

KUMEU RIVER

# 2010 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.

## Vintage Notes

A spring frost caused a significant loss of fruit, followed by an equally difficult flowering period leading to fewer berries per bunch. As a result, yields were only about 50 percent of normal. Very low rainfall throughout the growing season and lovely, warm ripening conditions towards the end led to a small but beautiful crop of Chardonnay.

## Technical Information

*Varietal Composition:* 100% Chardonnay

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

## Tasting Notes

The Maté's Vineyard Chardonnay is usually the most reserved and unyielding when young and this is even more so with the 2010 vintage. The nose is very closed, giving just hints of the Golden Queen peach and mineral notes expected from Maté's Vineyard. On the palate however, the flavor is very concentrated and distinctly richer than the other 2010 wines, but maintaining a perfect balance and freshness that sets this wine apart and makes it wonderful. It is difficult to think of a better vintage ever of Maté's Vineyard than the 2010.

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