



Wirra Wirra releases 2010 The 12th Man Chardonnay

April 2011

2010 will not go down as one of Australian cricket's more celebrated years. There were too many losses to comprehend, but at least one good thing came out of 2010 – an all new The 12th Man.

Long before the first The 12th Man was bottled in 2005, our late founder Greg Trott had accepted that his childhood dream of donning the baggy green for his country might only come about if he were carrying the drinks - as the The 12th Man.

Unlike many of the grand ideas that Trott realised in his lifetime, this one never came to fruition. So we took matters into our own hands by immortalising The 12th Man as our top Chardonnay and bringing to life a cartoon drawn by his old friend Ian Robertson that now sits on this label and also, as it happens, adorns a wall in the men's washroom at the winery . . .

The Adelaide Hills, had a stellar 2010 after a couple of "challenging" vintages according to our senior winemaker Paul Smith.

"The 12th Man Chardonnay is testament to an ideal vintage in the Adelaide Hills. The fruit was ripened and harvested in great conditions, and fortunately for us, wasn't exposed to any heat spikes or unfavourable weather during this period.

This allowed for a good even ripening of the fruit, and encouraged complexity, depth and balance in the wine, with a lovely fresh acid structure," says Smith.

To capture the characters that make Adelaide Hills chardonnay unique, the wine is a blend of fruit from three vineyards, each carefully selected for its unique *terroir*. From the Gower vineyard we seek texture and aroma, while intensity is harnessed from the Rosback vineyard. Both are nicely balanced by the finer fruit flavours from Scarey Gully – which despite its name is actually a lovely vineyard.

The grapes were whole bunch pressed and the ferment undertaken by 100% wild indigenous yeasts – the Barmy Army of the *saccharomyces* world.

Fermented in the finest French oak, this wine is intensely flavoured on the palate, with a grapefruit zest further developing into nutty notes, toasty oak and lees character. The palate is balanced between acid tightness and textural fruit flavour.

On the nose there are aromatics marrying peach flesh, almond kernel and brioche, with subtle notes of spice and freshly spun cream adding further intrigue.

Smith says "We are really excited about this wine. We feel it's the closest we've come to realising our vision for Adelaide Hills chardonnay. It sits nicely with the new generation of Australian chardonnay that winemakers from the cooler regions are creating as a showcase for this classic variety."

2010 Wirra Wirra The 12th Man Adelaide Hills Chardonnay – RRP \$31.50

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