

## The Empress Riesling, Teusner Wines

Barossa Valley, Australia



<b>Product code</b>	TEo8ZZWC
<b>Grapes</b>	100% Riesling
<b>Country</b>	Australia
<b>ABV%</b>	12.4%
<b>Case Size</b>	6
<b>Closure Style</b>	Screw Cap
<b>Producer</b>	
<b>Vintage</b>	2023



Vegan



Vegetarian

*Teusner*

### Producer

A company born from a chat over a pint in 2001. Kym Teusner and Mick Page, overheard a couple of grape growers talking about grubbing up their 85 year old Grenache vines. The guys stepped up and offered the growers four times what they'd be paid for the crop before. This stance is the cornerstone of their business, treating growers with the respect they deserve. Kym and Mick make the kind of wines they like to drink, we liked them too when we visited back in 2016. The wines are full of character, edged with the old vine complexities that we love. It's exciting, after so many years of keeping in touch with progress at the winery that we finally have the wines in Ireland.

### Tasting Notes

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 mid palate with an energetic gait showing hints of mineral 'wet slate', lemon blossom, white flowers and talc.

### Viticulture

The 2023 Vintage saw cooler conditions prevail and the steady ripening period resulted in the latest harvest date of our Riesling this decade. The small crop maintained its pristine condition and was harvested with an abundance of flavour and a stunning citrus acid line. The fine talc like quality, which we find synonymous with this vineyard, presents in harmony with the sheer fruit intensity and we thank our 'mate up on the hill' for his efforts. It's a great drink...and I have to say thanks to my sister Lee for bringing the essence of The Empress (strong, sensual, desirable) to life on the front

label.

## Winemaking

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 a 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.

## Awards

92pts - Dave Brookes - Halliday Wine Companion. Sourced from a single block of 40-year-old vines at 420m elevation in the Eden Valley. Pale straw with pure lime and green apple fruits along with hints of Christmas lily, Epsom salts, crushed stone, white flowers and a whiff of fennel. The palate swells with sapid, limey fruit before focussing and powering through to a finish showing excellent fruit purity, ample drive and detail. 2 Feb 2023