

2017 HEYTESBURY CHARDONNAY



A selection of the most unique and striking vineyard sections, recognised for its innovative winemaking and distinguishing 'Heytesbury' character.

TASTING NOTES

APPEARANCE Bright, light golden straw.

NOSE Elegant, fragrant notes of hazelnut, mealy wafer and brioche intertwine with grapefruit, hints of fine lemon pith and honey dew melon. Underlying tones of candlewax, champignon, ginger and fennel also play a part in this complex perfume.

PALATE A satin light entrance builds to a long, tangy dry finish filled with delicate characters reminiscent of peach custard brioche, hazelnuts and candle wax, supported by fine lemon pith and anise.

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

Our most unique small vineyard sections where clone, aspect and soil interplay in such a way to ignite stunning varietal and wild yeast characters. A beautiful cool season saw Chardonnay picked three weeks later than the last 10 years, with elegant fruit perfumes, ideal sugar levels and high acidity. Malolactic fermentation was encouraged, though it is not an obvious feature of the wine. Due to the cool conditions, 52% of the fruit was Selectiv machine harvested to extract additional fine flavours from the skins before pressing. After settling for a short time, the cloudy juice was transferred straight to barrel. The remaining balance was hand-harvested, whole-bunch pressed and transferred direct to barrel as unclarified juice. The wine was fermented with only natural yeasts from the vineyard and remained in barrel for nine months with some battonage. The fruit was 100% Gingin clone from Wilyabrup and Wallcliffe. A very restrained vintage has produced a young wine that will blossom with time in bottle.

VINTAGE DESCRIPTION

2017 was a cooler and later vintage than the previous 10 years; a year of elegant, perhaps slightly lighter bodied wines, though ripe in flavour, vibrant and very perfumed. Higher than average yields in combination with a cooler season contributed to delayed ripening of the fruit and good acid retention. Some timely warmth and sunshine occurred throughout January, although February temperatures remained moderate with some rainfall. With the cooler weather, canopy management and fruit thinning was imperative to mitigate disease pressures and allow for even, persistent ripening. There was a warm start to March to finish the white harvest, followed by the driest April since 1982, finishing the reds beautifully.

VARIETIES 100% Chardonnay
HARVESTED Late Feb - Early March
PRESSING 48% hand harvested, chilled and whole bunch pressed, 52% Selectiv machine harvest and whole berry pressed
JUICE TURBIDITY High Solids (Average 562 NTU)
FERMENTATION 100% wild yeast
FERMENTATION VESSEL French oak barrique
MATURATION French oak barrique 225L
53% new French oak,
47% 1-3 year old
9 months
FINING None
BOTTLED January 2018
TA 6.3g/L **PH** 3.14
RESIDUAL SUGAR 0.85g/L
ALCOHOL 13.0%
VEGAN FRIENDLY Yes
CELLARING Now until 2025