



## MURDOCH HILL

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# Murdoch Hill 2021 'Ridley Pinot x Three'

**Winemaker:** Michael Downer

**Grape(s):** 75% Pinot Noir, 20% Pinot Meunier, 5% Pinot Gris

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

**Site(s):** Single vineyard in Piccadilly Valley (Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier) and Macclesfield (Pinot Gris)

**Vintage notes:** The 2021 vintage has been celebrated after a more difficult 2020 in the Hills. Some early season rain set up the vintage for even flowering. Temperatures never spiked, allowing for a slow, even, long growing season that is being recognized as one of the best in recent memory for quantity and quality.

**Vineyard notes:** A high altitude vineyard in the Piccadilly Valley of the Adelaide Hills, the pinot meunier and pinot noir vines were planted in 1996. A northwest aspect gives plenty of sunshine required to express these grapes to their 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:** Hand-picked and fermented with wild yeast. The components were fermented separately (around 30% whole bunches were used in the pinot noir ferment), and the final blend was matured in older barriques for six months.

**Closure:** Stelvin

**ABV:** 12.5%

**Winery tasting notes:** The way Downer sees it, the meunier brings brightness, the gris texture and spice, and the pinot noir ties it all together with fresh red fruits, line, and length. Just shy of medium-bodied, expect a joyous mix of dark cherry, plum skin and hints of violet. The palate has an appealing cherry-like juiciness, balanced by mouth-watering acidity and gentle powdery tannins.

**Label:** Each artisan series wine is named after a horse-drawn carriage (Michael's grandfather was an avid collector).