

THORN-CLARKE

VARIETAL COLLECTION

CHARDONNAY

2023



THE RANGE

We believe that exceptional wines are created in the vineyard and that we are custodians, rather than creators of quality. Six generations of rich viticultural and geological family history has gone into creating these wines, which truly showcase the best of the Barossa & Eden Valley.

WINEMAKER'S NOTE

This pale straw-coloured Chardonnay from the Eden Valley highlights the best of variety and region. The nose has lovely grapefruit, white nectarine notes with complexity coming from the partial wild ferment, lees stirring and oak maturation. The palate is medium bodied with crisp acid and a creamy texture on the finish. Flavour highlights include grapefruit, apple, and white peach characters with an edge of minerality and some supporting oak in the background.

VINTAGE

2023 was a vintage that was anything but typical. A wet and cool winter and autumn gave the vines a great start with ample amounts of soil moisture. The cool conditions however also meant delayed flowering and fruit set in the vineyard and moving into the growing season slower maturation of the grape bunches. The harvest was up to 6 weeks later than average in some vineyards and this slow ripening process allowed for exceptional flavour development and acid retention. White wines are pronounced and aromatic, showcasing vibrant flavours and crisp acidity, while the red wines display deep colour, solid structure, matured tannins, and a lingering finish.

WINEMAKING

Sourced from our most southern vineyard in Mt Crawford, this Chardonnay was harvested during the cool of night. The grapes were then destemmed and pressed immediately. Only free run juice was used to create this wine. Fermentation of this wine was carried out in stainless steel tanks and a small portion of French oak barrels (new & old). The oak portion was fermented using wild yeast to increase the complexity and the tank portion was inoculated with chardonnay specific yeast to allow the fruit to express itself. Once full primary fermentation and was completed, the two portions were blended and filled back into oak to mature for a period of 4 months on lees. The wine was then racked and bottled. This wine has had minimal fining and filtration.

Alcohol - 13% **Winemaker - Peter Kelly** **Vineyard - Mt Crawford**