

GIANT STEPS

YARRA VALLEY
AUSTRALIA

2003 CHARDONNAY

Region

Yarra Valley, Australia

Variety

Chardonnay

Technical Analysis

14% alc/vol

Bottled under screw-cap



Background/Vintage

The 75 acre Giant Steps vineyard is on the north face of the Warramate Ranges in the central Yarra Valley, an hour east of Melbourne. Established across a series of ridges rising from the 300 to 1000 foot level, the vineyard is planted to rocky/gravelly clays.

The chardonnay plantings comprise a selection of seven different clones, sourced from Burgundy, Australia and California, and all planted on the coolest parts of the vineyard. The Yarra can offer a different perspective to the usual richer, tropical characters of many Aussie Chardonnays. The crisp, cool conditions and flinty, almost mean soils of the valley slopes produce fruit in the nectarine, citrus, and white peach range, resulting in wines of structure and finesse.

Tasting Notes

The chardonnay was all hand picked, sorted and whole bunch pressed with minimal sulfur. Following barrel fermentation, a small proportion underwent malolactic fermentation before ageing on lees with minimal handling. It was gravity racked and given a gentle filtration prior to bottling twelve months later.

The cool, dry ripening season allowed the Sexton's to draw out the palate whilst tightening up the finish. The nose is characteristically complex nectarine, white peach and citrus with underlying secondary cashew and grain meal. On the palate, firm, yet creamy textural wine over-layered with mineral lemon zest and nectarine.

Very good aging potential.

Additional Notes:

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