



KELTERN HAWKES BAY



**KELTERN**  
CHARDONNAY

2022

HAWKES BAY NEW ZEALAND

# KELTERN

## CHARDONNAY

The Keltern Vineyard was established in 1999. Sitting east of Maraekakaho and hugging the western edge of the Bridge Pa Triangle and the Ngaruroro river, this unique site has over time become synonymous with exceptional Chardonnay, earning its place amongst New Zealand's finest with an un-paralleled consistency in blind tasting success across multiple formats since the initial 2002 vintage.

### Tasting Note

Displaying a brilliant lime-tinted gold hue in the glass, the nose offers an enticing and exotic mix with aromas of ripe stonefruit, fresh lemon and warm brioche, complemented by underlying notes of spicy oak. The palate is generous and silky initially then the long line of concentration and natural acidity leads to a sustained and elegant finish. This wine will develop further complexity, mineral and toast like characters with careful cellaring.

### Vineyard Data

Spring conditions in Hawkes Bay started off fairly cool until November then the season warmed significantly resulting in a solid flowering in Chardonnay. The season had tracked warmer than the previous three vintages in terms of Growing Degree Days which saw good ripeness and flavour accumulating in the Chardonnay grapes. A significant rain effect in the form of an ex-Tropical low on February 6 followed by more rain a week later saw disease pressure increase in Hawkes Bay Chardonnay vineyards which had ripened early due to the warm season. To ensure clean fruit, the 2022 Chardonnay harvest was off to another early start with Keltern vineyard picking starting in earnest on the 24th of February, only 2 days later than the record early start of the 2021 vintage. Careful hand-harvesting and sorting of fruit enabled a minimal intervention winemaking approach, allowing Keltern's unique characteristics to shine.

### Soils & Viticulture

Located east of the Maraekakaho region in Hawkes Bay, directly in the path of cool air currents flowing from a mountain range to the west, the Keltern Vineyard is an inland site, buffered by the Ngaruroro River. Established on an ancient riverbed planted in 1999, the vineyard has silt loams layered over red metals, including large free-draining gravel stones. The Keltern vineyard contains vines that range in age up to 21 years, mainly cl15, cl95 and cl548, and vines for the Single Vineyard bottling at maturity are pruned and thinned to one bunch per shoot to target 7T/Ha. The parcel used for the 2022 Keltern Chardonnay is from a single block of Cl15 vines that are 11 years old.

### Technical Data

**Vineyards:** Keltern Vineyard, Hawkes Bay

**Vineyard Yield:** Range 7.0-7.5T Ha

**Residual sugar in g/L:** 2.0 g/L

**TA:** 7.10 g/L

**Whole bunch pressing:** 100%

**Malolactic:** Some partial natural MLF. <25%

**Clonal Selection:** 100% Clone 15

**Varieties:** 100% Chardonnay

**pH:** 3.29

**Alcohol:** 13.5%

**Fermentation:** 100% Wild, indigenous yeast

**Bottled:** August, 2023

**Fermentation Vessel:** Fermented in 100% French Oak Barriques. 55% New with balance 1 & 2yr old.

**Maturation:** 15 months in Barrique followed by 2 months in tank on lees.

**Battonage:** From post ferment once every 3 weeks for the full maturation

**Filtration:** Sterile bell house filtration, one pass only