

Terre à Terre

An exceptional vintage for Wrattonbully, the Terre à Terre Crayères Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc reveals the vibrancy of the region's terroir, with a carefully handled oak influence and fresh, expressive fruit character that elevates this classic Sauvignon Blanc to new heights.

EST. 2004
TERRE à TERRE

97
James Halliday



Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Sauvignon Blanc

Crayères Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2021

Adelaide Hills, Australia

Region and Vineyards

The **Crayères Vineyard** is located in the **Wrattonbully** wine region, an emerging area on South Australia's Limestone Coast known for its limestone-rich soils and cool climate, perfect for growing Sauvignon Blanc. The vineyard itself is perched on a north-south limestone ridge, which offers both exceptional drainage and access to deep reserves of moisture, allowing the vines to thrive even in challenging vintages. This vineyard is named after the **chalk cellars (Crayères)** found in **Champagne**, reflecting the French roots of **Xavier Bizot**, co-owner of Terre à Terre.

The vineyard benefits from **Terra Rossa top-soil**, a red clay-loam that is characteristic of the region, fostering excellent nutrient uptake and adding depth to the resulting wines. The vines, planted in **2004**, are densely spaced (4,444 vines per hectare), a higher-than-average planting density for the area. This higher density encourages better canopy management and fruit exposure, contributing to the refined and structured nature of this wine. The Crayères Vineyard's low fruiting wire, set only 50 cm above the ground, helps concentrate ripeness in this cool-climate region.

Winemaking

The **Terre à Terre Crayères Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc** is the thirteenth release from this renowned site. The fruit was **hand-harvested** ensuring optimal freshness and vibrancy. After harvest, the grapes were **whole bunch pressed**, a gentle method to extract juice without imparting excessive bitterness or tannin from the skins.

The must was then fermented in **large, old oak demi-muids** (600-liter barrels), which lend subtle oak influence while preserving the pure expression of the fruit. The use of old oak allows for a nuanced texture and complexity without overpowering the varietal characteristics of the Sauvignon Blanc. The slow fermentation in these large barrels further develops the wine's depth, creating a unique expression of this grape. This vintage is marked by cooler-than-average post-veraison temperatures, which allowed for slow, even ripening, resulting in concentrated flavors and fresh acidity.

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Pale straw with greenish highlights, brilliant and clear.
- **Aroma**: A complex bouquet of **citrus fruits** such as lemon and lime, alongside **stone fruits** like white peach, intermingled with subtle notes of **fresh herbs**, **chalky minerality**, and a touch of **vanilla** from the oak.
- **Palate**: The wine is vibrant and refreshing, showcasing a balance of crisp **acidity** and ripe **stone fruit flavors**. There are hints of **lemongrass**, **grapefruit**, and **green apple**, along with an underlying **mineral texture** from the vineyard's limestone soils. The oak aging adds a delicate creaminess to the mid-palate, while the finish is long, with a lingering saline and citrus zest character.

Did you know?

The **Crayères Vineyard** gets its name from the famous **Champagne region**, where the term refers to deep chalk cellars used for aging wine. This vineyard's rich limestone soils echo the terroir of Champagne, contributing to the unique mineral-driven style of the Sauvignon Blanc produced here. **Xavier Bizot**, the co-owner, is the son of **Jean-Michel Bizot**, who played a key role in the history of **Champagne Bollinger**.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Goat Cheese Tart**: The fresh acidity and citrus flavors of the wine enhance the tangy, creamy character of the cheese, making for a harmonious pairing.
- **Grilled Asparagus with Hollandaise Sauce**: The wine's crisp acidity and subtle oak notes balance the richness of the sauce while complementing the green, vegetal flavors of the asparagus.
- **Sea Bass with Lemon and Herbs**: The wine's citrus and mineral profile perfectly matches the delicate flavors of the fish, while the herbal notes in both the wine and dish create a complementary flavor synergy.
- **Oysters with a Shallot Vinaigrette**: The saline minerality of the wine mirrors the briny character of the oysters, while its acidity cuts through the richness, cleansing the palate.

97 James Halliday

James Halliday (JH) : 97 Points (2021)

Hand-picked fruit from the Crayeres vineyard, whole-bunch pressed, cold settled in stainless steel for 3 weeks, fermented in large-format French oak. Matured on full lees with no bâtonnage. Settled for a month in tank prior to bottling. This is a marvel. It has all of the sophistication and line of the Down to Earth Sauvignon Blanc, but it works within a startlingly streamlined framework of phenolics. This is slippery and supple in texture, with rivulets of flavour that ripple and course through the mouth long after the wine has left. We are lucky to have the quality of sauvignon blanc that we do here in Australia and this is one of the very best. An amazing display of class.

EST. 2004

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Crayères Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2021

Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2021)

Australia has an excellent handle on the Bordeaux Blanc style: i.e., oaked Sauvignon Blanc (which may or may not include Semillon, Muscadelle and any number of other aromatic whites). To oversimplify the landscape: Margaret River in Western Australia produces a concentrated-fruit, pungent style that ages slowly and gracefully for up to two decades and beyond. There's a standout producer in the Yarra Valley who produces one of Australia's finest examples, and then there is Terre a Terre in Wrattonbully. Hand-picked from the Crayeres Vineyard, the fruit for the 2021 Crayeres Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc is whole-bunch pressed, cold-settled in stainless steel for three weeks and fermented in eight 600-liter French demi-muids; then the wine matured on full lees with no bâtonnage. This is a svelte, streamlined example of the style; it excels at conveying its aerodynamic framework of phenolics in the mouth, and it is all about the texture. We are lucky to have the quality of Sauvignon Blanc that we do here in Australia, and this is one of the very best.

Decanter (DCT) : 94 Points (2021)

More in common with oak-aged Sancerre than classic New World Sauvignon, this builds from the mid-palate with its texture and insinuating depth, as opposed to dazzling, upfront aromatics. Seamless layers of white peach, ripe grapefruit, perfumed green apple, dried herbs, pastis, marrowfat peas and earth unfold on the long, lingering palate, with savoury lees and supple lime acidity. Fermented and lees-aged in old French oak demi-muids.