Ministry of Clouds

A crystalline Clare Riesling shaped by Watervale's terra rossa over limestone and cooler, rockier Penwortham–lithe structure, lime-driven purity, and a chalky, mouth-watering finish that speaks directly of site.

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Alcohol :12,50 %

Composition: 100% Riesling

Clare Valley Riesling 2023

Clare Valley, Australia

Region and Vineyards

Clare Valley lies around 125 km north of Adelaide at 300-500 m elevation, its warm days tempered by cool nights and afternoon breezes—conditions that slow ripening and preserve acidity. This broad diurnal range, along with low growing-season rainfall, produces Rieslings of striking **lime**-accented precision and ageworthiness.

This bottling is anchored in Watervale's famed "Golden Mile", where **terra rossa** red loam over limestone produces a more aromatic, floral expression, complemented by a smaller share from Penwortham's lean, rocky slopes that ripen later and bring steelier mineral drive. The 2023 harvest followed a cool, La Niña-influenced season; picking was staggered to capture natural acidity and detail.

Winemaking

The wine is **100% Riesling**. Fruit was harvested in multiple passes over more than three weeks, pressed and settled naturally. Pressings were retained and sent to oak for wild fermentation; the core of the blend was cool-fermented in stainless steel to lock in citrus purity.

It then rested **four months on fine lees**, building silky mid-palate texture without obscuring line and freshness. The finished wine sits at **12.5% vol.**, bottled **August 2023**; expect a decade of graceful evolution in bottle—shifting toward toast, honey and kerosene nuance while maintaining its taut, stony frame.

Tasting Notes

- **Color** Pale straw with green glints; youthful and brilliant.
- **Aroma** Lime leaf, lemon pith and kaffir lime, with lavender, bath salts and a cool mineral thread.
- **Palate** Bone-dry and tensile: crystalline citrus, chalk-dust texture and a fine, taut acid line carry through a long, saline close.

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Did you know?

Clare Valley producers famously spearheaded Australia's modern screwcap movement in **2000**, pooling orders and bottling Riesling under Stelvin—an inflection point that accelerated global acceptance of the closure.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Prawn har gow & steamed dumplings**: salinity and citrus slice through delicate prawn sweetness; high acidity refreshes between bites.
- **Oysters with finger-lime mignonette**: briny oyster liquor echoes the wine's mineral line; lime pearls mirror its citrus precision.
- **Thai green papaya salad**: crunchy texture and lime-chilli zip meet Riesling's zest and cut; the dry finish reins in heat.
- **Goat's cheese & herb tart**: acidity lifts the creamy filling while chalky texture complements flaky pastry.

Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2021)

I loved the white wines in this Ministry of Clouds release that I tasted through this year. They are wines of bracing acidity, poise and focus that are thrilling and delicious in equal measure. The fruit for this 2021 Clare Valley Riesling was handpicked from two areas within Clare—Watervale (75% of the blend, from three blocks) and the balance Polish Hill. The fruit from this latter portion is planted on contour rows, the vines grown on single stakes. The fruit was whole-bunch pressed, cold-settled and the product of an aggressive press cut: the heart only. It fermented and matured all in stainless steel. There is scintillating acidity here, which was expected but really impressive nonetheless—very pure. In the mouth, there are notes of lemon drops, pithy phenolics and plush lime flesh, with a gentle green apple skin grip through the finish.