

# **CHARDONNAY** RESERVE 2021



pH - 3.16

TA - 6.7

RS - 0 g/L

Alc - 13.0%

Total SO2 - 50 mg/L

Vineyards - Raupo Creek

Clones - Mendoza

Yield - 5 Tonnes/ hectare

Oak - 15 months, barrel ferment, 50% new

Certified Organic

Suitable for Vegans

#### Tasting Notes

A wholly complete expression of Chardonnay, that brings both poise, elegance and depth of concentration. Considered picking and mindful use of oak has created a wine of great symmetry, that shows both ripe tropical fruits and savoury, smokey complexity and finishes with slaty mineral acidity. Bone dry and with a low pH, this wine will age beautifully for many years to come.

## Winemaking

Certified organic grapes were selectively harvested by hand in the middle of March, with only the clean bunches being picked. The fruit was 100% whole bunch pressed and the subsequent juice settled in tank overnight before racking into oak puncheons, whereby it fermented naturally for 8-10 weeks. The wine then completed malolactic fermentation naturally. After 15 months in oak on lees, the components were racked, blended and filtered prior to bottling. The overall blend has 50% new French oak.

### Vintage

After a mild winter, there was a period of quite heavy frost events, that kept the vineyard team on their toes ensuring all of the fragile young shoots were protected. After overcoming this, growth was great and consistent across the whole vineyard. However during flowering a combination of lower temperatures and rainfall did not allow all of the flowers to set, and culminated in many flowers setting at different times. This resulted in markedly small bunches and a good deal of hen and chicken throughout the vineyard, particularly in our Chardonnay and Pinot Noir plots.

During the last piece of the growing season, the weather was on our side and provided beautiful summer days yet cold nights, that aided in retaining decent acidity, and extremely clean fruit which enabled the team to make picking decisions at exactly the right moment for each plot on the vineyard. We will remember this vintage as being one of the best yet for overall quality - full of flavours but very light on yields.

#### Viticulture

Our clay rich Raupo vineyard, farmed following organic and biodynamic principles is located in the centre of the Omaka Valley. This vineyard has a gentle north-west facing aspect and enjoys high sunshine hours and minimal rain.



