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Čuvar Iris Collection

Hawke's Bay Chardonnay 2024

VINTAGE

The 2024 vintage will go down as one of the finest ever seen in Hawke's Bay. A cool, extended flowering period in spring 2023 resulted in lower than average yields, naturally concentrating the fruit, while maintaining beautifully balanced acidity.

The remainder of the growing season was near perfect, with warm days and cool nights allowing the grapes to ripen slowly and evenly. The result is a collection of wines defined by remarkable vibrancy and depth.

VINEYARDS

Rivermere 65% - Located on the southern banks of the Ngaruroro River. Mature chardonnay vines are planted on young, deep alluvial gravels that are free draining and encourage low yields and concentrated flavour.

Kokako Farms 35% - On the northern banks of the Ngaruroro River in the Ohiti Gravels sub region. A dry and warm microclimate perfect for ripening chardonnay.

TECH NOTES

PH : 3.5	TA : 6.56gl	ALC : 13.5%	Residual Sugar : Dry
Standard Drinks : 8.0	Variety : Chardonnay	Vine age: 10-30 years	
Bottled: March 2025	Vegan Friendly	Clone: 15, 548, Mendoza	

WINEMAKERS COMMENTS

Layers of white peach, nectarine and lemon curd are complemented by a touch of roasted hazelnut from careful oak integration. This Chardonnay is medium weight, driven by the pure fruit synonymous with great Hawke's Bay vintages. A creamy mouthfeel comes from the influence of lees contact while oak is present yet restrained. Bright and chalky with a long focused finish and balanced acidity.

WINEMAKING

FRUIT HANDLING:

Picked early in the morning to retain freshness, pressed to tank for a short settling period before fermentation.

FERMENTATION VESSEL & MATURATION:

A blend of barrel and tank fermentation.

A portion was pressed direct to barrel with high solids and natural yeasts.

24% new French oak barriques and hogsheads.

Lees stirred for several months to aid palate weight and complexity.

Approximately 80% malolactic fermentation.

10 months on lees prior to blending.

Nectarines and roasted hazelnuts

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