

KUMEU RIVER

2011 Estate 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).

Vineyards

For the 2011 Estate Chardonnay, Kumeu River carefully selected only the very best grapes from six sites with vines ranging in age from 14 to 19 years. The vineyards have a primarily northern exposure with clay soil. The clonal mix includes 15, 121, 124, 131, 95, 8021 and 15.

Vintage Notes

2011 was a challenging vintage with cooler-than-usual conditions leading up to harvest. The grapes struggled to attain high sugar levels, but a very moderate cropping level still allowed the development of ripe-fruit aroma and flavor intensity. Following near-perfect conditions in 2010, Kumeu River had to work harder in 2011 in the vineyards due to pockets of botrytis. This vintage really showed the value of hand-harvesting and strict field triage because the fruit arriving at the winery was in perfect condition.

Technical Information

Varietal Composition: 100% Chardonnay

Vinification: Whole-bunch pressed
Indigenous yeast fermentation
100% barrel fermentation
100% malolactic fermentation
Aged 11 months in 20% new, 80% 1-5-year-old 225-liter/60-gallon French oak

Production: 5,000 cases (12/750ml)

Tasting Notes

The Estate Chardonnay from this vintage is ripe, rich and concentrated. The beautiful peach and hazelnut aromas along with the rich, silky texture are distinct characteristics that are expected in this Chardonnay. This wine will benefit greatly from a period of bottle maturation of two to four years.

WILSON DANIELS 
SINCE 1978

Imported by Wilson Daniels | St. Helena, California | www.wilsondaniels.com