2018

ASHBOURNE

SAUVIGNON BLANC
CHARDONNAY

WINE OF ORIGIN WALKER BAY



ALCOHOL: 13.70%
ACID: 5.40 g/l
PH: 3.32
RESIDUAL SUGAR: 1.80 g/l
BARREL MATURATION: None
YIELD: 41 hl/ha, 6.0 t/ha
BLEND COMPOSITION: Sauvignon Blanc 80% Chardonnay 20%
FRUIT ORIGIN: Hemel-en-Aarde Valley 71% Walker Bay 29%
PRODUCTION: 9,942 cases of 12 bottles equivalent

Release Date – October 2018

Growing Season

After the early and short 2015 and 2016 harvests, 2018, like 2017 was back to our usual timing, beginning at the end of the first week of February but finishing at the end of the first week of March (a longer harvest). Budding was even and successful with higher than usual early Spring temperatures, but an unusually wet November and a cool December affected flowering and fruit-set, resulting in particularly low yields - far lower than our already low yields. The berries were smaller and the bunches were lighter, but the resulting wines were deeper, fuller, and more structured. December and January were drier than average, making for relatively easy and successful disease control organically, with February only very slightly wetter than our long-term average. A warmer than average February, combined with the very low yields and small berries, did however contribute to the riper, more opulent style of 2018, compared to 2017. One of the features of 2018 was fairly variable ripening within individual vineyards and within individual bunches. Picking on taste, combined with analysis and picking particular areas within individual vineyards at different times, was particularly important in 2018. This required a high level of vigilance and very close teamwork between cellar and vineyard, both of which were carried out with great success. 2018 was an excellent vintage for us.

Wine Style

Fresh, vibrant, perfumed Sauvignon Blanc, filled-out and enriched with a carefully judged unwooded Chardonnay component, make this a beautifully balanced and highly versatile wine. More than two decades of family experience have gone into this unique blend.

Made by the Hamilton Russell family.

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