

YALUMBA

The Virgilius Eden Valley Viognier 2002

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 Rhone variety.



WINEMAKING / VITICULTURE

The grapes were hand picked and whole-bunch pressed directly to barrels, with the juice handled through controlled oxidation. The wine was fermented in mostly mature French oak barrels by a population of naturally occurring and differing species of yeasts, indigenous to the vineyard. These "wild" or "feral" ferments each played a small, subtly different part in the development of this wine, creating layers of richness and complexity. After fermentation, the wine was aged on lees for nine months to further heighten palate weight and flavour.

Pale gold in colour with green highlights, Yalumba The Virgilius 2002 offers intense aromas of rose water, white peaches and apricots, with slight musk nuances. Lifted ginger spice is layered on the palate with a mineral texture and complex white stone fruit flavours. The trademark Viognier lushness is clearly evident, giving complexity whilst showing restraint, ensuring good cellaring for at least 3-4 years. This 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.

PRESS REVIEWS / AWARDS

"92 points - Yalumba's top selection of viognier, from vines planted in 1980, gives a blast of aromatics without being overly floral. Instead it focuses on scents of kumquat, lemongrass and white pepper, the grape's floral notes riding gently underneath. ..."

Wine & Spirits (USA), January/February 2004

VINTAGE INFORMATION

Vintage	2002
Region	Eden Valley
Winemaker	Louisa Rose
Harvested	19th April to 10th May
Oak Treatment	Fermented & matured for 9 months in new French oak barriques (3.5%), balance in mature French oak hogsheads
Alc/Vol	14.5%
Total Acid	5.8 g/L
pH	3.47
Residual Sugar	2.17 g/L
Cellaring	3-4 years

