



2018 Elephant Hill Sea Chardonnay

Established in 2003, Elephant Hill is located within a stone's throw of the Pacific Ocean on the idyllic Te Awanga coast of Hawke's Bay on New Zealand's North Island.

The Southern Pacific Ocean neighbouring our Te Awanga Estate vineyard is the inspiration for the growing of our 'Sea' wines.

Vintage Overview

A warm spring, followed by hot dry summer resulted in a superior set and ripening of our Sea Chardonnay at Te Awanga. The 2018 vintage has been a relatively short one; only 6 and a half weeks and has had its fair share of challenges. Hot, dry days, wet and windy ex-tropical cyclones and biting cold southerlies sum up the huge challenges faced in the 6 weeks.

Winemaking

The grapes were whole bunch pressed and settled for 12 hours before being barreled down into a combination of Burgundy barrels (30% new). The wine was then aged in barrel for 11.5 months and additional 1 month on lees in stainless steel tank. Minimal malolactic fermentation.

Tasting Note

Cooling sea breezes, shingle soils and delicate winemaking underlie the elegance and purity we strive for in this Chardonnay. It has aromas of white stonefruits and citrus with creamy and nutty oak along with refreshing salinity and minerality.

Review

"Engaging bouquet with aromas of fresh new French barrel overlaid with ripe yellow and golden fleshed orchard fruits, fragrant wood spices and toastiness, a leesy spicy layer and compelling complexity. On the palate - full bodied, nutty and rich in flavour and texture. Wood spices and ripe stone fruits, vanilla custard and cashew, sweet grapefruit peel and a whisper of sea salt." -Cameron Douglas MS, 95 points

Technical Data

Vineyard

100% Te Awanga
Harvest: 06/03/2018 - 07/03/2018

Wine

Alcohol Content: 13.5%
Residual Sugar: <1 g/L
TA: 4.7 g/L
Cellar: up to 2028

Clone

91% Cl.15, 9% Cl.95 (Burgundy)



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