

Čuvar Iris Collection

Hawke's Bay Chardonnay 2023

VINTAGE

The 2023 vintage began with adversity as Cyclone Gabrielle struck Hawke's Bay on February 14th. One of the two vineyards behind this wine was partially flooded, but thanks to the natural slope of the land, we were able to hand-pick pristine fruit from above the waterline. It was a rewarding moment—finding perfectly ripe grapes after such a turbulent start. Our home block Chardonnay was harvested in two passes, allowing us to capture the full range of flavours and the vibrant acidity this vineyard consistently delivers.

VINEYARD

Rivermere | Čuvar Bayview Home Block

In 1986, before he was a Sir, George Fistonich carefully shaped the hillside overlooking the South Pacific in Hawke Bay, carving terraces into the land with quiet vision.

TECH NOTES

PH : 3.36	TA : 6.15gl	ALC : 13.5%	Residual Sugar : 0.65
Standard Drinks : 7.5		Variety : Chardonnay	
Bottled: March 2024		Vegan Friendly	

Today, while the upper slopes are being replanted, the lower vineyard still holds its roots — 15-year-old Chardonnay vines (clone 95) thriving in loam soils. This is our home block, with the winery nestled just above, watching over the vines.

WINEMAKERS COMMENTS

A forthright bouquet opens with bursts of candied tropical fruit, layered with warm, comforting notes of fruit crumble. Subtle oak frames the palate, where vibrant acidity and ripe fruit glide together seamlessly. This Chardonnay is a true crowd-pleaser—beautifully balanced, with fruit, oak, acid, and flavour all in perfect harmony.

WINEMAKING

FRUIT HANDLING: 100% hand-picked & whole bunch pressed.

FERMENTATION VESSEL:

50% of the fruit was tank fermented while the remainder was fermented with indigenous yeast in used barriques. Lees stirred for several months to aid in palate weight and the development of a little complexity.

Warm fruit crumble

ČUVAR
WINERY