

2021 Kumeu River Hunting Hill Chardonnay

Hunting Hill Vineyard

Hunting Hill is a vineyard that was first planted in 1982 and became a significant part of the original Kumeu River Chardonnay blend. Occupying the slope overlooking Mate's Vineyard, it has always contributed lovely ripe and rich fruit to the Estate Chardonnay. Hunting Hill was replanted in 2001 and is now even better than before, giving beautifully ripe fruit with a distinctive mealy minerality.

<i>Vineyard Region:</i>	Hunting Hill, Kumeu, Auckland
<i>Cultivation:</i>	Sustainable
<i>Size:</i>	3.37 hectares (8 acres)
<i>Vine Age:</i>	Planted 2001
<i>Clones:</i>	15
<i>Soil:</i>	Clay loam
<i>Elevation:</i>	100 meters (328 feet)
<i>Exposure:</i>	North facing but sloping slightly to Southwest
<i>Training:</i>	Lyre

Vintage Notes

The winter of 2020 was relatively mild and dry. Spring came early, but there were frosts to contend with, one in particular causing damage to many of our Kumeu vineyards. Flowering took place well ahead of normal, and it was obvious that the season would be very early this year. The growing season rainfall was only sporadic, maintaining the dry conditions, and the temperatures were moderately warm. These relatively cool to warm, and dry conditions allowed for slow grape maturation, and the development of excellent fruit aromas and flavors. Harvest was completed by 9 March, about 3 weeks ahead of usual. In Kumeu the frost damage had lowered yields by 30-40%, but the overall quality was exceptional.

Technical Information

<i>Varietal Composition:</i>	100% Chardonnay
<i>Vinification:</i>	Hand harvested Whole-bunch pressed Indigenous-yeast fermentation French oak barrels, 25% new oak 100% barrel fermentation 100% malolactic fermentation 11 months maturation in barrel
<i>Alcohol:</i>	14%

Tasting Notes

Hunting Hill is very distinctive in its terroir typicity, with piercing lemon/lime fruit lift and florality on the nose, richness and volume in the mouth followed by lingering acidity and minerality on the finish. This is an absolute classic example of how great the Chardonnay grape can be: A beautifully powerful, yet elegant and complex wine with long term aging ability.

