

PIKES

CLARE VALLEY

Established 1984

2025 'THE MERLE' RESERVE RIESLING

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

The Clare Valley endured one of its most challenging vintages, with the second driest year on record. A wet July was followed by a dry, warm spring and summer. On 17 September, frost hit our Polish Hill vineyard just after budburst. Fortunately, the early timing of the frost allowed our vines to respond with healthy shoot growth and a smaller canopy. Lower yields and careful irrigation led to full ripeness with superb flavour concentration.

WINEMAKING INFORMATION

Named after the family matriarch, 'The Merle' is selected from the best parcels of Riesling from our Polish Hill River Estate. This wine is intended to showcase the purest expression our estate grown Riesling from the vintage.

Fruit Source: Estate Grown

Variety: Riesling

Vintage: 2025

Region: Polish Hill River, Clare Valley

Fermentation: 100% free run juice, fermented with neutral yeast in stainless steel, 4 months on lees post fermentation.

Alc/Vol 11.5% **RS** 2.9 g/L

pH 2.85 **TA** 8.3 g/L

TASTING NOTES

Appearance: Brilliant clarity, water white, slight green hues.

Aroma: Highly aromatic, bursting with lime zest, granny smith apple, and citrus blossom. With time in the glass, the zest evolves into lime cordial, while emerging mineral notes of wet river stone and talc speak clearly of place and provenance.

Palate: Pure, concentrated lime juice is lifted by a spritz of pink grapefruit. Complex layers of ground ginger and talc-like minerality intertwine with a fine acid backbone, delivering superb balance, drive, and length.

Summary: This release is a testament to the potential for excellence even in challenging vintages. It showcases concentration, poise, and length, while remaining immediately approachable. With cellaring potential measured in decades rather than years, this is a wine we're incredibly proud of. Incredibly versatile, it pairs beautifully with freshly shucked Pacific oysters.

ABOUT PIKES

Pikes Wines is a family-founded winery, established in 1984 when the Pike family began crafting wine together in Polish Hill River. Our unique site features tough acidic soils over ancient Kadlunga Slate, 650 million years old. Our wines are elegant and approachable, shaped by the land, years of viticultural experience, and a hands-off winemaking style.

Pikes Tasting Room

233 Polish Hill Road, Sevenhill, South Australia 5453

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Tasting Room: open daily, from 10am - 4pm

Slate Restaurant: Lunch from 12pm Thu - Sun & Dinner from 6pm Sat

