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Wirra Wirra sends 2007 The 12th Man Chardonnay into bat...

A few years ago Wirra Wirra headed to the (Adelaide) Hills to source fruit from what is widely considered one of Australia's premium chardonnay producing regions. A few vintages and a little winemaking experimentation later – and this chardonnay has built up quite a following; and as befits a wine that is meticulously crafted in limited quantities, it has become a struggle to meet demand from one vintage to the next.

The 2007 vintage was hand selected from vineyard sites, Gower and Scary Gully in Lenswood, which at 450m above sea level boasts one of the coolest aspects in the Hills. It was fermented with high levels of solids in French oak barriques to best preserve the regional fruit characters and enhance the longevity of the wine.

Not averse to taking a walk on the wild side, senior winemaker Samantha Connew has used 100% indigenous yeast with all of the individual components, "A programme of fortnightly lees stirring and further oak maturation was undertaken to add complexity and palate structure. Each barrique was then tasted to determine which components would form the final blend, and we're pretty excited with the result," said Connew.

The result is a subtle, yet complex chardonnay. The nose displays typical Adelaide Hills aromas of stone fruit and nashi pear, with a bran meal lees note, supported by spicy vanilla bean oak. The palate is tightly driven, having undergone no malolactic fermentation to retain acidity, supporting classic, cool climate, preserved lemon characters. It shows excellent fruit intensity and flavour, with some butterscotch barrel ferment elements, finishing with a fine acid spine.

From vintage 2006, this chardonnay was christened *The 12th Man* in memory of Wirra Wirra's late, great Greg Trott, whose devotion to the game of cricket was almost religious. Like all the wines in this collection, the story behind the name is shared on the label in the style that has made Wirra Wirra one of the iconic McLaren Vale producers.

Wirra Wirra 2007 The 12th Man Adelaide Hills Chardonnay – RRP \$24.50, 13% alcohol

12th Man Chardonnay is available at Vintage Cellars and can also be found at leading restaurants.

For further information, bottle shots etc please contact:

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