

## 2008 GIANT STEPS SEXTON VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

### Review Summary



**95 pts** “Truffle and flint aromas. Precise. Lemon butter palate that is rather slippery, but bound by tight minerality and juicy acidity. Long and very detailed. Real thrust here! Excellent, mid-weighted wine that will age gracefully over a decade despite the benefits that three years have already brought.”

**James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com**  
December 16, 2011

**94++ pts** “Might is not generally a word we apply to chardonnay. But this is mighty wine, like the previous four vintages I have just pent a day examining. In this, its youth, it's tight, and shy to the point of rudeness. But it's loaded with complex reflections of its site and its winemakers' philosophy, all of which will unfold over at least a decade in your cellar: the '04 is only dust beginning to sing. It's austere enough now to justify a good hour in the decanter, and ballsy enough to require a hearty smoked pork cassoulet.”

**Philip White, Independent Weekly**  
November 13, 2009

**93 pts** “Lovely aroma and palate. Has some beautifully fresh and lifted notes on the nose, while the palate is lighter and with the lowest alcohol of any release to date. Has a smoky, savory vanillin character with a little minerality and some grapefruit. Good flavor, with a fine lingering palate, which is lighter with the lower alcohol but just as intense and powerful.”

**Ray Jordan, The Weekend West**  
March 12, 2011

**92 pts – Best of the Best by Variety** “An elegant and harmonious chardonnay with stone fruit, melon and fig aromas and flavors, subtle oak in the background; however, a little low on thrust.”

**James Halliday's Australian Wine Companion**  
2011

**92 pts** “Light yellow-gold. Wild, highly perfumed bouquet of pear, orange rind, honey, jasmine, iodine and truffle, with a smoky overtone. Broad, palate-staining orchard fruit flavors reach every nook and cranny of the palate, with spicy citrus notes adding lift and cut. An exotic floral quality emerges on the long, smoky, penetrating finish. Showing extremely well right now.”

**Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar**  
July/August 2010



**92 pts** “All this talk about elegant, subtle Chardonnay, so here’s one for those who like to turn the volume up. A powerful Yarra Valley Chardonnay with grapefruit and crunchy white peaches, toasty oak and honeyed notes. Prominent oak, fruit concentration to handle it, acidity and fine minerality to pull it all together.”

**Tyler Stelzner, WBM  
September, 2010**

**91 pts** “Coming from a 13-year-old vineyard of just over 2 acres, the 2008 Sexton Vineyard Chardonnay is barrel fermented in puncheons using 100% indigenous yeasts in 25% new and 30% 1 year oak. It reveals aromas of intense pineapple, grapefruit and lemon peel over the cashew, meal and sulphidic / struck match notes plus a whiff of cedar. The palate is medium-bodied, crisp, rich, silken and minerally in the very long finish.”

**Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Robert Parker’s The Wine Advocate  
June 30, 2010, Issue #182**

**91 pts** “From two acres of 13-year old vines managed “under biodynamic principles,” this wine is fermented in oak puncheons with no added yeast. There’s something in the texture of the wine that pegs it as reliant on what slow and funky yeast happen to be living on the grapes and in the cellar. It’s a big, flavorful chardonnay, emphasizing green-grape acidity and fleshy apricot fruit. There’s evident oak, but the wine is more than substantial enough to absorb it with time. Give this several years to quiet down, then serve it with lobster.”

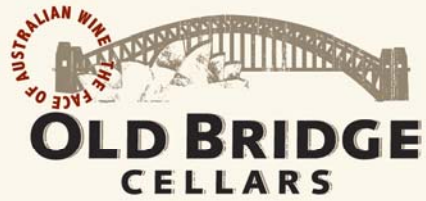
**Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits Magazine  
October 2010**

**Top 10 Most Interesting Wines of 2011** “Why it made the list: Drinks like it costs twice the price. The short-version review of this wine is that it’s a minor triumph. One of the best Chards I tasted all year, and instead of being from Napa, Sonoma, Burgundy... it’s from Yarra. Those who want to debate Yarra’s Chard-producing merits should probably just STFU and drink this already. Interestingly, the folks down undah continue to impress and surprise with the upward quality trajectory of their white wines (let’s not forget that an Aussie white also came in at #7 in last year’s list). Tasted as a mind-blowingly good sample at Chateau Dude (my home, just outside of Philly).”

**Joe Roberts, 1WineDude.com  
December 17, 2011**

“This is a wine with a lovely texture. It is very drinkable. The mineral presence is enough to provide a textured finish without being too rich. It’s layered yet subtle, with a great balance of fruit in an understated but complex wine. It shows that good wine making is an art form.”

**Weekend Post (Cairns, AU)  
July 3, 2010**



★★★★★ “Serious wine with loads of character and excellent potential. Aromas of lemon curd, barrel ferment characters and fragrant oak, Beautifully balanced, creamy palate with great depth of flavor.”

**Winestate Magazine**  
**October 2010**

