

KUMEU RIVER



2007 Maté's Vineyard Chardonnay

In 1990, Maté Brajkovich (*below right*) reworked the land at Kumeu River and planted a new vineyard of Chardonnay on the site of the family's original vineyard, purchased in 1944. The first harvest from these new vines was in March 1993, the year following Maté's death. The six-acre vineyard was named Maté's Vineyard in his honor, and the resulting single-vineyard wine was first released in November 1994 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Brajkovich family's arrival in Kumeu. This is Kumeu River's (and arguably, New Zealand's) finest Chardonnay, limited in production, Burgundian in style, elegant and long-lived.



<i>Vineyard Region:</i>	Kumeu, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand
<i>Winemaker:</i>	Michael Brajkovich, MW
<i>Varietal:</i>	100% Chardonnay
<i>Harvest:</i>	Hand harvested
<i>Vinification:</i>	Whole-bunch pressed Indigenous yeast fermentation 100% barrel fermentation 100% malolactic fermentation 12 months in French oak
<i>Cases Imported:</i>	300 (12/750ml)
<i>Alcohol:</i>	13.5%

Vintage Notes

2007 proved a little cooler than 2006, with harvest dates behind 2006 one week on average, and sugar levels that were not quite as high. Consequently, the acid levels are marginally higher, and the wines have a more mineral feel to them. Citrus and stonefruit flavors are in abundance, and the wines have great length and texture. Once again, we had a very clean vintage without damage from botrytis.

Tasting Notes

The vines in Maté's Vineyard are maturing nicely at 18 years, and this is our only vineyard still planted with the Mendoza clone. The vine age and the distinctiveness of the clone help give Maté's Vineyard Chardonnay its unique character. This vineyard has always displayed a lifted fruit aroma with distinct minerality, and the 2007 is arguably the finest expression we have seen from this site. Take a look at the photo of the grapes from the 2007 harvest (*above right*), and you see fruit close to perfection. This is certainly extended through to the finished wine, which at this stage is quite closed but undeniably complex and concentrated. It will evolve beautifully over the next six to eight years.

