

2021 Maté's Vineyard Chardonnay

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 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.

<i>Vineyard Region:</i>	Kumeu, Auckland
<i>Cultivation:</i>	Sustainable
<i>Size:</i>	2.49 hectares (6 acres)
<i>Vine Age:</i>	Planted 1990
<i>Clones:</i>	Mendoza
<i>Soil:</i>	Clay loam
<i>Elevation:</i>	45 meters (147 feet)
<i>Exposure:</i>	North facing
<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, 30% new oak 100% barrel fermentation 100% malolactic fermentation 11 months maturation in barrel
<i>Alcohol:</i>	13.5%

Tasting Notes

The 2021 vintage for Maté's Vineyard continues the amazing run of vintages we have had with this vineyard. The resulting wine shows the density, concentration and length that we expect from a terrific Maté's Vineyard vintage. Although still somewhat shy on the nose, with bottle age the full palette of complex aromas and bouquet of this wonderful wine will be gradually and seductively revealed..

