



Chardonnay^{RM}

_____ This is where the story starts. In 1993 I arrived in Hawke's Bay with a love for making wine and everything I owned packed into the boot of a small car. The plan was to figure out where to plant the best small vineyards as the first step towards unlocking the full potential of Chardonnay grown and raised in Hawke's Bay. We're up to five so far.

I first visited Burgundy, the spiritual home of great Chardonnay, in 1995. Apart from the amazing vineyards and wines, what struck me was the sense of tradition, community and the pursuit of small improvements in all aspects of their production. Their winemaking was incredibly intuitive, left plenty of room for nuance and there was a lot of joy in the process. Chardonnay, more than any other white grape variety planted here, tells a story about where it was grown and who made it. I believe it will become the most important white grape variety in Hawke's Bay. It'll become our trademark.

2019 TRADEMARK CHARDONNAY RM

Fruit was hand-harvested from this 26 year old vineyard at the base of Te Mata Peak in Havelock North. The grapes had a lovely balance of acidity and an average brix of 22.5 producing a seamless palate with citrus, peach and ginger flavours. We manage this block carefully to extend hang time and allow a slow ripening before harvesting. Whole bunches were pressed and the juice fed by gravity into French oak barriques for a natural wild ferment. The wine rested through the cool winter temperatures. As we do each year we help a few of the barrels warm up in Spring and complete a natural malolactic ferment before the wine is blended for bottling in March 2020.

TASTE

The nose is flinty with lemon, grapefruit, stone-fruit and a nougat layered lees influence. The palate is initially tight which some phenolic grip but unfolds with time in the glass and blends with the developing complex flavours. The finish is long and persistent.



Rod McDonald, Winemaker



Varietal: 100% Hawke's Bay gold

Alc/Vol: 13.5%

Standard drinks: 8.0

Allergens: Contains sulphites