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KYM TEUSNER • WINEMAKER

## EMPRESS

### 2024 RIESLING

The Barossa Valley is home to the oldest and some of the finest Shiraz vineyards in the world. However, someone 'up there' must be really looking out for us Barossa winemakers, because right next door we have the Eden Valley – the birthplace of many of Australia's supreme dry Rieslings. If Shiraz is the big, rich and bold 'King' of the Barossa Valley, then surely Riesling must be the strong, sensual and desirable 'Empress' of the Eden Valley.

We're lucky enough to work with a fantastic and dedicated vigneron whose vineyard is located merely a stone's throw from the Eden Valley township itself. With a South Easterly aspect, the vineyard is perched on swale of free draining and ancient granitic sand at an elevation of 420m. The unique combination of site, soil and old vines leads to very low yields of intensely flavoured fruit. The cooler conditions (especially at night) associated with the higher altitudes lead to later ripening and greater retention of natural acidity.

### VINTAGE

The 2024 Barossa vintage saw a mix of wet and dry conditions. Spring rains saturated the soils, but cool, damp weather into December slowed vine growth and affected flowering, resulting in a below-average set across many blocks. January brought moderate temperatures, followed by one of the driest ripening periods in recent history. The extended warm, mild weather and low yields allowed steady ripening with delicate flavour development. Riesling thrived in the warm 'Indian Summer,' rewarding our patience at harvest with pristine fruit, a bright citrus acid line, and a fine talc-like texture typical of this vineyard. The result is a wine of stunning intensity, and we owe a special thanks to our 'mate up on the hill' for his efforts. It's a fantastic drink – and I must thank my sister Lee for bringing the essence of The Empress (strong, sensual, desirable) to life on the label.

### TASTING

Harvested in the cool of the morning, we handle our Riesling in the winery a little different to most, with the free-run juice pressed off oxidatively and fermented with some solids at cool temperatures in the pursuit of added flavour and subtle texture. The inherent fruit intensity and fine natural acidity drives great fruit purity, and once your palate negotiates the bright citrus flavours, the wine glides across the midpalate with an energetic gait showing hints of mineral 'wet slate', lemon blossom, white flowers and talc.

<b>VARIETY</b>	100% Riesling
<b>SUB-REGIONS</b>	Eden Valley
<b>HARVEST</b>	27th & 29th February
<b>ANALYSIS</b>	pH 3.04 TA 6.3 g/L 12.1% ALC/VOL
<b>CELLAR</b>	2-5 years