

KUMEU RIVER

Estate Chardonnay: New Zealand's Benchmark For Ageability

2007 Estate Chardonnay

Financial Times: "Michael Brajkovich MW of Kumeu River is one of surprisingly few New Zealand winemakers to take Chardonnay seriously. This 2007 Estate bottling is ridiculously good, and mature." *Jancis Robinson, September 13, 2013*

wineryreviewonline: **92 points**: "...marvelous length and finesse. Delivers far more than price suggests." *Michael Apstein, May 31, 2011*

Wine Spectator 2009 Top 100: **92 points, #41**: "New Zealand's iconic producer of Chardonnay...Drink now through 2017." *Harvey Steiman, Dec. 31, 2009-Jan. 15, 2010* / "Bright, tangy and elegant...the finish lingers effortlessly. Drink now through 2017." *Harvey Steiman, November 15, 2009*

eRobertParker.com: **92 points**: "...crisp acid and great concentration, it has a long finish." *Lisa Perrotti-Brown, November 2010*

Wine Enthusiast: **90 points**: "...remains among the finest in New Zealand, beautifully balancing oak and fruit in an intricate ballet...It's full bodied and round...no harsh or discordant notes on the lingering finish." *Joe Czerwinski, July 2010*

The Wine Advocate: **91 points**: "...wonderful nose that has you instantly hooked...capturing the essence of a Meursault...very well balanced, very clean on the entry...great persistency on the finish. Michael Brajkovich MW produced a brilliant array of 2007s. The cooler growing season meant that they harvested one week earlier than 2006 with lower yields and sugar levels, high acidity levels but with greater expression of minerality. If you have never tried these wines, then it is time you see for yourself what New Zealand is capable of. All his Chardonnays can be drunk immediately but do resist temptation and save some bottles to drink over 5-6 years (or more) as they can age beautifully." *Neal Martin, September 2009*

2008 Estate Chardonnay

Wine Spectator 2011 Top 100: **92 points**: "A benchmark for New Zealand Chardonnay..." *December 31, 2011* / "A wonderful balance between crisp, steely notes...and complex flavor nuances on a smooth texture...The finish just goes on and on. Drink now through 2016." *MaryAnn Worobiec, June 30, 2011*

Wine Enthusiast: **91 points, Editors' Choice**: "...the best value in the winery's impressive lineup of 2008 Chardonnays. It shows all of the toasty, leesy notes of the single-vineyard wines...Drink now-2014." *Joe Czerwinski, June 2011*

eRobertParker.com: **91 points**: "...will benefit from 6-12 months in bottle, drinking until 2016+...producing some of New Zealand's greatest Chardonnays, not to mention the world's." *Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW, October 2010*

2009 Estate Chardonnay

jamesuckling.com: **90 points**: "A gorgeous wine...balanced..." *James Suckling, December 28, 2012*

Wine Spectator: **91 points**: "Rich...Drink now through 2016." *MaryAnn Worobiec, June 15, 2012*

eRobertParker.com: **91 points**: "...silken texture...great concentration, crisp acidity and a long toasty finish. Drinking now, it should cellar to 2016+." *Lisa Perrotti-Brown, October 2011*

Estate Chardonnay

jamesuckling.com (video): On a visit to the winery, James Suckling tastes older vintages of Kumeu River, which still have great structure in their age, dispelling the notion that New Zealand wines should always be drunk young. Michael Brajkovich admits that the aging process of his wines is very vineyard dependent, as vineyards also have the ability to age. *December 20, 2012*

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