

# 2013 HEYTESBURY CHARDONNAY

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The Wine Front - Mike Bennie  
Mike Bennie

## 94 Points

Complex perfume with its struck flint and matchstick notes, but reveals layers of stone fruit, subtle spice, citrus peel. Brilliant to taste, crystalline texture, crunchy through the finish and showing an epic line of saline-and-oyster-shell minerality throughout. Tightly wound in texture, but revealing gradually layers of fruit, wood and spice characters. This is really delicious, feels very sophisticated and should cellar well too. Bravo.

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Wine Advocate USA - Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW

## 95 points

The 2013 Heytesbury Chardonnay has a youthfully mute nose of lemon tart, kumquats and orange blossoms with hints of struck match, brioche, almonds and coriander seed. Medium-bodied, with plenty of silkiness to the texture and a pleasant touch of astringency, it gives complex layers of citrus fruits and savory flavors with accents of ginger and spice coming through in the long finish.

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Gourmet Traveller WINE - Peter Forrestal

## Memorable

A complex, lean and edgy, sublime, memorable wine.

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The Weekend Australian - James Halliday

## 97 Points

"The track record of this label speaks for itself: it is all about breed and disciplined power; the grapes were picked at exactly the right moment, the fruit-oak balance calculated down to the finest imaginable degree, the length beyond any doubt or discussion."

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Hooked on Wine - Huon Hooke

## Precision of Balance

Of the Heytesbury, I wrote in the margin: Yattarna-like It's that good. The combination of delicacy and phenomenal length are masterful, as is the subtlety of its complexity and precision of balance.

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Wish Magazine - The Australian  
Angus Hughson

The pinnacle of the Vasse Felix chardonnay range and a wine worthy of its title, this multi-layered chardonnay shows layers of poised and tightly focused floral, citrus, pineapple and subtle solids characters with tight grained oak well integrated.

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The West Australian Wine Guide 2015

Ray Jordan

**97 Points**

Gosh, this is such a good chardonnay. Power and intensity with such complexity already. Nose shows plenty of toasty oak working perfectly with the best parcels of fruit. Seamless and pure expression of chardonnay on the palate with and underpinning of subtle winemaking artefact. Ranks with the finest chardonnays in the region.

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Wine Enthusiast Magazine

Joe Czerwinski

**92 Points**

This bottling is consistently among the best Margaret River Chardonnays, and the 2013 doesn't disappoint. Subtle notes of grilled peach and pineapple slices are carried by ample weight and richness on the midpalate, then gain focus and fold in citrus flavors on the long finish.

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Gourmet Traveller Wine

**97 Points**

Gained strong marks from us all. Goodwin thought it outstanding, finding, smoky aromas including lime curd and peat leading to a full textural, tangy and impeccably balanced wine of force and compelling line. Seamless, and with a unique aroma. I found hints of the characteristic Margaret River grapefruit and subtle winemaking funk. The flavours are penetrating and complex and it has superb length. Vertical tastings have shown me how well previous vintages have developed in bottle and I am confident the 2013 will do the same.

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The Wine Gang

**93 Points**

Of the three Chardonnays...this is the top of the range version, a luxuriously fruited dry white with a hazelnutty, praline-like complexity of aroma and bright, opulent peachy fruit that mirrors premier cru white Burgundy in its richness and intensity of flavour and a stylishly dry, nutty finish.

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High Life Magazine

Rob Geddes MW

**96 Points**

No wonder this wine sells out in the early days of its life, with oak in a forward place instead of the usual balance. The wine displays grapefruits and overall lemon in a lovely volume of fruit with rich refined elegance. It has a statuesque acidity in the maker's style with cashew and vanilla.

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www.jancisrobinson.com

Julia Harding MW

**18/20**

Bright, crisp and tightly wound. Extremely fresh and refreshing with a slight grip to the firm, dense texture. Filled out with ripe citrus and overall has a fine balance between intensity and freshness and that creamy texture so caressing. More complexity to come.

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James Suckling

**96 Points**

A wine that has come to represent the pinnacle in Australian chardonnay in a modern, powerful and complex style, this oozes tension. The nose is flinty and intense, delivering citrus and fresh-cut white peach aromas plus struck match, grilled nuts and lemon curd. A palate of genuine intensity, the powerfully rich fruit with deep and dense texture is cut perfectly by piercing acidity; flavors run through citrus and stone fruits with stylish grilled nuts and gently spiced woody nuances. Rarely do you find a chardonnay that marries complexity and purity this well. Drink now.

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James Halliday Wine Companion

James Halliday

**97 points**

Spent 9.5 months in French oak (73% new, 27% 1-2yo). The track record of this great chardonnay label speaks for itself: it is all about breed and disciplined power; the grapes were picked at exactly the right moment, the fruit-oak balance calculated down to the finest imaginable degree, the length beyond any doubt or discussion.

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Decanter

**#1 Star Buys of 2015**

Wonderfully complex aromas of fresh dough, roasted nuts and butter. Ripe fruit palate with a rich lemon curd note, along with well-integrated oak and balanced sweetness and acidity. Racy and elegant, a stunning and refined modern Chardonnay.

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Toronto Sun

Christopher Waters

**4.5 Stars**

One of the pioneering forces behind the Australian industrys extreme Chardonnay makeover, Vasse Felix continues to craft sublime white wines from its Margaret River estate vineyards. This flavourful and refreshing Chardonnay is powerful and pure on that palate.

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Vinou

Josh

**93 points**

(aged for ten months in French oak barriques, 73% new): Pale, green-tinged yellow. Vibrant, minerally and sharply focused on the nose, displaying an array of fresh and orchard fruit scents and deeper fig and brioche qualities. Sappy and penetrating, with a smoky mineral quality giving spine to the flavors of bitter pear skin, orange pith and honeysuckle. Smoothly combines power and finesse, with its mineral component driving a long floral finish. The pH of this vibrant Chardonnay is 3.11, which is quite low by New World standards for the variety and, in fact, lower than most Chablis; the residual sugar level is a very low 1.37 grams per liter.

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BBC Good Food  
Sarah Jane Evans

**A Treat**

Expensive, yes, but a lovely wine for a treat. It has a fresh, elegant taste with ginger and vanilla aromas. Glorious with Salmon.

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JamesSuckling.com

James Suckling

**96 points**

Aromas of flint, gunpowder and dried citrus with apple. Full body, intense and energetic acidity. It just grabs you and tells you it's Margaret River. Love it. Screw cap. Drink now.

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Jancis Robinson.com

Jancis Robinson MW

**18.5**

Single batches were pressed straight to barrel for wild-yeast fermentation with some solids. Nine months in oak with regular lees stirring. Tasted blind. Creamy savoury nose - smells like really good burgundy, Roulot sort of style. Lightly smoky and lovely satin texture. If not Leflaive, then trying to be Leflaive - though 100% clean so...?! Very aristocratic. Lip-smacking. Long.

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