



## CHARDONNAY 2018

*Release date:* July 2019  
*Varietal composition:* 100% Chardonnay  
*Region:* Marlborough  
*Harvest:* 25th March to 1st April 2018  
*Winemaker:* Clive Jones  
*Alc/Vol:* 13.0%  
*Res Sugar:* Dry  
*Total Acid:* 5.2 g/L  
*pH:* 3.50



### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The 2018 Nautilus Chardonnay is straw coloured with a lifted nose of attractive primary fruit aromas. The palate displays fresh nectarine and almond flavours along with a hint of nutty complexity from natural ferments. The palate has good depth and concentration with a refreshing long finish. This wine has a tight mineral structure and will develop a creamy texture as it matures.

### VINTAGE

The 2018 season started as normal but temperatures soon drifted above the average and continued there throughout spring and summer, with the season finishing as one of the warmest on record. Initial bunch counts were down but the warm spring provided good flowering conditions and larger than normal bunches were predicted. These predictions prompted an early round of shoot thinning on most blocks. Some February rains ensured the bunches continued to grow in size and further thinning was required to ensure we hit our quality targets.

Fruit from our own Renwick vineyard has been blended with Dijon clone 95 grown by Jim and Debbie Greer. These sites are stony and free draining, giving naturally low yields, fantastic depth of flavour and mineral structure. Forty percent of the 2018 blend is now from new Burgundian clonal plantings in our Renwick vineyard which nicely compliments our mature clone 15 on the same site.

### WINEMAKING

Handpicked grapes were chilled overnight before gentle pressing direct to barrel without settling. The wine was entirely barrel fermented in french oak barriques (20% new) using indigenous yeast. A short period of lees stirring post ferment adds a textural element to the palate.

### CELLARING

While approachable in its youth this wine will further integrate and develop for 3 to 5 years from vintage.

### IDEAL FOOD MATCH

Delicious with leek, mushroom & mustard chicken with herby cauliflower rice.