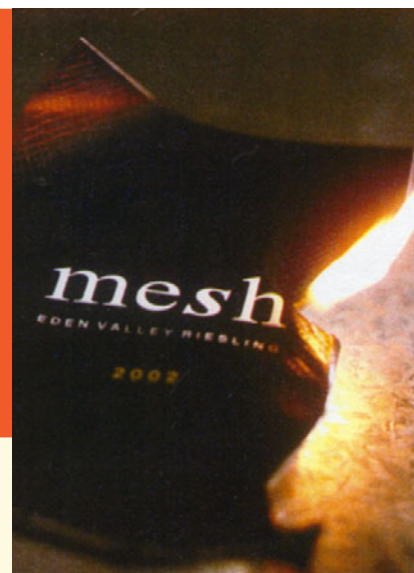


AUSTRALIAN GOURMET TRAVELLER

WINE

October/November 2002

red hot wines



mesh Eden Valley Riesling 2002



Take two Eden Valley vineyards, two of Australia's best wine producers, a good dose of creative tension and a spectacular vintage - and what you get is not a rock-and-roll supergroup but a single wine, single variety new label that was always going to be good but has turned out even better.

The label is called mesh, the variety riesling, the vintage 2002 and the makers are Jeffrey Grosset and Robert Hill Smith. The brief, says Grosset, was "to create the best wine we could, with no budget, no sales targets, no expense spared, just uniqueness and the chance to create a great wine in sight".

It's an ongoing project but the first-up release is inspiring: slatey, gravelly, rich and fresh with all its floral complexity intact - a result that's all the more interesting through the way it was made. Grosset and Hill Smith were allocated the fruit off alternate rows in each of the vineyards and the grapes then pressed and fermented separately at the respective wineries.

The final wine was assembled only after each individual component was assessed blind - the fact that the final blend consists of almost precisely a 50/50 split between the Grosset and Hill Smith results is freakish in its beauty. No matter which way the blending process curled, the vineyards naturally curved their way back to equilibrium in the wine - a fact that makes Grosset look at this marvellous wine with wonder.