

THE DRY DAM

Riesling 2026

McLaren Vale, Adelaide Hills, Riesling (100%)

The Name

In 1992 our neighbours built a dam that remained empty, as it was a dry winter. The next year it rained but the dam was jinxed and didn't hold water. A dry dam is bad news for our neighbouring farmers, but promises good results for our old, dry-grown, low-yielding vines.

The Vintage

Winter rainfall was above average, with a particularly wet November delivering 121mm of rain, though unusually cool spring temperatures delayed flowering and fruit set in Chardonnay and Shiraz. Most other varieties produced average yields. A dry summer, interrupted by small March rainfall events, was followed by favourable ripening conditions aside from one extreme heat day that caused varying levels of sunburn. Harvest began three and a half weeks later than the previous year. White wines show excellent varietal character, while the reds are slightly less rich than last year but display outstanding varietal expression. Shiraz is the standout, Cabernet is very strong, and Grenache ranges from powerful to more elegant. Overall, the vintage is shaping up to be of exceptional quality.

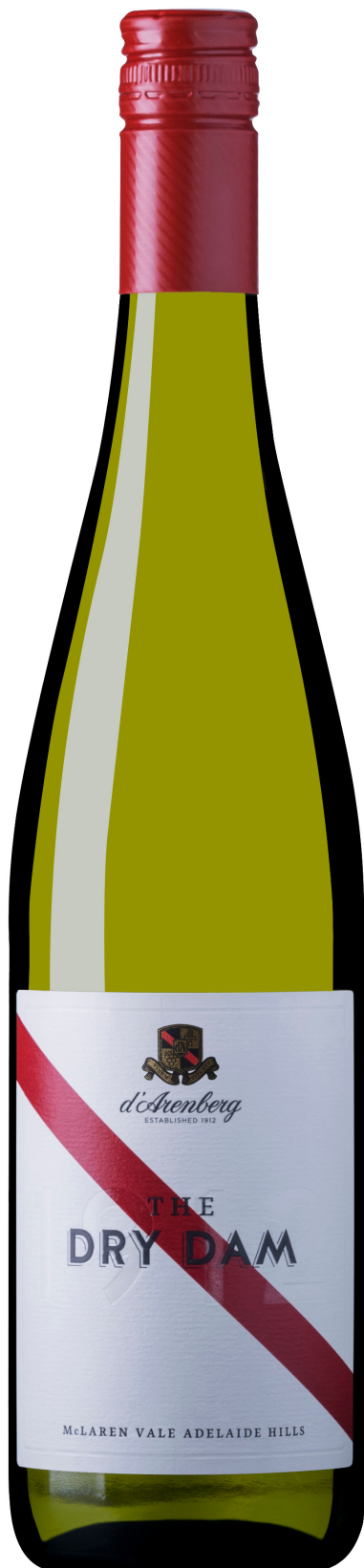
The Winemaking

Small batches of grapes are gently crushed, chilled, and then basket pressed. The fermentation was long and cool, and was stopped before reaching total dryness to ensure that residual sugar remains to balance the high mineral acidity.

The Characteristics

Lifted aromas of fresh lime, lemon blossom and crisp Granny Smith apple, with hints of finger lime and a delicate floral perfume.

The palate is vibrant and beautifully balanced, bursting with juicy lime, lemon zest and crunchy green apple, supported by subtle pear and citrus blossom notes. Bright natural acidity provides precision and length, perfectly balancing the gentle fruit sweetness that defines this off-dry style. The finish is clean, refreshing and mineral, leaving the palate ready for another sip.



Harvest dates	16 Feb - 25 Mar	Alcohol	11%
Residual sugar	15 g/l	Titrateable acid	7.8
pH	2.83		
Chief Winemaker	Chester Osborn	Senior Winemaker	Jack Walton