



CRAWFORD RIVER

2023 NEKTAR RIESLING

"The heady perfume of Botrytis in a small part of the vineyard in 2023 was outstanding. I felt it warranted a sweet style being made".

Belinda Thomson, Vigneron.

Season

2023 was a tricky growing season. We had a very wet start to Spring and late flowering which then turned into a very dry December/January. The high rainfall in September made access to the vineyard difficult for grass cutting and spraying, meaning at one stage we had wild oats higher than the canopy! Just as we were starting to feel on top of everything in the vineyard, severe hailstorms on the 3/4th of February caused major damage in several blocks and obliterated the Cab Franc block - a high for those days was 11°C. Very good rainfall in February saved the day and meant canopy size increased, as did vine health and we gained enough canopy to ripen the small amount of fruit we had. In spite of the season, fruit quality was solid across the board, with pretty flavours and lively acidity.

Vineyard

Only produced in years when Botrytis visits the vineyard in sufficient concentration and quantity, this wine is truly special. Made in tiny volumes with painstaking attention to detail, it is a unique offering we consider a privilege to produce.

Winery

Picked in mid May, the fruit was whole cluster pressed after a partial foot stomp left overnight to macerate. Gently pressed and fermented in 100% stainless steel. Inoculated with cultured yeast and cool fermented. Racked and cooled when perceived balance was reached.



Winemakers Notes

The perfume in this wine is fabulous, evoking baked quince, rich orange blossom and pink crab apple on the nose. This vintage feels closer to an Auslese style than a Beerenauslese, given the seamless integration of sugar balance. It somehow has effortless weight, aligning pretty aromatics alongside sugar balance and poised acidity. As it opens in the glass, it unveils and unfurls its hidden layers. Delectable, fresh, alive. While the wine will develop further complexity with age, it is a pleasure to drink now.
Bottled September 2023. Screwcap.