



Astrolabe

Province

MARLBOROUGH CHARDONNAY 2015

VARIETY

100% Chardonnay.

GRAPEGROWERS

Grown at Astrolabe Farm and the Wrekin® vineyards.

LOCALITY

100% Wairau Valley, Marlborough, NZ. Grovetown and Southern Valleys,

SPECIFICATIONS

Alcohol	13 %
Residual sugar	1.3 g/l
pH	3.34
Titrateable Acidity	5.0 g/l

VITICULTURE

Climate A record dry, early and warm season in Marlborough, with growing degree days 10% above the long-term average, and 40% of the normal rainfall. A lack of our usual blustery winds in the lead-up to harvest ensured that groundwater and irrigation delivered healthy vine canopies. Crops were naturally in balance with the soils, and the resulting wines show good concentration.

Vine Management Standard trellis with pruning to two canes and vertical shoot positioning. Vines are trimmed closely, well tucked, with minimal leaf plucking. Extensive fruit thinning enhances concentration of flavour. Both vineyards are farmed organically and have begun the process towards certification.

Harvest Dates 25th March to 4th April, 2015.

WINEMAKING

The fruit was hand-picked, whole-bunch pressed and fermented in French oak barriques and puncheons, using both select and wild yeast while undergoing frequent bâtonnage. Full malolactic fermentation was followed by ten months barrel maturation, creating a wine with texture and complexity.

TASTING NOTES

Colour/Appearance Mid straw gold.

Aroma/Bouquet Full ripe melon and dried stone fruits and fig, light nut meal and brûlée notes, with some light leesiness.

Palate A wine of gentle creaminess and elegant texture, with tropical and stonefruit flavours, pleasing weight and long, dry finish.

Cellaring I think the wine will near its best drinking after two year's bottle age, and age gracefully thereafter. The wine was bottled 16th March, 2016, and is already drinking very well.

Suggested Foods Great with poultry, pork and light game, creamy seafood and pasta dishes, and mushroom risotto.

Serve Cool room temperature.

Simon Waghorn, Winemaker.