



Maxwell  
of McLaren Vale

# 2011 Little Demon Verdelho

TASTING NOTE



## THE GRAPE

Verdelho is a white wine grape grown throughout Portugal, though most associated with the island of Madeira. The grape has traditionally been one of the most popular grapes planted on the small island of Madeira since vines were first planted there in the 15th century. In smaller quantities, it is grown in the Galicia region of Spain where it is called Verdello. The grape can also be found in Argentina, and has been successful in the vineyards of Australia, mostly in the Hunter Valley region (NSW), the Swan Valley (WA), and of course the McLaren Vale and Langhorne Creek regions of South Australia. Australian versions of Verdelho are noted for their intense flavours with hints of lime and honeysuckle and the oily texture that the wines can get after some aging.

In the vineyard, Verdelho is a moderately vigorous vine that produces small bunches of small oval berries with a high skin to juice ratio. The skins of the berry can be thick and taste "hard" when eaten. The grapes ripen early, for example typically in the first weeks of February each year in South Australia, meaning it is one of the first grapes crushed during each vintage.

## THE NAME "*Little Demon*"

In 1871 Scottish scientist James Clerk Maxwell proposed a thought experiment, that involved a hypothetical creature acting as a gatekeeper between two compartments to sort gas molecules according to their speed. At first glance, such a system could potentially create energy from nothing... theoretically impossible given the laws of physics. This hypothetical gatekeeper became known to physicists as Maxwell's Little Demon, and has stirred debate in the science community for more than a century.

## COLOUR AND AROMA<sup>1</sup>

Brilliant pale straw colour. Aromas of freshly cut pear, lemon peel and red apple abound, alongside a lifted floral note.

## PALATE<sup>1</sup>

Bright citrus flavours illuminate the palate, filling the mouth with flavour. Made as an unwooded and dry style, the result is particularly elegant and persistent, and with a very clean finish creates a delicious, crisp wine.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

Varietal composition: Verdelho 100%

Region (GI): McLaren Vale

Alcohol: 12.9% alc./vol.

Winemaker: Alexia Roberts

<sup>1</sup>Colour, aroma and palate assessed at the time of commercial release.