

2011 Lost Watch
Hand Picked Riesling



Region: Adelaide Hills
RRP: \$18.50
Release Date: July 2011
Alc: 12% **pH:** 2.9
Distribution: On-premise, fine wine retail and Cellar Door
Winemakers: Paul Smith & Paul Carpenter

2011 Hiding Champion
Sauvignon Blanc



Region: Adelaide Hills
RRP: \$22.50
Release Date: July 2011
Alc: 13% **pH:** 3.2
Distribution: On-premise, fine wine retail and Cellar Door
Winemakers: Paul Smith & Paul Carpenter

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Tough Love Leads to Top Whites from Adelaide Hills

If it's true that grape-growers deserve medals for their resilience in arm-wrestling Mother Nature each season, then our friends in the Adelaide Hills ran away with the "Gold" in 2011.

After a long, cool growing season the winemakers were salivating with the prospect of harvest as the vineyard fruit developed depth of colour and flavour, without the hurry-up that an Adelaide summer heatwave can bring. Then the rain came.

And so began a round-the-clock vigil of the precious riesling and sauvignon blanc blocks in the upper reaches of the Adelaide Hills. Tough calls were made and some fruit hit the ground, deemed unfit for selection in the sodden conditions.

Hard decisions taken in the vineyard can reap rewards in the winery and Wirra Wirra Winemaker Paul Smith – with a riesling pedigree that encompasses Grosset, Petaluma and Knapstein – has seen the payoff with the release of the 2011 Lost Watch Riesling and the 2011 Hiding Champion Sauvignon Blanc.

"Hand-picking the fruit for these wines," said Paul "allowed us to be very specific about what we took in. It enabled us to side-step the impact of a challenging vintage and produce wines that are bright and lively in the glass and full of varietal character."

The 2011 'Lost Watch' Adelaide Hills Riesling takes its name from Wirra Wirra icon Greg Trott's habit of being late for almost everything. In 1947 Trott lost the only watch he ever owned – a gift from his father. From that day forth he never bothered with a time-piece, preferring to rely on the shadows of the sun. As a result he was notoriously tardy for appointments; sometimes hours, days and occasionally weeks.

The 'Lost Watch' Riesling shows a vibrant aroma of fresh limes and apples with attractive florals and apple blossom. Bright flavours of pure lemon and lime fruits dance across the palate balanced with a mouth watering mineral acidity.

Another of Trott's quirks - and he had a few - was to disappear when the more pressing or mundane matters of the day arose. Mobile phone set to "Off" he would find solace in a long lunch, good book, or even a spot of unscheduled international travel. This led to the Wirra Wirra tribe declaring that he was in training to be the Olympic "Hiding Champion", a moniker that stuck until his passing in 2005.

The 2011 "Hiding Champion" Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc is not a wine to run from, showcasing pristine fruit from the Yandra vineyard of Jeff and Ann Gower in Lenswood. It has a brilliant clarity with just the faintest green tinge and aromas of pungent nettle, lemon spice, fresh herbs, leaf and nuances of sweet tropical fruits. The palate rides on a wave of lively natural acid but is well supported by sweet soft fruits of grapefruit, gooseberry and touches of passion fruit and leafy spice.

Both wines are tailor made for summer drinking and Paul Smith has already trialled the Hiding Champion alongside Prawn Vietnamese cold rolls with fresh lime juice and hoisin dipping sauce and suggests the Lost Watch Riesling would complement a fine plate of Kingfish Sashimi.