



## MURDOCH HILL

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# Murdoch Hill 2020 '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

**Vintage notes:** Overall 2020 has produced some outstanding fruit, although not without with challenges. An extremely dry winter and spring, coupled with poor flowering conditions, gave low vigor vines with an extremely low crop. Fortunately, moderate rain events in mid and late January refreshed the vines and set them up for veraison. This period leading into harvest was textbook cool Adelaide Hills conditions and with the low yields gave rise to concentrated flavors and high natural acidity.

**Vineyard notes:** From a selection of vineyards in the high-altitude Piccadilly Valley. These are mature vines with a mix of clones, Bernard C76, C95 & C96 with I10VI, G9V7 and Mendoza. 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 elege.

**Closure:** Stelvin

**ABV:** 12.5%

**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.