

# HELM WINES

## Premium Riesling 2016

## Black label

This is the 10th vintage of the Premium range of Rieslings, a terroir wine from Helm Wines using the most premium fruit from that vintage. The wine is only released under the Premium black label if it reaches a quality benchmark. Since 2004 this style has collected 14 trophies at regional and capital city wine shows, and rave reviews from Australia's most respected wine critics.

### The Grapes

Our 40<sup>th</sup> vintage was marked with a superb season. After one of the coldest winters in 15 years, October was dry and the hottest on record. November saw heavy rain and flowering mid month—the earliest in our records. December/January was warm with good rains from storms. Vineyards looked a picture with heavy crops and no disease. Harvest started mid-February—the earliest in 40 years. Unusual heatwaves meant harvesting in the cool of the morning and winery refrigeration worked overtime. Like 2015 the varieties ripened close together with some vineyards harvesting Riesling and red grapes in the same week.

Only the best parcels of fruit are selected from our vineyards for our Premium Riesling. This year our top quality fruit came exclusively from our estate vineyard—specifically our 8 year old 1832 block (so called as we have used the Pewsey Vale Riesling clone, believed to be a part of the James Busby vine collection of 1832). The vineyard contains a mixture of brown to red (iron oxide) clay soils interspersed with quartz, shale and sandstone with a reasonable depth of friable soil over clay. Plant fossils have been found in the vineyard. This soil is perfect for quality vine growth with good drainage encouraging deep root penetration.

### The Wine

Elegant and refined cool-climate Riesling. Mid-palate displays intense lime and apple flavours underpinned with that indescribable mineral flavour. A refreshing dry finish. Will continue to blossom over time.

### Serve with

A versatile wine that will complement a variety of cuisines, particularly Asian cuisine and seafood.

### Cellar for

25 to 50 years, although if you prefer fresh young Rieslings drink it over the next 5 years.

### Key accolades

- **James Halliday:** 96 points. "The most intense and penetrating of the four Riesling releases in 2016. Unsweetened lime juice/pith fruit nestles in a cradle of calm but firm acidity. Length is the inevitable consequence of the balance and intensity."
- **Chris Shanahan:** 6 July 2016, Wine of the week. "What a delicate, racy, thrilling riesling it is, with intense, citric varietal flavours, gripped by taut, refreshing acidity."



### Technical Information

RRP	\$52
Vintage	2016
Winemaker	Ken Helm
Region	Canberra District
Harvested	February 2016
Bottled	July 2016
Alcohol	11.50%
Residual sugar	3gm/litre