

2012 Vintage Critical Acclaim

2012 Maté's Vineyard Chardonnay

95 points: "Kumeu River's Maté's Vineyard Chardonnay, named for the patriarch of the family, is always their boldest and most complexity offering. The 2012 fits that description. Although richer and bigger than the winery's other Chardonnays, it remains perfectly balanced without sacrificing any freshness or verve. Indeed, it's a weighty wine, yet not heavy or oversized. With air, slightly smoky or flinty notes emerge and marry nicely with citrus notes. The spice of oak, apparent when first poured, becomes seamlessly integrated with a half hour of air. Like other great wines, it grandeur blossoms in the glass. Unlike Kumeu River's Hunting Hill or Coddington Chardonnay, I'd give this one a year or two in the cellar. If you can't wait, open it an hour in advance and savor it during a meal." — *Michael Apstein*

2012 Hunting Hill Chardonnay

93 points: "Though Kumeu River's 2012 Hunting Hill Chardonnay is distinct from the winery's other bottlings, it has the balance and precision for which that producer is known. Showing more minerality than Kumeu River's Coddington Chardonnay, it could pass for a Grand Cru Chablis because of its density. It, too, like the Coddington, has a wonderfully persistent and invigorating finish. Either of these two Chardonnays — Hunting Hill or Coddington — would be a great choice for grilled swordfish this summer." — *Michael Apstein*

2012 Pinot Gris

92 points: "With this Pinot Gris, Kumeu River, justifiably known for their fantastic line-up of Chardonnay, shows they know how to transform other varieties into top-notch wine. It's a unique Pinot Gris, falling somewhere between the lighter styled Italian version and the heavy ones from Alsace. Firm crispness and a subtle bite balance its gorgeous texture. Racy and elegant, it's a delight." — *Michael Apstein*

2012 Coddington Chardonnay

92 points: "In my experience, Kumeu River is the best New Zealand Chardonnay producer. Of course, I've not tasted every Chardonnay coming out of that country, but it's hard for me to believe there's a better overall producer of that varietal in New Zealand than Kumeu River. Year in and year out their lineup of Chardonnay is simply stunning. Each bottling is distinctive — and thoroughly captivating. Though Coddington vineyard faces north and gets maximum warmth, the 2012 Coddington Chardonnay has a taut Chablis-like verve with the barest hint of white pepper-like spice. Its laser-like focus is brilliant, while a lime-like finish amplifies its flavors." — *Michael Apstein*

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