

# THISTLEDOWN



## Cloud Cuckoo Land Nero D'Avola

### Montepulciano Aglianico 2022

#### The Riverland

Cloud Cuckoo Land is an imaginary state of absurd over optimism – something that we at Wild & Wilder are often accused of. Indeed, not so long ago, if we'd said that we wanted to make high quality, low intervention wines made from Mediterranean varieties in the Riverland, Cloud Cuckoo land is exactly where people would have said that we lived! But, we believe that anything is possible if you don't see the obstacles, you challenge the "received wisdom" and resist the naysayers. Cloud Cuckoo Land is for everyone who feels the same.

#### Tasting

*An unusual blend of varieties but this wine has the characteristic energy you'd expect from Italian reds. Deliciously succulent with smoky, dark cherry fruit, subtle spice and a mouth-watering finish.*

#### Viticulture

All varieties are trellised and a mix of rootstocks and own roots on the characteristic red, sandy loams of the Riverland

#### Winemaking

Wild fermented with the Montepulciano and Aglianico co-fermented and Nero separately, with gentle hand plunging twice daily before pressing and ageing in older oak for 3 months prior to bottling.



#### Wine Analysis

**Varietal:** 47% Nero D'Avola, 22% Montepulciano, 17% Aglianico, 14% Grenache

**Alcohol:** 14%

**Total Acidity:** 5.44 g/l

**pH:** 3.69

**Residual Sugar:** <2g/l

**SO2:** 67 mg/l



#### Vintage Conditions

2022 vintage followed in much the same vein as the much lauded 2021, though for the Riverland, yields were down because of a massive hail event in November 2021. Once past that hurdle, the season was characterised by regular moderate rainfall, friendly temperatures and an elongated ripening period which allowed for an even spread of fruit over the harvesting period. The wines are characterised by balanced, aromatic fruit profiles, crisp acids and a capacity for both youthful exuberance and ageing.