

2022 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 2000 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 2022 vintage was excellent due to favorable weather conditions. The winter of 2021 was mild and wet, and the spring growth was lush and rapid. Flowering was ahead of usual, indicating another early harvest. Dry weather in January and February provided ideal conditions for the development of aroma and flavor. The Chardonnay wines, particularly the Single Vineyards, are shining examples of the Kumeu style, highlighting individual personalities.

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>	13.5%

Tasting Notes

The conditions during harvest were superb and 2022 produced a classic Hunting Hill. Very distinctive terroir driven 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.

