



## SILKMAN SEMILLON

### HUNTER VALLEY, AUSTRALIA 2016

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*"I will happily declare that the world's greatest unrecognized dry white wine today is Hunter Valley Sémillon" Matt Kramer, Wine Spectator, July 2016*

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#### REGION

Hunter Valley, NSW

#### VINEYARD(S)

A few dry grown sites around Pokolbin

#### SOIL

Alluvial sands

#### ELEVATION

300 ft

#### FARMING

Sustainable, dry grown

#### HARVEST DATE

February 2, 2017

#### FERMENTATION

Neutral yeast, Stainless steel.

#### ELEVAGE

Stainless steel, 5 months

#### ALC, TA, PH

10.5%

It was only a matter of time until Liz Silkman (nee Jackson) and her husband Shaun played their own hand of wines in the Hunter Valley. The young couple are both born and bred locals, having made wine and managed wineries in the area for over 10 years. Shaun manages production at his fathers First Creek Wines, whilst Liz is the chief winemaker. They haven't let go of their day jobs, but in their spare time have recently put their own name on some wines, with the small batch 'Silkman' wines first released on the 2013 vintage.

The Silkman's don't yet own any vineyards but with their experience in the region they know where the best fruit for each variety lie. This allows Liz to take a hands off approach in the cellar. Liz works with small parcels of dry grown, sandy vineyards that produce balanced and pure fruit that needs no alterations.

To paraphrase Liz, on the winemaking side, from an excerpt in Wine & Spirits Magazine... "Everybody fights for the sandy creek bed," a small slice of the Hunter Valley near Pokolbin. "It's 46°C in the shade in summer," she continues. Everyone adds acid. But the best sites [like those flat, sandy old creek bed sites] hold their acids." This is the first level of her Semillon's and it has the merest pinch of sugar—three to four grams — to round, soften and lift the grape's shy aromatics from the start. The dry-farmed Blackberry Vineyard is the Silkman top-shelf Semillon, one of those great, sandy sites, which used to make it's way into Tyrrell's benchmark Vat 1 Semillon before the Silkman's scooped the contract (in amiable fashion).

#### PRESS & AWARDS

91 pts - Robert Parker

91 pts - James Suckling

#### LINKS

<http://gourmettravellerwine.com>



Hudson Wine Brokers