

# TERRE à TERRE DOWN to EARTH DAOSA

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## Down to Earth - Wrattenbully - Sauvignon Blanc 2019

*December 2019*

Terre à Terre is proud to present its eighth release of Down to Earth Sauvignon Blanc from its close-spaced Crayères vineyard in Wrattenbully, South Australia.

Terre à Terre, a French expression meaning Down to Earth, is a small family business run by husband and wife team Xavier Bizot and Lucy Croser. Their vineyard is located next to Tapanappa's Whalebone Vineyard, at the top of a north-south limestone ridge in Wrattenbully, one of Australia's most exciting regions. The Terra Rossa top soil, which is characteristic of the area, is covered in this part of the vineyard by a shallow layer of eolian sands, making it highly suited for Sauvignon Blanc. The vineyard was planted in 2004 on rootstocks at a relatively high density for the area (4,444 vines per hectare), making it one of the closest spaced Sauvignon Blanc vineyards in mainland Australia. The fruiting wire is only 50cm above ground, which is why the local vignerons call the vines the "low vines". The vineyard is cane pruned (*guyot double*) by hand and the fruit is hand-harvested. One more hectare of Sauvignon Blanc was planted on the same spacing in 2013.

2019 was a moderately warm vintage (the ninth warmest since 1968). It was another dry vintage, close to 2016 in terms of average rainfall during the growing season. Good rainfall in December brought welcome relief, but did interfere with flowering and fruit set in the Cabernet Sauvignon, reducing yields. Temperatures post véraison (February and March) were on average, i.e. perfect for the varieties grown in the Crayères Vineyard.

Our Sauvignon Blanc was hand-picked at perfect flavour ripeness on 4th, 5th and 6th of March. Severe bunch thinning kept yields low, concentrating flavour. For the Down to Earth cuvée, part of the fruit was whole bunch pressed and fermented in large oak foudres and demi muids (45%), with the balance of the fruit being crushed, destemmed, and then fermented as cold as possible in stainless steel (55%). This will be our best vintage yet for the Down to Earth Sauvignon Blanc.

The Down to Earth Sauvignon Blanc has not been through malolactic fermentation and the different components were blended early November 2019, before being bottled mid-December 2019 following a light filtration.

The result is a very elegant and ripe white wine with alcohol of 13.5%*ov/v*. The wine does not show any of the green herbaceous characters of the variety, which is our aim. This is very much in line with the previous vintages of the Down to Earth Sauvignon Blanc, but with more power, length and complexity. It demonstrates yet again the exceptional quality of the terroir in our Crayères vineyard site.

Down to Earth is sold to independent retailers around Australia as well as leading restaurants through Terroir Selections ([www.terroir-selections.com.au](http://www.terroir-selections.com.au)).

RRP \$26.00

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