

Tyrrell's

Tyrrell's VAT 1 Semillon 2018 captures Hunter Valley's most iconic white-wine voice: pure citrus, sleek texture, and quiet intensity, drawn from venerable dry-grown vines and bottled early for pristine, cellar-bound precision.

TYRRELL'S

FAMILY WINEMAKERS EST 1858

96



Alcohol :12,00 %

Composition: 100% Sémillon

VAT 1 Semillon 2019

Hunter Valley, Australia

Region and Vineyards

Hunter Valley, in New South Wales, is one of Australia's historic fine-wine regions, celebrated for dry, low-alcohol Semillon that trades overt fruitiness for **tension, texture, and longevity**. Warm days are tempered by maritime influence and cloud cover patterns that can preserve delicacy even in riper years, while the region's classic early-picked approach protects freshness and shape.

VAT 1 Semillon is sourced only from Tyrrell's oldest and best parcels, with key blocks **dry-grown** and planted on their own roots, dating back to **1923**. In 2018, a dry, warm season (noted as comparable to 2003) reduced yields below average, concentrating flavour and giving a naturally softer acid feel, while retaining the clear citrus profile that defines the style.

Winemaking

This is a pure, traditional Hunter Valley Semillon interpretation: **100% Semillon**, harvested by hand and sorted carefully in the vineyard. Fermentation is carried out relatively cool in **stainless steel** to protect delicate aromatics and preserve the wine's clean, citrus-led line.

There is **no oak fermentation or maturation**, keeping the palate unmasked and precise. After fermentation, the wine spends only a minimal time on yeast lees, then is bottled early to lock in freshness. For the 2018 vintage, Tyrrell's notes a robust fruit profile and softer acids, reflected in the wine's approachable texture while still offering the structure to age gracefully. Alcohol is 12.0%, with pH 3.10 and total acidity 6.59 g/L.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Pale straw with a bright, youthful glint.
- **Aroma:** Delicate citrus at first, then lemon curd, ripe lemon zest and hints of honeysuckle, with a subtle waxy nuance beginning to emerge.
- **Palate:** Medium-weight yet tightly drawn, showing density of citrus fruit and a gently waxy, textured mid-palate. Softer-feeling acidity (for VAT 1) brings early drinkability, while the finish stays clean, stony and persistent.

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Did you know?

The name "vat" is a nod to the large oak vessels historically used by Tyrrell's forebears, even though modern VAT 1 Semillon is made without oak influence. The number refers to the original cask associated with that house style, preserving a living link to Tyrrell's early cellar history.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Sydney rock oysters (or other briny oysters):** The wine's citrus drive and saline, stony finish amplifies freshness and cleans the palate beautifully.
- **Grilled prawns with lemon and herbs:** Bright citrus flavours echo the dish, while the wine's subtle waxy texture matches the prawn's sweetness.
- **Pan-seared snapper with beurre blanc (lightly done):** The mid-palate density stands up to gentle richness, staying precise thanks to the dry, clean finish.
- **Roast chicken with thyme and preserved lemon:** Herbal lift and lemon accents lock into the wine's aromatics, while the texture makes the pairing feel seamless.

96

Robert Parker (RP) : 96 Points (2019)

As of this tasting at the end of 2025, the 2019 Vat 1 Semillon is nearly seven years from its harvest. The wine is yet to fully develop the characteristic and desirable toastiness that is endemic to great, older Hunter Valley Semillon, and yet there are whiffs of it. And it is good. There are notes of creamed honey on toast, pressed linen, lemon pith, ocean spray, crushed shells and wheat. In the mouth, the wine is featherlight, intense and long through the finish. This is very good indeed. 10.5% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.

97 James Halliday

James Halliday (JH) : 97 Points (2018)

At 6 years of age, the wine is beginning to bloom, displaying attractive ripe lemon, citrus curd and honeysuckle aromas. These characters are in the riper spectrum for this wine. The palate is on the generous side, but it still has the clarity and style one expects from Vat 1. There is no hiding the fact that '18 was a hot year. Consequently, this will be an earlier-drinking Vat 1, but no less enjoyable. That is the thing about iconic wines; the season may change, but their inherent qualities remain constant.

97 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 97 Points (2018)

A very complete aged semillon with sliced lemon, heather, green mango, and crushed stone aromas that follow through to a full body with a crunchy palate and cement and marble notes. Tight at the end. Lightly nutty. Plenty of flavor. The vines were planted in 1923. Drink now. Screw cap.