

# YALUMBA

## The Virgilius Eden Valley Viognier 2003

*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.*

*Yalumba has pioneered the development of Viognier in Australia and began the first commercial planting of the variety here in 1980. Yalumba's pre-eminent white wine, The Virgilius is the culmination of 20 years of work with this demanding Rhône variety.*



### WINEMAKING / VITICULTURE

A combination of seasonal changes produced an early vintage with elements perfect for the ripening of flavours and sugars in the grapes. In summary, 2003 will be remembered as one of the great white vintages in Eden Valley.

Hand-picked grapes were whole-bunch pressed directly to barrels and the juice was handled with passive oxidation. The use of "wild" or "feral" yeasts, which naturally occur in the environment of the vineyard, during fermentation helped develop the wine. Each yeast plays a small and subtly different part, creating layers of richness, complexity, fine textures and flavours. After fermentation, the wine was aged on lees with regular stirring for nine months to further heighten palate weight and increase complexity and flavour. Only the finest barrels were then chosen for blending.

Sealed in Stelvin screw-cap for the first time, Yalumba The Virgilius Viognier 2003 is pale gold in colour with green highlights. The nose presents intense aromas of rose water, white peaches, apricots and slight musk nuances. Lifted ginger spice is layered on the palate with mineral texture and complex apricots and white stone fruit flavours. The trademark Viognier lusciousness is clearly evident, which is unctuous and complex while at the same time shows restraint which should ensure good cellaring. The Virgilius is at its best with food and complements a wide range of flavours.

### WINEMAKER PROFILE

After considerable experience and achieving widespread recognition for her work with Riesling and Viognier, Louisa Rose 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 at Yalumba.

### VINTAGE INFORMATION

<b>Vintage</b>	2003
<b>Region</b>	Eden Valley
<b>Winemaker</b>	Louisa Rose
<b>Harvested</b>	March & April 2003
<b>Oak Treatment</b>	Nine months in new French oak barriques (4%), balance in mature French oak barriques & hogsheads
<b>Alc/Vol</b>	14.5%
<b>Total Acid</b>	6.3 g/L
<b>pH</b>	3.47
<b>Residual Sugar</b>	1.77 g/L
<b>Cellaring</b>	At least 3-4 years

