



SACRED HILL

WINE THIEF CHARDONNAY

2018 HAWKE'S BAY



The 'Wine Thief' is the winemakers best friend - the traditional tool used for sampling wine directly from the barrel. Hand-picked grapes from our famed Rifleman's Vineyard were whole bunch pressed then matured in the finest French oak. After many hours of barrel tasting (a tough job), a unique selection of wines from individual barrels are chosen to create this distinct blend. The resulting wine is a richly textured and opulent style of Chardonnay with power and grace.

VINTAGE SUMMARY

The 2018 season had the best possible start. The early growing period from December to February was hot and dry with even less rain than last vintage. In fact, January was one of the driest on record with plenty of fine, sunny days that helped set up a great Chardonnay vintage.

Picking date was the key to our success with the weather throughout harvest allowing us to pick our Chardonnay grapes at the optimal maturity.

WINEMAKER'S NOTE

Pale straw appearance. Complex aromas of almond, hazelnut, dried stone fruit, nutmeg and cinnamon fill the glass. The rich pallet offers various layers with orange peel, hazelnut and ripe stone fruit flavours shining through. Undertones of nutmeg and crushed oyster shell adds a savoury complexity to this bold Chardonnay. Powerful and rich, this wine has a creamy texture with an intense citrus finish.

VINIFICATION

Handpicked grapes were whole bunch pressed straight to barrel. The wine received 100% barrel fermentation (50% new) with indigenous and Chardonnay specific yeasts in French oak barriques.

Following malolactic fermentation, the barrels were tasted regularly and blended after 11 months once optimum balance and integration had occurred. Minimum handling processes were applied throughout.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

VARIETY	Chardonnay
REGION	Hawke's Bay
FOOD MATCHES	Perfect with white meat or fresh fish dishes
CELLARING	3 – 8 years
RS	Dry
ALCOHOL	13.5%
PH	3.40
TA	6.5 g/L

HARVEST DATE	12/03/2018
FRUIT SOURCE / SUB REGION	Rifleman's Vineyard, Dartmoor Valley, Hawke's Bay
1ST YEAR OF PRODUCTION	2004
BOTTLING DATE	24/06/2019



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