

Kumeau River Maté's chardonnay 2016

The Story

Kumeu River, northwest of Auckland is without a doubt NZ's finest chardonnay producer. Master of Wine and Winemaker Michael Brajkovich has been crafting fine chardonnay at the estate since the 1980's. Handpicked fruit and vigorous selection from the low yielding vines, whole bunch pressed, wild yeasts, a third of the fruit fermented in French oak barriques and full malolactic fermentation to soften the pristine acidity and add texture and dimension. Not surprising Michael is not shy in comparing his Chardonnays with the great White Burgundies like Domaine Leflaive!

The Vineyard

In 1990, Maté Brajkovich reworked the land and planted a new vineyard of Chardonnay vines on the site of the original vineyard that he and his family purchased in March 1944. The first grapes from this vineyard were harvested in March 1993, the year following Maté's death. The resulting wine was released in November 1994 to coincide with celebrations marking the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Brajkovich Family's arrival at Kumeu River.

Vintage 2016

The 2016 harvest began with a very promising flowering and the vineyards had a healthy crop level. The early part of the summer was terrific and we were looking forward to an excellent harvest. Some rain and warm weather in late February dampened things a little and when harvest began in early March we had to be very selective about what we picked - similar to 2011 and 2012. Hand harvesting in a year like this is crucial and our crew have done a great job in sorting through the fruit to deliver clean, ripe grapes to the winery.

Winemaking

Hand harvested Whole-bunch pressed Indigenous yeast fermentation 100%-barrel fermentation 100% malo-lactic fermentation 11 months maturation in barrel.

Tasting Note

Joe Czerwinski, Robert Parker's Wine Advocate:

"Maté's is usually the tightest, most linear of the KR Chards, and that's again the case. The 2016 Maté's Vineyard Chardonnay is marked by smoky new oak, but there's also pineapple and grapefruit notes that create a crisp, acidic spine. Draped off of that are hints of white peaches, roasted hazelnuts and tangerine. There's an almost briny zestiness to the lingering finish that sets it apart from the winery's other single-vineyard bottlings."



info@thewinecave.nz

(+64) 9 930-8115

 <https://www.winecave.nz/>

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Bob Campbell MW :

"Quite a concentrated chardonnay with lime, citrus, hazelnut, bran biscuit and a suggestion of tropical fruits, mango and pineapple. A weighty wine with impressive length and complexity. Good now but will obviously respond well to bottle-age."

Alcohol Percentage	13 %
Residual Sugar	Dry
T.A.	6.4 g/L
Aging Potential	7 + years



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