



FREEMAN VINEYARDS

Freeman Vineyards is located in the Hilltops region of New South Wales. This specialist family wine company was established in 1999 by viticulturist Dr Brian Freeman, previously professor of Wine Science at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga.

The 175-hectare estate comprises several elevated vineyard blocks located within a radius of 10 kilometres on a 560-meter ridge. This high and cool location and the well-structured free-draining decomposed granite soils are ideally suited to viticulture.

Two varieties that have adapted well to this location are Rondinella and Corvina – the classic Amarone varieties that originate from the Veneto region of northern Italy. Brian Freeman secured just six cuttings of each to establish Australia's only planting of these unique grapes, which he crafts into an Amarone-inspired savoury red wine.

True to Italian tradition a portion of the grapes are dried – conveniently in a neighbour's solar-powered prune dehydrator – and added to the fresh grapes during fermentation. Subsequently, the wine is aged two years in selected old oak barrels to mature the wine rather than impart oak flavour. It is bottle aged for an additional two years before release.

VITICULTURE & WINEMAKING

The 2014 vintage was one of extremes starting with a late October frost that luckily did not affect the safely elevated Altura Vineyard. Then came a mid-summer heatwave that intensified sugars and accelerated ripening. These conditions resulted in both colour and flavour intensity and terrific balance in the fully ripe grapes.

A selection of both varieties was dried slowly for up to 10 days, the desiccated grapes added to the remaining harvest for fermentation. The young wines characterised by very intense tannins were aged separately in old oak barrels for two years, prior to blending and bottling in 2014. Subsequently, the wine was cellared another two years at 14°C to allow the tannins to integrate and enrich the palate.

TASTING NOTES

In a generous glass this mid-weight **FREEMAN Secco 2014** displays attractive enveloping aromas ranging from fresh morello cherries and panforte mingled with undertones of berry compote, typically associated with dried grapes and classic Ripasso-style wines. These traits plus fruit clarity and concentration, help create the lingering approachable palate – savoury, complex and textural with a softer tannin frame and balancing acid, ensuring this wine will continue to evolve for many years yet. Works its elegant captivating charm...

RRP \$40

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