

SEASON SUMMARY

The 2022 growing season presented more of a challenge than the previous three. It reinforced and reminded us of the importance of our vineyard teams and the work they do to ensure the quality of our fruit.

The season began well, with water reserves replenished by extensive rain during winter. Spring was gentle, and our protection systems easily mitigated what little frost there was. Chardonnay flowered well despite some unsettled weather that seemed determined to rain on our parade.

We undertook extensive crop thinning to create optimal balance in the vines and mitigate against high disease pressure. This thinning, combined with long hours of canopy management as the season progressed, was vital to ensuring healthy fruit.

Harvest took place under excellent conditions, and we were able to pick the grapes at perfect maturity.

KEY VINEYARDS

The grapes for this wine come from our Mustang Vineyard, located in the Southern Valleys area of Marlborough's Wairau Valley. Mustang is an important vineyard for the three main varieties that we grow. The high clay content in the soils allows for greater water retention, creating the ideal environment for Chardonnay.

WINEMAKING & BLENDING

This Chardonnay is entirely from the Mendoza clone, which contributes its distinctive concentration and vibrancy to this wine. The fruit was handpicked and whole-bunch pressed before undergoing fermentation in French oak barrels and a large format oak cuve. The fermentation was started using a culture derived from vineyard flowers, and the wine rested in barrels for 11 months ahead of an additional six months in stainless steel.

Alc
13.6%

pH
6.86

TA
13.83g/l

NOSE

The 2022 Founders' Cellar Mustang Chardonnay is an open and appealing wine on the nose that recalls warm summer days, with notes of ripe white peach, russet apple and a hint of pleasing vanilla.



PALATE

Those summery notes carry through onto the palate, where they are hemmed in by a deliciously mouth-watering acidity. Subtle oak characters add a gentle toasted note as if leading away from summer towards the first distant autumn bonfire.



Founders' Cellar

MUSTANG CHARDONNAY
2022