

KUMEU RIVER



2025 HUNTING HILL CHARDONNAY, KUMEU

WINERY

Kumeu River, one of the first wineries in Auckland, New Zealand, helped establish the reputation of Kumeu as a world-class wine region. Founded in 1944 by the Brajkovich family, immigrants from Croatia, the estate has grown and flourished over the years through the dedication to producing benchmark-quality Chardonnay, influenced heavily by Burgundy (and often confused as such in blind tastings). Its array of single-vineyard Chardonnays represents some of the finest examples of this grape anywhere in the world, the Côte d'Or included.

WINE

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 Maté's Vineyard, it is named after the hillside farmland where Maté Brajkovich used to hunt rabbits and pheasants for the home kitchen. It was replanted in 2001 and is now even better than before, giving beautifully ripe fruit with a distinctive, meaty minerality.

VINEYARDS

Hunting Hill is one of Kumeu River's four single-vineyard Chardonnays, located across from the winery and just behind Maté's Vineyard. Its heavy clay over sandstone soils feature a unique iron pan layer only 12 inches below

the surface, giving the wines a distinctive, pronounced minerality.

VINTAGE NOTES

Vintage 2025 was an outstanding season for Kumeu River, marked by warm, dry conditions, moderate yields and a welcome return to normal harvest volumes after two smaller vintages. Temperatures remained consistently warm throughout the growing season, with only two peaks above 82°F, creating ideal conditions for the development of fruit aroma, flavor and concentration. The dry conditions and balanced yields contributed richness and texture across the wines. The single vineyard Chardonnays display strong site expression while Pinot Noir continues to improve.

WINEMAKING

Fruit was hand-harvested, whole bunch pressed and fermented with indigenous yeast in French Oak barrels. After malolactic fermentation is complete, the wine is then matured for 11 months in French oak.

TASTING NOTES

The 2025 Hunting Hill, the 20th vintage release, shows classic lemon and lime blossom aromas with added richness from the vintage. The palate is concentrated, dense, and long, reflecting the vineyard's low yields.

VINEYARD

Region:	New Zealand
Appellation:	Kumeu
Soil:	Heavy clay over sandstone
Age:	Under vine since 1982, replanted in 2001
Vineyard Size:	3.37HA (8.3 acres)
Exposure:	North facing but sloping slightly to the South

VINEYARD CONT.

Clone:	15
Trellis:	Lyre
Eco-Practices:	Sustainable; Vegan

WINEMAKING

Varietals:	100% Chardonnay
Aging:	11 months in French oak barrels; 25% new

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Yeast:	Indigenous
Alcohol:	14%

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