

A Hunter Valley benchmark, this Semillon dazzles with pristine citrus fruit, purity of style, and remarkable longevity, confirming its place as one of Australia's most celebrated white wines.

TYRRELL'S





Alcohol:11,30 %

Composition: 100% Sémillon

VAT 1 Semillon 2017

Hunter Valley, Australia

Region and Vineyards

The Hunter Valley, located in New South Wales, is one of Australia's oldest and most iconic wine regions, renowned worldwide for its **unique expression of Semillon**. Unlike many regions where the grape is blended or overshadowed, here it is celebrated as a varietal wine capable of remarkable transformation over decades. The area's warm climate, moderated by cooling breezes from the Pacific Ocean, creates conditions that allow for early harvesting at low alcohol while retaining striking acidity.

The vineyards that supply Tyrrell's VAT 1 are particularly historic. The fruit comes exclusively from the oldest and best blocks, planted as early as 1923 and **dry grown on their own roots**. These mature vines, deeply anchored in sandy alluvial soils, consistently produce fruit of exceptional concentration and balance. The 2017 vintage benefited from well-timed winter and spring rains followed by warm, dry conditions, resulting in fruit harvested in near perfect condition with excellent natural acidity and flavour intensity.

Winemaking

Tyrrell's philosophy with Semillon is one of purity and restraint, allowing the vineyard to speak without adornment. All fruit for the 2017 VAT 1 was **hand harvested and carefully sorted** to ensure pristine quality. Fermentation took place in stainless steel tanks under cool conditions, preserving the delicate citrus-driven aromatics of the grape. The wine spent only a minimal time on fine lees, enhancing textural finesse without obscuring freshness.

Importantly, **no oak was used for fermentation or maturation**, a hallmark of Hunter Valley Semillon production. Bottled early, on 28 June 2017, this approach captures youthful vibrancy and sets the stage for long-term bottle ageing, during which the wine will evolve to reveal complex toasty, honeyed and lanolin characters so highly prized in mature examples.





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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Pale lemon with green highlights, brilliant and youthful.
- **Aroma**: Lifted lime zest and citrus blossom, with hints of lemongrass and subtle mineral undertones.
- **Palate**: Seamless and tightly focused, showing a powerful citrus fruit core balanced by soft acidity and an elegant, almost chalky texture. Long, persistent finish with purity and poise.

Did you know?

Hunter Valley Semillon, often called "Australia's unique gift to the wine world", is one of the few white wines globally capable of evolving gracefully for decades without oak. With age, it transforms dramatically from a zesty citrus-driven wine into a golden, toasty and complex style—yet always at **low alcohol levels around 11%**, as in this 2017 vintage.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Oysters with lime** the wine's piercing citrus and saline edge amplifies the brininess of fresh shellfish.
- **Thai green curry** its crisp acidity and light body cut through spice and coconut richness.
- **Grilled whiting** delicate fish lifted by the wine's lemon zest precision.
- Goat cheese salad the fresh acidity balances the tangy creaminess of the cheese.



Robert Parker (RP): 97 Points (2017)

The 2017 Vat 1 Semillon represents an excellent Semillon vintage in the Hunter Valley, and it is here that we start to see the majesty of aged Semillon begin to unfold. Sun-drenched hay, caper brine, wisps of black tea, crushed shells, a whiff of Szechuan peppercorn, lemongrass, green apples and cold buttered toast. In the mouth, the wine is texturally silky (with a weighty fall, like heavy gauge silk) and lingering. It moves with momentum rather than outright speed (like watching a whale shark swim: they might move slowly, but they swim fast), and it has a clarity and freshness in the mouth that is astounding. This is a super wine, an evocative wine, an imaginative wine. It's a wine on the up, with miles to go before it sleeps...Rating: 97+



James Halliday (JH): 96 Points (2017)

While I enjoy the open-knit approaches to crafting semillon across the region, this remains the bulletproof benchmark. Even here, there have been endeavours toward greater accessibility, with some lees inflection. A meld of the finest dry-grown plots conferring a carapace of talc, sandy mineral and effusive acidity that is, to be frank, indomitable. Descriptives, ineffable. The length, justifiable. Buy this.





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VAT 1 Semillon 2017



Wine Enthusiast (WE): 95 Points (2017)

2017 was hailed as a great vintage in the Hunter Valley, but it was also hot and dry, so this is a richer, more advanced bottling than the previous vintage. Lucid and concentrated, it's unmistakably Hunter Sem, with its woolly, beeswax, lemon pith and lamp oil appeal. A mineral, flinty note adds interest. There's a laser-like line of acidity on the slippery palate and a flavor richness that flows to the long finish.



