

De la Terre Reserve Chardonnay 2014

The Story

De la terre is a small family-run business, owned and operated by Tony and Kaye Prichard, and Gracie, the Winery Dog. They produce small volumes of high quality wines with the emphasis on elegance, texture and balance. They have a quirky mix of grape varieties which allows them to create a full range of wine styles from Methode Traditionnelle Blanc de Blancs, simple and complex white wines, a selection of lesser known (in New Zealand) red grape varieties, through to a Sauternes-style Noble Viognier. The name 'de la terre' literally meaning 'of the earth', is a reference to both the vineyard soils and the earth brick construction used for our the winery and cellar door.

The Vineyard

Hill Country Estate is a series of limestone terraces in amongst residential areas on the slopes of Te Mata Peak. The vineyard area is approximately 5.3 hectares divided into 8 sub-blocks, producing the varieties Viognier, Chardonnay, Syrah, Barbera and Montepulciano. The vineyard was already planted in these varieties when we took over management of it in early 2013.

Vintage 2014

Following on from the stunning 2013 vintage, 2014 was yet another fantastic year for grapes in Hawkes Bay. After an excellent flowering, the growing season was warm and dry through the main harvesting period to provide clean, ripe fruit with real flavour intensity. We managed to work around some troublesome late-season rain to pick the later ripening varieties in great condition.

Winemaking

Hand-picked fruit from 'Block 7' of the 'HCE' vineyard, WBP, undergoing hyperoxidation and predominantly indigenous yeast barrel-fermented, with a portion with high solids to 13.5% alc., the wine aged 9 months on lees with batonnage in 50% new French oak barrels, these undergoing MLF.



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Tasting Note

Raymond Chan:

" Full, even, pale golden-yellow colour with a lighter edge. The nose is elegantly concentrated with deep and well packed aromas of ripe citrus and stonefruit entwined with complexing mealy and nutty layers, revealing subtle flint and mineral elements and some oak char. Medium-full bodied, the flavours of ripe citrus fruits and yellow stonefruits are deeply concentrated and harmoniously integrated with nutty and creamy barrel-ferment layers and toasty oak notes. This has a strong hearted core and a rounded mouthfeel adding to the palate presence. The acidity is soft and lends background freshness, allowing the wine to flow smoothly along an unctuous line. The wine carries to a soft, long lingering finish with creamy and nutty notes. This is a rich, ripe, deeply-packed, smooth flowing Chardonnay with citrussy fruit and creamy barrel input. "

Alcohol Percentage	13.5%
Residual Sugar	Dry
T.A.	
Aging Potential	7 + years



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