

GIANT STEPS
VIGNERONS
YARRA VALLEY AUSTRALIA



2006 GIANT STEPS SEXTON VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKER: Phil Sexton
REGION: Yarra Valley, Victoria
VARIETALS: Chardonnay
MATURATION: 11 months in new and older French oak
ALCOHOL: 14.1% alc/vol

VINTAGE:

A cool February followed a warmer than average January leading to fully ripe fruit being picked with pH, acidity, sugar and flavor in excellent balance.

WINEMAKING:

Wholebunch pressed to tank then transferred to barrel after 8 hours settling. Barrel fermented with various cultured and indigenous yeasts. Lees stirred weekly, then monthly after May. No malolatic fermentation. Gravity raced to tank for protein and cold stabilization. Minimal fining.

TASTING NOTES:

The 2006 Giant Steps Sexton Vineyard Chardonnay exudes aromas of lemon pith, pears and mixed nuts. On the rich and full palate, luscious flavors of stone fruit and cracked wheat, with chalky and mineral tannins. The textural mouthfeel lingers, developing into a smooth, velvety finish. The cellaring recommendation for this wine is between 2-10 years.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

91 pts - Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate, **90 pts** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, **90 pts** - Wine Enthusiast, **88 pts** Wine Spectator Online

ABOUT GIANT STEPS:

Established in 1998, Giant Steps explores the relationship between vineyard site, the Yarra Valley's cool climate, and different grape clones, to finely fingerprint the personality and character of each vineyard. The Sexton Vineyard, at the heart of the property, is a beautiful 75-acre, north facing hillside site located in the foothills of the Warramate ranges, rising from 425 to nearly 700 feet above the valley floor. A relatively cool site, management of this vineyard is intensive with tasks, from pruning to harvesting, all carefully done by hand.



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