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SACRED HILL

WINE THIEF CHARDONNAY

2019 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 2019 season was ultimately one that winemakers loved. Fruit was in perfect condition across all Hawke's Bay varieties, loaded with intensity. A combination of the long summer and lower fruit yields meant that the harvest occurred around two weeks earlier than the long-term average.

Our Chardonnay fruit was perfectly balanced with the winemakers believing this will be a vintage to compete with the best.

WINEMAKER'S NOTE

This bold Chardonnay offers layered aromas of vanilla, lemon curd ripe peaches, brioche and smoky/cherry notes. The palate is full and well-integrated offering roasted stone fruit, supple tannin and length aided by acid.

VINIFICATION

Grapes were hand-picked and whole bunch pressed with a percentage of the juice being run straight to barrel. The higher amount of grape solids in the juice gives additional weight and texture to this wine. The wine received 100% barrel fermentation (50% new) with Chardonnay specific yeasts. Following malolactic fermentation, regular lees stirring occurred to help build texture and richness. The wine spent 11 months in French oak barrels before blending once optimum balance and integration occurred. Minimum handling processes are applied throughout.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

VARIETY	Chardonnay
REGION	Hawke's Bay
FOOD MATCHES	Creamy pasta, pork belly or cheese plate
CELLARING	Up to 10 years
RS	Dry
ALCOHOL	13.5%
PH	3.45
TA	6.1 g/L

HARVEST DATE	22/03/2019 & 25/03/2019
FRUIT SOURCE / SUB REGION	Rifleman's Vineyard, Dartmoor Valley, Hawke's Bay
1ST YEAR OF PRODUCTION	2004
BOTTLING DATE	27/05/2020