



## Murdoch Hill 2021 'The Tilbury' Chardonnay

**Winemaker:** Michael Downer

**Grape(s):** Chardonnay

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

**Site(s):** A selection of vineyards in Piccadilly Valley, Lobethal District & Kenton Valley

**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:** 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. 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. Elevage in a mixture of old and new French oak in varying formats.

**Closure:** Stelvin **ABV:** 13%

**LEGEND tasting notes:** Lifted aromatics of desert lime (a pithy native citrus), white flowers, and flinty reduction. The palate adds stuffing and body to these aromatics, and fills out with flavors of toasted bunya bunya nut (a native pine nut), green apple, and white peach. Oak gives scope and reduction without contributing much in the way of flavor. Vibrant acid, lively and complex.

**Label:** Each single vineyard wine is named after a horse-drawn carriage (Michael's grandfather was an avid collector). The Tilbury takes its name from an open carriage with large wheels, making it a light, fast and dangerous carriage with an elaborate suspension system for a softer ride.

**Scores:** 96 Points (Suckling)

## MURDOCH HILL

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