

KUMEU RIVER

2009 Maté's Vineyard Chardonnay



Vineyard Region

Kumeu is a sub-region of the Auckland wine district. Despite being situated well north of New Zealand's other viticultural regions, Kumeu's climate is kept cool due to its close proximity to the Tasman Sea, just 20 kilometers (nearly 12.5 miles) to the west, and the Pacific Ocean 30 kilometers (18.6 miles) to the east. These two large bodies of water generate clouds, keeping peak summer temperatures below 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit).

Maté's Vineyard

In 1990, Maté Brajkovich 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 6-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.

Technical Information

Varietal Composition: 100% Chardonnay

Vinification: Whole-bunch pressed
Indigenous yeast fermentation
100% barrel fermentation
100% malolactic fermentation
12 months in French oak

Production: 1,000 cases (12/750ml)

Alcohol: 13.5%

Tasting Notes

It has been 21 years since Kumeu River planted the original vineyard site now known as Maté's Vineyard with the low-yielding Mendoza Chardonnay clone. The vine age and distinctive characteristics of this clone help give Maté's Vineyard — the only remaining vineyard the winery has planted to the Mendoza clone — its unique character. Maté's Vineyard always displays a lifted fruit aroma reminiscent of ripe pears, but with a mineral edge, and the palate is always long and concentrated. The 2009 vintage shows the complexity and concentration expected from this vineyard, with great tautness and length on the palate. The wine will evolve beautifully over the next six to eight years and beyond.

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