

Allandale Winery ★★★★★

ADDRESS	132 Lovedale Road, Lovedale, NSW 2321
REGION	Hunter Valley
TELEPHONE	(02) 4990 4526
WEBSITE	www.allandalewinery.com.au
OPEN	Mon-Sat 9–5, Sun 10-5
WINEMAKER	Bill Sneddon
ESTABLISHED	1978
CASES	20 000

Owners Wally and Judith Atallah have overseen the growth of Allandale from a small cellar door operation to a sound business. Allandale has developed a reputation for its Chardonnay, but offers a broad range of wines of consistently good quality, including red wines variously sourced from the Hilltops, Orange and Mudgee. Exports to the UK, Norway, Fiji, Singapore and Malaysia.

JAMES HALLIDAY TASTING NOTES




Hunter Valley Semillon 2004 Glowing, almost iridescent green-gold; the screwcap has done its job to perfection, allowing the wine to develop just a touch of honey to join the citrus flavours, without a hint of tiredness. Now or in another 10 years. Screwcap.

11.5% alc. **Rating 94 Drink 2020 \$30 Date Tasted Dec 09**

Matthew Hunter Valley Shiraz 2007 Bright, clear crimson-purple; a high-flavoured and lively wine, with intense blackberry and plum fruit offset by very well integrated American oak and balanced acidity; has excellent development potential. Value+. Screwcap.

14% alc. **Rating 94 Drink 2022 \$20 Date Tasted Jan 09**

Hunter Valley Semillon 2003  Bright green-yellow; a wine that has won awards from the outset, getting better as it develops; while at the upper end of the alcohol scale for Hunter semillon, has the requisite acidity for yet further development, although its mouthfeel cannot be better than it is now. Trophy Best Mature White NSW Wine Awards '09. Screwcap.

12% alc. **Rating 94 Drink 2012 \$26 Date Tasted Nov 09**



Hunter Valley Chardonnay 2002 Medium green-yellow, slightly developed given the age of the wine, but the hue is good. Complex barrel ferment aromas do not feed too strongly into the palate, which has excellent intensity and length.

Rating 92 Drink 2007 Date Tasted Mar 03

McLaren Vale Shiraz 1998 Medium to full purple-red; good, cherry varietal character and a nice touch of gout de terroir on the bouquet. There is excellent fruit weight and richness on the palate with sweet black cherry fruit and a touch of regional chocolate. Subtle oak; great potential for bottle development.


Rating 92 Drink 2015 Date Tasted Sep 99

Hunter Valley Semillon 2002 Excellent bright green tints; tight, herb/grass/citrus flavours; bright finish.

Rating 92 Drink 2010 Date Tasted Dec 03



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Hunter Valley Chardonnay 2008  Very well made; has a mix of nectarine, white peach and citrus fruit given further complexity by the barrel fermentation of one of six different components that were ultimately blended to make this wine. Screwcap.

13.5% alc. **Rating 92 Drink 2013 \$19 Date Tasted Dec 09**

Orange Sauvignon Blanc 2006 Light straw-green; totally clean tropical/passionfruit aromas; an attractive, generous style à la Marlborough, finishing with a touch of sweetness. Screwcap.

12.5% alc. **Rating 91 Drink 2008 Release Price \$18 Date Tasted Sep 06**

Matthew Hunter Valley Shiraz 2003 Very good colour; medium-bodied; ripe, not jammy, blackberry and blood plum fruit; good balance and length; oak and acidity likewise. Quality cork.

Rating 91 Drink 2015 Release Price \$22 Date Tasted Mar 05

Matthew Hunter Valley Shiraz 2000 Medium red-purple; a regional mix of berry, earth and spice on the bouquet is complexed by partial barrel fermentation in French and American oak. A powerful, complex but well balanced wine on the palate which cries out for five years or more in the cellar, as all the makings are there (including 14° alcohol).

Rating 91 Drink 2015 Date Tasted Jan 02

Hunter Valley Chardonnay 1998 Medium to full yellow-green; rich and complex barrel-ferment oak aromas are wound around tangy fruit on the bouquet. Overall, a very good example of uninhibited use of clove/spice oak because the fruit is there to support it.

Rating 90 Drink 2000 Date Tasted Feb 99

Hunter Valley Semillon 2000 Light to medium yellow-green; a clean, fresh bouquet with gentle lemon citrus aromas opens with similarly fresh fruit, the palate then lengthened and tightened, lingering, mineral acidity. Trophy Boutique Winemakers Show 2001.

Rating 90 Drink 2010 Date Tasted Jan 02

Hunter Valley Semillon 2003 Still in its absolute infancy; lemongrass and hints of spicy minerality; good focus and length. Screwcap.

Rating 90 Drink 2012 Release Price \$17 Date Tasted Mar 05

Hunter Valley Chardonnay 2004 Nice wine, quite complex and powerful, but with a slightly broken line. Not sweet, however.

Rating 90 Drink 2010 Release Price \$18 Date Tasted Aug 06

Hunter Valley Chardonnay 1996 Medium yellow-green; a clean, powerful and complex bouquet with tangy citrus fruit and well balanced and integrated oak. The palate has lively fruit with clean ripe fruit flavours; the oak has been particularly well handled, evident but not intrusive.

Rating 90 Drink 2000 Date Tasted Jan 97

Hunter Valley Semillon 1997 Medium yellow-green; a penetrating and full bouquet with lemony/herbaceous varietal character is supported by an attractive mineral undertone. The palate has excellent flavour and length, lively and fresh with lemony characters. Good length and balance.

Rating 90 Drink 2007 Date Tasted Jan 98



Hunter Valley Semillon 2001 Glowing light yellow-green; tasted after a series of wines with Stelvin closures, the difference quite remarkable, with a pseudo-oak aroma coming from the cork. The palate is fresh and long, but.... Cork.

Rating 89 Drink 2010 Release Price \$17 Date Tasted Mar 06

Hilltops Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 Medium to full purple-red; a bouquet of toasty/cherry oak and blackberry fruit is faithfully reflected on the palate, where those two components are in balance; distinctly firm finish, and will reward patience.

Rating 89 Drink 2010 Date Tasted Jan 02

Hunter Valley Verdelho 2009 Distinctly tangy overtones to both bouquet and palate that add life and length to

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a good verdelho. Will age well. Screwcap.
13.5% alc. **Rating 89 Drink 2014 \$18 Date Tasted Dec 09**

Hunter Valley Chardonnay 2000 Light to medium yellow-green; the clean, moderately intense bouquet shows sophisticated winemaking, with melon/nectarine/fig fruit married with well-balanced and integrated oak. A restrained palate, with melon and fig counterbalanced by touches of toast and cashew, finishing with good acidity.

Rating 89 Drink 2003 Date Tasted Jan 01

Hunter Valley Semillon 2007 Tight and focused lemon sherbet fruit, with hints of dried straw; good texture, but a little lean. Screwcap.

11% alc. **Rating 89 Drink 2015 Release Price \$19 Date Tasted Jan 08**

Hunter Valley Chardonnay 2006 Developed green-gold; extremely rich and complex; partial barrel fermentation adds substantially to the impact of ripe stone fruit flavours. Screwcap.

13.5% alc. **Rating 89 Drink 2009 Release Price \$19 Date Tasted Jun 07**

Orange Sauvignon Blanc 2009 Interesting wine, the grassy bouquet saying one thing, the passionfruit and gooseberry of the palate another; I'm not convinced they mesh sufficiently. Screwcap.

14% alc. **Rating 89 Drink 2011 \$20 Date Tasted Dec 09**

Hunter Valley Chardonnay 2003 Gentle, smooth peachy fruit; matching gently sweet oak; easily accessible. Screwcap.

Rating 88 Drink 2007 Release Price \$18 Date Tasted Mar 05

Hunter Valley Chardonnay 1999 Medium yellow-green; the bouquet shows gentle, tangy barrel-ferment influences which give an attractively bready note to the aromas. The palate is quite complex, with a neatly blended mix of tangy fruit, oak and those slightly bready characters of the bouquet. Has good length.

Rating 88 Drink 2001 Date Tasted Feb 00

Orange Pinot Noir 2008 Obvious colour development in a savoury/forestry/spicy spectrum; has varietal character but needed more fruit. Screwcap.

14% alc. **Rating 87 Drink 2013 \$30 Date Tasted Dec 09**

Hunter Valley Verdelho 2001 Light yellow-green; the moderately intense bouquet has typical fruit salad aromas, characters which flow into the well balanced palate which is in turn enlivened by some lemon/citrus notes; good flavour, and not phenolic. Gold medal Royal Perth Wine Show 2001. Perth loves Verdelho.

Rating 87 Drink 2003 Date Tasted Jan 02

Hunter Valley Semillon 1996 Light yellow-green; typical young semillon aromas in the lemony/herbaceous spectrum lead on to a wine with good length and style; lemony flavours finish with an attractive bite. Will develop well.

Rating 87 Drink 2006 Date Tasted Aug 96



Hunter Valley Verdelho 2005 Full fruit salad; lots of flavour for the addicts (of which I am not one). Screwcap. 14% alc. **Rating 86 Drink 2008 Release Price \$17 Date Tasted Mar 06**

Hilltops Cabernet Sauvignon 2006 Screwcap. 15.5% alc. **Rating 86 Date Tasted Jan 08**

Matthew Hunter Valley Shiraz 1993 Medium red-purple; the American oak influence is very evident, but is well balanced and integrated thanks to the use of barrel fermentation. The palate is elegantly weighted and structured, with the flavours driven, however gently, by vanillin/cedar oak.

Rating 86 Drink 2001 Date Tasted May 95

Hunter Valley Semillon 1998 Light straw-green; the bouquet is clean, of moderate intensity with overtones of herb. The palate shows good varietal character, predominantly grassy but with some citrus and stone fruit flavours.

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Rating 86 Drink 2004 Date Tasted Feb 99

Hunter Valley Semillon 2005 Screwcap.

Rating 86 Drink 2010 Release Price \$17 Date Tasted Aug 05

Matthew Hunter Valley Shiraz 1995 Medium red-purple; abundant, full ripe plum and prune fruit aromas are woven through with generous amounts of soft vanillin oak. The palate is generous and mouthfilling with plenty of ripe fruit, lots of sweet vanillin oak and pleasantly soft tannins.

Rating 86 Drink 2003 Date Tasted Jan 97

Hunter Valley Verdelho 2007 Screwcap.

13.5% alc. **Rating 85 Date Tasted Jan 08**

Hunter Valley Chardonnay 1997 Quite brilliant yellow-green; the sophisticated and clever use of spicy oak does not hide the peach and melon fruit on an attractively complex bouquet. The palate, likewise, shows lots of oak input, with more of that sweet, almost fleshy fruit; does cloy ever so fractionally on the finish.

Rating 85 Drink 2000 Date Tasted Jan 98

Hunter Valley Verdelho 2003

Rating 85 Drink 2005 Date Tasted Dec 03

Hunter Valley Chardonnay 1994 Medium to full yellow-green; a rich and complex bouquet with tangy melon and citrus fruit perfectly interwoven with oak. The palate is tangy and lively, of medium to full weight with grapefruit, fig and melon flavours, and perfectly balanced oak.

Rating 85 Drink 1998 Date Tasted Nov 94

Matthew Hunter Valley Shiraz Viognier 2006 Screwcap.

13% alc. **Rating 85 Date Tasted Jan 08**

Orange Pinot Noir 2007 Screwcap.

12.5% alc. **Rating 85 Date Tasted Jan 08**

Matthew Hunter Valley Shiraz 1994 Light red; sweet vanilla bean oak is the major contributor to the bouquet, while the palate is unusually light-bodied, almost entirely driven by American oak.

Rating 84 Drink 2000 Date Tasted Jan 96



Hunter Valley Verdelho 1999 Light green-yellow; the bouquet has light, tropical fruit salad varietal character; clean and well made with some quite attractive mid-palate weight, and a clean, non-phenolic finish. Good example of the breed.

Rating 83 Drink 2000 Date Tasted Sep 99

Hunter Valley Semillon 1995 Medium yellow-green; the bouquet is firm, with grassy/lemony fruit aromas of medium intensity, and a hint of saddle soap, unusual but not unpleasant. A firm, lively and long wine on the palate, with a nice touch of fruit sweetness on the tip of the tongue as the wine first enters the mouth, and has the structure to age well. Retasted January 1996 and developing surely.

Rating 83 Drink 2005 Date Tasted Jan 96

Hunter Valley Verdelho 2000 Pale straw-green; the bouquet is clean and light, with faint tropical fruit salad aromas, the palate with more of the same, and a clean finish.

Rating 82 Drink 2001 Date Tasted Jan 01



Hunter Valley Chardonnay 1995 Medium to full yellow; a solid wine on the bouquet, with plenty of vanillin oak and some peachy fruit. The oak is a little more forceful on the palate, with the American component there to the fore. Perhaps a little four square, but there is plenty there for immediate drinking.

Rating 79 Drink 1997 Date Tasted Jan 96