



Reillys

CLARE VALLEY

What's next for Reillys Wines

2015 was an incredible year for Reillys, receiving numerous prestigious accolades, a highlight of which being 5 star winery rating and Dark Horse nomination from James Halliday.

To add to this, we received the prestigious "Br John May Wine of Provenance Trophy" for the Clare Valley's best wine over a decade for our Dry Land Cabernet Sauvignon at the 2015 Clare Valley Wine Show. The Clare Valley is renowned for Riesling with many believing Riesling would always win this accolade. And yet, Reillys' current release 2012 Dry Land Cabernet coupled with the 2005 and 2002 vintages outshone the best that the Clare Valley had on offer, including The Armagh Shiraz from Jim Barry Wines. The judges commented on how there remained rich varietal fruit character in the 2002 Cabernet.

On acceptance of this great honour Reillys owner and winemaker Justin Ardill thanked his good friend and long standing grower Robert Smyth acknowledging the essence of the winning wine is in the vineyard: *"The unique terroir and the low yielding vines combine to produce a rich full bodied style. In the winery we aim to extract full fruit and tannin characters with maturation for 2 years in fine French oak adding depth and complexity. The wines are intense in their youth but with age, they mellow and soften without losing their varietal authenticity"*.

This respected award followed the 2015 Royal Adelaide Wine Show, where our flagship white wine, Reillys Watervale Riesling, enjoyed continued success for it's 2015 vintage, winning a gold medal. This wine had also received a gold medal for the 2014 vintage at the 2014 Royal Adelaide Wine Show meaning back to back gold medals for 2014/2015. Since it's first vintage in 1994, this wine has won an incredible 41 medals plus the prestigious Mick Knappstein Trophy at the Clare Valley Wine Show in 2004. To add to the Riesling success, Reillys second tier 2014 Barking Mad Riesling was awarded a gold medal at the 2015 Canberra International Riesling Challenge.

So the questions lies, what's next Reillys Wines?

With our premium 2014 Dry Land reds being bottled in the coming weeks, winemaker Justin Ardill has focused on creating lower alcohol, more approachable and refined wines by toning down the ripeness of the fruit. The ever popular Dry Land Shiraz shows fine French Oak with pepper and spice, with the creation of the RCV Shiraz Pressings label being reserved for the big, bold Shiraz.

Justin plans to continue developing Reillys range of medium bodied reds with the estate grown Sangiovese and Tempranillo being well received by consumers and wine judges alike. Sagrantino vines have been planted in our Watervale vineyard with the first vintage likely in 2019.

The Clare Valley, like most of SA, has received some scorching weather already this summer which will bring Vintage 2016 forward, perhaps as early as late January. However, the leaf canopies are looking good and there has been no sun damage to the berries so we are looking forward to yet another successful (and hot) vintage.