

YALUMBA

"The Virgilius" Eden Valley Viognier 1999

Virgilius (70-19BC). Considered the greatest of the Roman poets, Virgilius' patron was the celebrated first Emperor of Rome, Augustus. Virgilius' works include the 'Eclogues' or 'Bucolics', celebrating the charm of rural life and the 'Georgics' an agricultural poem which includes references to grape growing. His magnum opus, 'The Aeneid', was published posthumously. A literary masterpiece, this epic poem's influence continues through to modern times.

The Yalumba Wine Company has pioneered the development of Viognier in Australia. The evolution of Yalumba's pre-eminent white wine - "The Virgilius" is the culmination of 20 years of work with this demanding Rhone variety. Yalumba began planting Viognier in 1980 which was the first commercial planting of the variety in Australia.

Yalumba 'The Virgilius' 1999 is pale gold in colour with lovely green highlights. Intense aromas of apricot nectar, freshly sliced white peaches, lifted spice and lychees are complemented by rich stone fruit flavours and a long citrus finish.

WINEMAKING / VITICULTURE

The grapes for the 1999 Virgilius were sourced from the original vines planted in 1980 on the Vaughan's vineyard in the Eden Valley. The warm, dry 1999 season enabled the grapes to achieve high sugars and intense flavours, creating opulence. The juice was fermented in French hogsheads, a small percentage new, the balance well matured from previous vintages. A portion of the wine was allowed to undergo partial malolactic fermentation, and all stayed on yeast lees, in barrel, for nine months. Both malolactic fermentation and batonnage further heighten the palate weight, complexity and flavour generosity.

WINEMAKER PROFILE

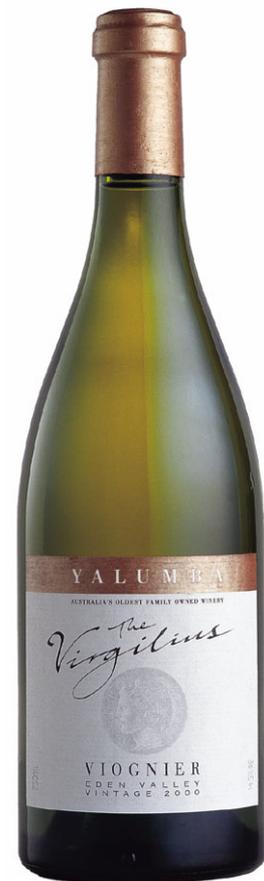
Named 1999 Barossa Winemaker of the Year and nominated for the 2000 Qantas/Wine Magazine Winemaker of the Year Award, Louisa Rose is one of Australia's most acclaimed up-and-coming young winemakers. As Yalumba's white winemaker, Louisa is responsible for all the white wines in the Yalumba portfolio. In particular, she has achieved widespread recognition for her work with Viognier.

PRESS REVIEWS / AWARDS

Current Wine Show results as at February 2001: 2 Gold, 2 Silver, 3 Bronze medals

'93 points ... each release of Yalumba's Viognier sees it step a little closer to the highly perfumed, heady wonders of Condrieu on the Rhone'
The Advertiser Top 100 wines of 2000

'For a taste of Australian viognier at its very best, keep your eyes out for 2000 Virgilius. Take note that most of the 1999 Virgilius was grabbed from the shelves almost as soon as it arrived, so you'll have to be quick on the draw.' Robert Joseph, The Sunday Telegraph (London), 11 February 2001



The Virgilius

Vintage Information

Vintage:	1999
Region:	Eden Valley, SA
Winemaker:	Louisa Rose
Harvested:	19 April 1999
Oak treatment:	Fermented and matured in older French oak hogsheads & barriques
Alc/Vol:	14.5 %
Total Acid:	5.8 g/L
pH:	3.38

