on a soft and suppl, yet powerful, body. Red and purple fruits of Davidson plum (a tart native plum), boysenberry, and black cherry. This wine is briary, filled with white pepper and kangaroo leather. Medium weight, with a silky texture, pepper, spice, and game. Open knit, complex, and highly drinkable.

Label: Each single vineyard wine is named after a horse-drawn carriage (Michael's grandfather was an avid collector). The Landau takes its name from a very special carriage with facing seats and often a low shell to give maximum visibility of the occupants and their clothing, a popular choice for royalty.

Points: 96 Points (Suckling)