

Y A L U M B A

The Virgilius Eden Valley Viognier 2001

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.



WINE MAKING / VITICULTURE

Yalumba 'The Virgilius' 2001 is pale gold in colour with green highlights. The nose shows intense aromas of white peaches, apricots with slight musky nuances. Lifted ginger spice is layered on the palate with mineral texture and complex white stone fruit flavours.

The 2000/2001 growing season in the Eden Valley was a season where everything went right. Much needed 2000 winter and spring rains filled the soils with water, and the vines started their growing season in perfect conditions. Hand picked grapes were whole-bunch pressed directly to barrels, and the juice handled with controlled oxidation. The wine was fermented in mature French oak barrels using naturally occurring yeast indigenous to the vineyard. This "wild" ferment has contributed layers of richness and complexity to the wine with fine textures and flavours. After fermentation the wine was aged on lees with regular batonnage for ten months to further heighten the palate weight and increase the complexity and flavour generosity. At blending, only the finest barrels were chosen.

WINEMAKER PROFILE

After considerable experience and achieving widespread recognition for her work with Riesling and Viognier, Louisa is one of Australia's most talented winemakers. Named 1999 Barossa Winemaker of the Year and nominated for the 2000 Qantas/Wine Magazine Winemaker of the Year Award, Louisa commenced as an Australian Wine Show Judge in 1997. She is now heavily involved in judging at capital city and international Wine Shows, as well as promoting the Barossa region. As Yalumba's Senior White Winemaker, Louisa is responsible for nearly all white wines in the Yalumba portfolio.

PRESS REVIEWS / AWARDS

"Virgilius is the most concentrated and highest quality, more gunpowdery, flinty and restrained, with great intensity and length."
Huon Hooke, The Sydney Morning Herald (Australia), 25th June 2002

Named a 'World-Class' Viognier by Australian Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine (April 2002)

VINTAGE INFORMATION

Vintage	2001
Region	Eden Valley
Winemaker	Louisa Rose
Harvested	March 2001
Oak Treatment	Fermented and matured for 10 months in 5% new French oak barriques, balance in mature French oak hogsheads.
Alc/Vol	14.5%
Total Acid	6 g/L
pH	3.45
Cellaring	3 - 4 years

