

Clairault

2018 CLAIRAULT ESTATE CHARDONNAY

The Clairault Estate Chardonnay is a hand-harvested and small-batch wine that will give you a taste of our highest quality fruit. It is crafted into an age-worthy wine driven by purity of fruit, poise and perfect balance.

Blend: 100% Chardonnay

Vineyard: 67% Bridgeland Block, Karridale
33% Clairault Vineyard, Wilyabrup

Fruit Selection: In 2018 the Bridgeland Block fruit was selected for its pronounced flavour, phenolics and acid due to its cooler climate, in a warmer growing season. We blended a small portion of Wilyabrup Chardonnay from Block L1 at the Clairault Vineyard to add a touch more weight and mouthfeel.

Winemaking: The fruit for our Estate Chardonnay is chilled and whole-cluster pressed to retain freshness and cultivate texture and structure. The juice is barrel fermented in 40% new, 30% 2nd fill and 30% 3rd fill French oak barriques. The wine is aged in oak for 9 months and battonaged every two weeks to develop texture and additional palate complexity, after which the wine is removed from barrel, clarified and bottled.

Vintage: After an unseasonable dry early Winter, late rains in August and September came to the rescue. Significant rain events persisted through to mid-October, with conditions fining up through the flowering period enabling successful flowering and fruit set. Harvest began on the 27th January, in line with the earliest picking dates on record, trailing out until completion on the 13th April.

Aroma: Lime juice, crushed granite, white pear and jasmine, underscored with hints of flint, green apple and lanolin.

Palate: Pure, tense and focused. Pear flesh, zest and porcelain-like tannin drive forward a message of serenity and true fruit expression. A lattice of fine French oak, granite and grapefruit pith serve as a platform for an unyielding finish of white flowers, lemon curd and hints of gun-smoke.

Cellaring: Enjoyed for its freshness now or cellar for up to 8 years for further complexity.

Alcohol: 13%

Accolades: 93 Points - Halliday Wine Companion 2021

